



MINUTES
ROCK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday April 5, 2023 7:15 P.M.
USDA Service Center, 440 N Hwy 14 and Virtual via Zoom

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Bostwick called the meeting to order at 7:19 pm.

Committee Members Present: Rich Bostwick, Ron Bomkamp, James Quade, Janelle Crary (Zoom), Alan Sweeney, Kim Schneider and Debi Towns.

Committee Members Excused: Genia Stevens

Others Present: Teresa Zimmer (FSA CED), Chris Murphy (Guest, Zoom) and Andrew Baker, Director

2. **Approval of Agenda:** Supervisor Bomkamp moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Sweeney. **Motion carried unanimously.**
3. **Approval of Minutes – March 1, 2023.** Supervisor Bomkamp moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Quade. **Motion carried unanimously.**
4. **Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements.** Andrew noted that Tree Sale distribution day is April 20th. Trees are purchased in advance and then sold to citizens. In other words, once the inventory is sold out no more sales are made.

Chris Murphy, taxpayer with property in Janesville and former employee of Rock County asked that the Committee direct the Director of Land Conservation to complete a workload analysis before filling the three vacancies in the Department stemming from two retirements in addition to his departure.

FSA-CED Teresa Zimmer gave and update of the programs her staff is working on.

5. **Action Item: Resolution**

- A. **Authorizing Submittal of Grant Application for the 2024 Clean Sweep Program**

Andrew summarized that this is an annual grant application from DATCP that constitutes a portion of the funding for the Clean Sweep Program. The other sources of funding are municipal contributions and user fees. The required match is staff time for program activities.

Supervisor Sweeney made a motion to approved. Seconded by Supervisor. Bomkamp. **Motion carried unanimously.**

B. Recognizing Duane Collins for Service to Rock County

Andrew summarized the resolution in Duane's honor recognizing his twenty plus years of service to the County. The resolution also includes some of the accomplishments prior to his tenure that lead him to be a valuable contributor to the LCD staff.

Supervisor Bomkamp moved to approve. Seconded by Supervisor Schneider.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Information Items

A. PACE Program Update

Andrew noted that staff closed on the Watson Easement in the last month and will close on Vanthournout and Barlass in the coming weeks. Three more closings are in the works. These easements include approximately 400 acres. Andrew reviewed the existing easements map with the LCC and will send a copy of an updated map in the near future.

B. Groundwater Nitrate Workgroup Update

The Workgroup met on March 29th and discussed a number of updates related to activity in the last year. LCD staff are continuing with a Nine Key Element plan for certain watersheds, which will provide the opportunity for additional state and federal conservation funding. Also, a National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) plan was completed in the fall. This plan creates the opportunity for federal funding for practices in specific watersheds that target groundwater nitrate concerns. Regional staff from UW Extension were in attendance. There are plans to continue with the pan lysimeter installation this fall. Data collected will be used to assist in nitrogen use models. The Health Department has had a lot of interest in the program that funds the reverse osmosis system for households with high well nitrate levels that qualify. It was also noted that one of the monitoring wells at the county complex need repair to the casing. The casings are PVC, so it is likely that froze heave damaged one of the joints.

C. Review of Draft 2023 Annual Work Plan (DATCP Grant Requirements)

Andrew explained that the annual work plan is an annual component of the larger Land and Water Plan, which is amended every 10 years. As the title suggests, this work plan is an opportunity to lay out the expectations of the LCD in the next year. It is also a way to show measurable outcomes at the end of the year (which is don't with an annual report). The Plan is a requirement to received DATCP grant funds for staff time and cost-share projects. Andrew will send the file to those in attendance on Zoom.

D. Department Staff Update

As Chris Murphy noted in citizen communication, he is no longer an employee of the County following taking a position in the private sector. Duane Collins has retired as of the end of March. Norm Tadt recently submitted his notice of retirement, with his last day in the office being April 14th, 2023. Vacation time will be used until the first week of June. Interview for Duane Collins' position will be held soon.

E. Update on Decklyn Investments LLC Property (CREP Easement)

Last month, the LCC approved a revised conservation plan for this property. The reason was that waterways are being repaired and the work will extend into the CREP Easement. Therefore, a review and approval is required by the LCC. Ashley asked that an update be provided to the LCC. The project is delayed likely until the fall do to the need for a wetland determination. No action necessary.

F. WPDES Municipal Storm Water Permit Annual Report – Opportunity for Public Input

Andrew reviewed the annual report requirements. This meeting is also the opportunity for public input. The report is a requirement of the WPDES MS4 permit. There was no public input and the Committee had no questions.

7. **Review Bills Paid – March Payments.** Andrew reviewed the payments. There were no questions.
8. **Adjourn:** Mr. Quade made a motion to adjourn at 8:40 pm, seconded by Supervisor Bomkamp. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew Baker
Director

Minutes are not official until adopted by the Land Conservation Committee.

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