



MINUTES
ROCK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday February 1, 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 7:16 pm.

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

Committee Members Excused: Janelle Crary

Others Present: Addie Schlussel (Rock River Coalition), Teresa Zimmer (FSA CED), Bill Alt (Alliant), Ben Tanko (Alliant), Shelia Williams (Guest, Zoom), Sheryl Hengeveld (Guest, Zoom) and Andrew Baker, Director

2. **Approval of Agenda:** Supervisor Bomkamp moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Quade. **Motion carried unanimously.**
3. **Approval of Minutes – January 3, 2023.** Supervisor Sweeney moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Supervisor Bomkamp. **Motion carried unanimously.**
4. **Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements.** Andrew reminded the LCC members of the early registration deadline for those interested in attending the Land & Water Conference.

5. **Information Items:**

- A. **Discussion with Addie Schlussel, Rock River Coalition, Regarding the Aquatic Invasive Species Efforts Conducted through the Lake Monitoring and Protection Grant**

Ms. Schlussel provided a summer of the activities of Rock River Coalition in 2022 and the plan for 2023. One provide is use of beetles to control purple loosestrife, and invasive species that threatens wetland areas. Supervisor Towns asked if the beetles can impact other vegetation, particularly crop. Addie explained that there was research conduct in the 1990s before the beetles were brought in to show that the beetles really only eat purple loosestrife. They will fly long distances to find it. Supervisor Sweeney asked about how the cold effects the beetles. Addie explained that the burrow into the ground in the winter and hatch new beetles in the spring. The bigger threat is flooding. Chair Bostwick asked what is the biggest threat overall in the county, which is the New Zealand Mudsnaill. The snail has been found in Turtle Creek in Walworth County, but not Rock yet. Supervisor Schneider ask about the most effective form of outreach, which was agreed that one on one was much more effective than signage (such as a boat launches).

5. Introduction of new Farm Service Agency County Executive Director and Programs Update

Teresa Zimmer introduced herself as the new County Executive Director for FSA. Teresa shares her time with Green County. She has been with the Agency for 33 years, 23 of which have been in Wisconsin. Ms. Zimmer summarized some of the current programs and stated that much of the work done this time of year is updated farm records, land ownership changes and bank changes.

6. Action Item: Review Site Plan for Alliant Energy Solar Project with Alliant Staff and Consider Confirmation of Support as it Relates to County Farm Operations

Andrew introduced Bill Alt and Ben Tanko from Alliant Energy. A summary of the Solar Energy projects on a portion of the county farm was provided. The General Services Committee has oversight of the lease arrangements, however considering the project is adjacent to the research plots it is desired to have Land Conservation provide a review of the site plan and offer general support of the project. Staff has already worked through concerns relayed by some Supervisors as to how the two land uses may interact. This concern is both biological (possible shading and weed issues) and physical (ability to manure farm equipment used on the research plots). There has been an agreement that the fence will be setback twenty-five feet from the land on the north and same to the plots to the east. The decision to be made by the LCC is whether the County or Alliant will maintain the land outside the fence, which will be included in the lease if the later. It was decided that the area outside the fence would not be worth farming and the Alliant should maintain it. This is Option 2 on the site plan. It is likely that the areas on the north and east of the facility will be the same low/no mow seed mix as is used in the facility. The land to the south will likely be pollinator habitat. The plan is that the facility will be constructed in 2023.

There were other questions regarding the general operation of the site, included from guests. Those discussions were not germane to this decision.

Supervisor Sweeny made a motion to support Option 2 on the site plan, emphasizing the importance of maintenance of noxious weeds. Seconded by Mr. Bomkamp. **Motion carried unanimously.**

6. Action Item. Land and Water Resource Management Program - Approval of Cost Share Agreements

- A. LR-001.23 Margaret Skar / Mark Houfe - Nutrient Management
- B. LR-002.23 Mitchel Melms - Nutrient Management
- C. LR-003.23 Clothier Rev. Trust / Jon Clothier - Nutrient Management
- D. LR-004.23 Clothier Rev. Trust - Nutrient Management
- E. LR-005.23 Kurt and Graceann Toberman - Nutrient Management
- F. LR-006.23 Roger Rebout & Sons Farms - Nutrient Management
- G. LR-007.23 Baumann Rev Liv Tr / Duane Bauman - Nutrient Management
- H. LR-008.23 XYZ Inc / Duane Bauman - Nutrient Management
- I. LR-009.23 Steven & Kathleen Earlywine Trust - Nutrient Management
- J. LR-010.23 Roger Nelson and Peggy Nelson - Nutrient Management

K. LR-011.23 Nelson Family Farms LLC - Nutrient Management

Andrew explained that these contracts are all for nutrient management planning, which is paid at \$40 per acre. The LCC reviewed a spreadsheet that includes the acres and contract amounts. The Committee was comfortable acting on this group of contracts with a single vote.

Supervisor Sweeney made a motion to approve items A-K above, seconded by Mr Quade. **Motion carried unanimously.**

8. **Action Item. Land and Water Resource Management Program - Approval of Notices of Non- Compliance**

Andrew noted that Committee action is required for non-compliance reports to DATCP, which documents that the landowner cannot claim the Farmland Preservation Program. Non-compliance can simply be choosing not to participate in the program, not submitting necessary documentation or in the field compliance issues. These decisions are not permanent. If the landowner chooses to come into compliance they can claim the credit again. Each of these landowners have made the choice not to participate. There are no known conservation compliance matters.

A. Glenn G and Jackie S Jackson - Bradford (Parcels 6-3-236 and 6-3-236.1)

Supervisor Bomkamp made a motion to approve, seconded by Towns. **Motion carried unanimously.**

B. Teddy and Juliet Peterson Rev Trust - Clinton (Parcels 6-5-211, 6-5-329 and 6-5-334.1)

Supervisor Sweeney made a motion to approve, seconded by Bomkamp. **Motion carried unanimously.**

9. **Action Item: Request for Erosion Control Permit Double Fee Reduction**

A. T Drew Farms LLC

Andrew reviewed the request and referenced the staff memo in the packet. These requests are made when an after-the-fact permit is issued, and the landowner would like the penalty (double permit fees waived). This penalty is by Ordinance. In this case, a pole barn was built, along with gravel parking lot/approach, in the Spring of 2021. The landowner obtained a Town building permit and access permit to Hwy B, but no Erosion Control permit (approximately 40,000 square feet of disturbance). This permit approval by the Town Building Inspector was made prior to the LCD more recent emphasis on making sure Towns are constantly reminded about possible need of a County Erosion Control permit for larger projects. Therefore, staff is recommending approval of the waiving of the double fees and charging normal fees.

The LCC relayed their expectations that Town Officials should do what ever they can to relay information about other possible necessary permit to applicants, especially with constant reminders from LCD staff.

Supervisor Bomkamp made a motion to approve, seconded by Towns. **Motion carried unanimously.**

10. **PACE Program Update and Possible Further Discussion Regarding PACE Council Membership**

Andrew noted that staff continue to work toward closing on six easements. It was confirmed with Supervisor Stevens that her recommendation for the PACE Council, Dannie Evans, is in fact still working in the Real Estate field. There was a question in that regard when it was realized he is a staff member at the Human Services Department. Andrew will reach out to Mr. Evans to see if he is interested in the appoint. Andrew also suggested that Tim Tollefson may be a good candiadate to fill the final position of a Town Rep. Tim is the Town of Harmony Clerk and the Secretary fo the Rock County Town Association. The Committee supported this recommendation, so Andrew will talk with Tim about it.

11. **Review Bills Paid – January Payments.** Andrew reviewed the payments. There were no questions.

12. **Adjourn:** Mr. Quade made a motion to adjourn at 9:07pm, seconded by Supervisor Bomkamp. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew Baker
Director

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

G: office/lcc/lcc2023/M020123