



MINUTES

ROCK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE Wednesday February 3, 2021, 7:15 P.M. Virtual Meeting - Zoom

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Bostwick called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

Committee Members Present: Stephanie Aegerter, Rich Bostwick, Wes Davis, Kaelyb Lokrantz, Mike Mulligan, James Quade and Alan Sweeney.

Committee Members Excused: None

Others Present: Dave Terrall, Chris Murphy and Andrew Baker
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Supervisor Aegerter moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Supervisor Davis. **Motion carried unanimously.**
3. **Approval of Minutes – January 6, 2021 LCC meeting.** Supervisor Aegerter made the correction to item 8, Supervisor Davis' name is misspelled. Supervisor Sweeney moved the approval of the minutes, seconded by Supervisor Mulligan. **Motion carried unanimously.**
4. **Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements:** None
5. **Review Bills Paid:** None
6. **Action Item:** 2020 Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program claims approval. Dave Terrall reviewed the two claims filed in 2020 for corn and soybean loss due to geese. Each landowner had implemented abatement, therefore was eligible for claim. Each claim has a \$500 deductible. Also discussed possible large deer fencing project near Beloit that may be implemented in 2021 at a cut flower operation. Supervisor Aegerter made motion to approve claims, seconded by Mr. Quade. **Motion carried unanimously.**
7. **Action Item:** Approval of Farmland Preservation Notice of Noncompliance Documents. Shoemaker and Kutz are voluntarily withdrawing from the program. Hood 1992 Trust, Morgan Farms and Graft did not return annual notification for 2020 and multiple efforts were made to contact them. Supervisor Davis made a motion to approve, seconded by Supervisor Mulligan. **Motion carried unanimously.**
8. **Action Item:** Six month extension request for Rock County Permit ECSW-2020-5, Peace Development/Lakewoods 4th Addition – Fulton Township. Chris Murphy explained that additional time is necessary to make final repairs to best management practices. There have been a lot of issues with the builder and contractors destroying practices installed as part of the road construction. By extending the permit and requiring the developer to fix the issues, we are making sure a good product is turned over to the residents for long term maintenance. Supervisor Davis made a motion to approve, seconded by Supervisor Lokrantz. **Motion carried unanimously.**
9. **Action Item:** Approval of 2021 Clean Sweep Grant Contract. Andrew explained that this contract is very similar to that approved in years past and has been through contract review. It is the formal acceptance of the grant that was applied for last year for 2021. Andrew explained the various funding mechanisms that go into supporting the program, including this grant and contributions from municipalities. The Committee asked that a list be presented at the next meeting of the communities that support the Clean Sweep program. Supervisor Sweeney made a motion to approve, seconded by Supervisor Mulligan. **Motion carried unanimously.**
10. **Action Item:** Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement Between Rock County and the City of Janesville Regarding Technical Services for Water Quality Trading. Chris Murphy explained the purposes of the agreement, to provide services to the City of Janesville for the design and

implementation of conservation practices in the Rock River watershed to capture phosphorus. These practices are installed and paid for by the City in lieu of making upgrades to the treatment plant in order to meet the WPDES Permit discharge requirements. This is a ten year agreement that includes not only design and installation assistance, but also annual monitoring of the practices. Compensation to the County is 15% of the cost of installation of practices, which is estimated between \$81,000 and \$135,000 at this time. Practices will be designed in 2021 and installed in 2022. It was noted that while Chris Murphy is the lead on this project, other staff are involved with design and will be with annual review. Mr. Quade made a motion to approve, seconded by Supervisor Lokrantz. **Motion carried unanimously.**

11. **Possible Action Item:** Approval of Letter of Support for Glacierland RC&D Application for NACD Technical Assistance Grant, including possible contribution of office space, staff time and/or monetary resources as local match. Andrew explained that Glacierland RC&D currently has funding from NACD to work primarily with grazers in southern Wisconsin Counties, including Rock County. They are reapplying for funding and asked if LCD would consider supporting the grant with monetary or in-kind match. The primary goal of the work is to help grazers (existing and new) to complete a certified grazing plan. This plan is required before an operator can apply for Federal EQIP funding for installation of practices. NRCS does not considering grazing a priority in this area and therefore does not allocate any staff time for it at this time. Therefore, Glacierland and other technical service providers fill a gap in terms of conservation planning. Andrew discussed this request with staff and it was ultimately determined that while there are some concerns with a few grazing operations in the County, there is not enough of a call for concern that would warrant designated a certain portion of our state cost-share dollars solely for grazing related practices. If approved, EQIP funding would even pay for practices for a new operation, where County cost-share is only used for existing recourse concerns. Andrew suggested that we could offer in-kind support in terms of utilizing the copy machine, staff time for mapping work and using our conference room for meetings. This would be similar to the letter of support that Jefferson County provided. Supervisor Sweeney made a motion to direct staff to write a letter of support including in-kind match as deemed appropriate by the Director. Seconded by Supervisor Davis. Motion carried unanimously.
12. **Informational Item.** PACE. Andrew explained that he is working on ACEP-ALE applications, the Federal funding component of the program. Applications are due on February 5th. This include Conway and Watson applications, as approved by Committee at past meeting, along with reactivating the Vanthournout application from last year. Supervisor Sweeney mentioned the variance application that was recently before the Rock County Board of Adjustment. Andrew explained that the case involved the request for a land division to separate an existing farmstead from the parent parcel. In an effort to preserve farmland with the larger parcel the proposed lot did not meet the road frontage requirements (100 feet) and exceeded driveway length requirements (250 foot maximum). The landowner offered to put a deed restriction on the parent parcel, restricting future residential use on the parent parcel, if the land division was approved by the Board. It was suggested at the time that the landowner may want to consider a donation to PACE easement rather than simply a deed restriction. Andrew is currently working with the landowner on that option.
13. **Informational Item.** Semi Annual Report – Attendance at Conventions/Conferences. Andrew referenced the report in the packet. No expenses exceeded the amount required for reporting to the Committee.
14. **Adjourn:** Mr. Quade made motion to adjourn at 8:15 pm, seconded by Supervisor Mulligan. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew Baker
Director

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