



MINUTES

ROCK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday December 1, 2021, 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: Stephanie Aegerter, Rich Bostwick, Janelle Crary, Wes Davis (Via Zoom), Mike Mulligan, James Quade, Genia Stevens (via Zoom) and Alan Sweeney.

Committee Members Excused: None

Others Present: Supervisor Shirley Williams, Andrew Baker, Director

2. **Approval of Agenda:** Andrew noted that item 6.D. should be removed considering that project will not be cost-shared. Supervisor Sweeney moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Supervisor Crary. **Motion carried unanimously.**

3. **Approval of Minutes – October 27, 2021 LCC meeting.** Supervisor Mulligan moved the approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Supervisor Davis. **Motion carried unanimously.**

4. **Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements.** The Committee welcomed a student from Beloit Memorial High School studying AP Government.

Chair Bostwick read an email from Susan Johnson inviting the Committee to be part of the Janesville Sustainability Fair, March 26, 2022 from 10 am to 1 pm at the Hedberg library. Supervisor Aegerter noted that the fair is mostly targeted towards families. Suggestions were made for staff to be involved and offer information about the PACE program, the Nitrate Workgroup, Farmers on the Rock, Water Quality Trading and Clean Sweep.

5. **Review Bills Paid:** Supervisor Davis asked why the Yahara Wins payment for George Bros Farms was substantially higher than the others. Andrew recalled that it was simply due to the amount of acres for the contract, but he will check for certain (that was determined to be correct after the meeting and relayed to Supervisor Davis).

6. **Action Item.** Land and Water Resource Management Program: Approval of 2021 Cost Share Agreements.

Andrew gave a brief summary of each agreement. Each was approved as follows:

- A. Hahn Family Revocable Trust – Grassed Waterway/Critical Area Treatment

Supervisor Mulligan made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Supervisor Aegerter. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- B. Jim Lawrence – Grassed Waterway

Supervisor Sweeney made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Supervisor Crary. **Motion carried unanimously.**

C. Steve Stauber – Grassed Waterway

Supervisor Mulligan made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Mr. Quade. **Motion carried unanimously.**

E. Mark Madson –Critical Area Treatment

Supervisor Mulligan asked if this agreement was associated with the Quarry property near Clinton. It does not. The property is in Beloit.

Supervisor Sweeney made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Supervisor Mulligan. **Motion carried unanimously.**

7. **Discussion Item:** Groundwater Nitrate Workgroup Update

Andrew updated the Committee regarding the status of the Nitrate Workgroup, which met in the morning. The group discussed the status of well sampling surrounding and at the County Farm, the status of the 9KE and NWQI Plan Development and the feasibility of extending research to privately owned lands possibly in cooperation with other entities.

Most notably, the Nitrate Workgroup reviewed the feasibility study compiled by LCD and Health staff in response to the related Resolution recently passed by the County Board. Based on the review of the feasibility study and discussion regarding the potential scope and dollars necessary, the group gave staff direction to proceed with designing a program to offer testing and mitigation assistance for willing landowners and tenants that have high nitrate levels. The program would be target toward the most high risk citizens (infants and expecting mothers) in the areas of the County that have historically had high nitrate levels. Staff intendeds to bring the proposal forward to the LCC and Health Board in the coming months based on a proposed initial budget of \$100,000.

Supervisor Davis noted that the Committee should take a look at Senate Bills 677 and 678 which include a few proposed legislative changes related to nitrates.

8. **Discussion Item:** PACE Program Update

Andrew noted that the 2021 applications are due to the NRCS today for the ACEP-ALE program (i.e. the federal funding). Those applications, has selected by the PACE Council and LCC, were one for Sayre Trust, one for McNall Trust and one for Curt and Leah Watson.

Staff is also moving forward on five acquisitions from past years; two for Barlass, Watson, Vanthournout and Conway. There is continued interest in the program beyond the applications that are in the queue that have not yet been approved locally for possible funding.

Supervisor Sweeney mentioned that the General Services Committee will be considering a resolution next week to enter into a lease agreement with Alliant for a 10 acre solar array on the County Farm each of Rock Haven. The lease payments would be around \$62,000 per year. Supervisor Sweeney is making a case, and looking for support, to approve the resolution with the provision that the lease funds be designated for the PACE program due to the loss of farmland for the project. The resolution will be on the agenda for the December 16th County Board meeting.

9. **Adjourn:** Mr. Quade made a motion to adjourn at 8:04pm, seconded by Supervisor Aegerter. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew Baker
Director

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

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