



MINUTES

ROCK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday October 6, 2021, 7:15 P.M.
USDA Service Center, 440 N Hwy 14 and Virtual via Zoom

- Call to Order:** Chair Bostwick called the meeting to order at 7:18 pm.

Committee Members Present: Stephanie Aegerter, Rich Bostwick, Janelle Crary (via Zoom), Wes Davis, James Quade, Genia Stevens (via Zoom) and Alan Sweeney.

Committee Members Excused: Mike Mulligan

Others Present: Andrew Baker, Chip Lovell, USDA Wildlife Services (via Zoom)
- Approval of Agenda:** Supervisor Davis moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Supervisor Aegerter. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- Approval of Minutes – September 1, 2021 LCC meeting.** Supervisor Sweeney moved the approval of the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Quade. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements.** None
- Review Bills Paid:** Andrew reviewed the bills. There were no questions.
- Action Item.** 2021 Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program crop price approval – David Terrall – USDA Wildlife Services.

Mr. Chip Lovell attended the meeting via zoom in place of Mr. Terrall. He explained the program is a state DNR program that the County can choose to administer themselves or via a contractor. In this case the USDA Wildlife Services is the contractor. The program is funded by hunting licenses and is 100% reimbursed by the DNR. Landowner's that experience crop damage due to bear, deer, geese or turkeys can apply for the program and receive damage claims and abatement assistance (such as fencing, special harvest permits). An additional condition is that the landowner must allow hunting access on the covered property. This agenda item is need to se the price for crop damage claims this season. The proposed prices are based on an annual average from Oct 2020 – September 2021.

Supervisor Sweeney made a motion to approve the proposed crop prices as presented for alfalfa, \$5.00 per bushel for corn and \$12.00 for soybeans, seconded by Mr. Quade. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Lovell noted that the LCC also need to approve a date at which it is likely at least 90% of the harvest will be completed in Rock County. He suggested December 1.

Supervisor Aegerter made a motion to approve the 90% harvest date as December 1, 2021, seconded by Supervisor Sweeney. **Motion carried unanimously.**

7. **Action Item.** 2022 Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program budget approval – David Terrall – USDA Wildlife Services

Mr. Lovell explained the budget process, including the fact that the federal requirements are a little different than the state requirements in terms of how budgeted dollars are itemized, but the total budget is the same. The budget also includes up to \$3000.00 for County administrative time, which is payable on a reimbursement basis at the end of the year based on actual costs. The budget is done from 2021 due to lesser enrollment (down from seven in 2020 to five in 2021). Program participants are dealing with deer and goose damage.

Supervisor Sweeney made a motion to approve the 2022 budget as presented, seconded by Mr. Davis. **Motion carried unanimously.**

8. **Action Item:** Request for Erosion Control Permit Double Fee Waiver – After the Fact Permit for Shed Project – David Keil (Center Township)

Andrew explained the nature of the request. The applicant was not in attendance to state his case. The landowner conducted minor earth moving associated with a pole barn construction project. He obtained the necessary permits for the building construction, but not an erosion control permit. The total amount of disturbed area is approximately 10,000 square feet, including the building area and the driveway approach. LCD staff noticed the project and relayed the permit requirements to the landowner. The landowner made a timely after the fact permit application and is requesting that the automatic penalty of double fees be waived. The normal permit fee would be approximately \$250, so the penalty is also that amount. Andrew noted that the landowner made a quick effort to resolve the matter and there are no resource concerns. Staff is recommending approval of the double fee waiver, meaning the landowner would pay only the normal fees.

Supervisor Davis made a motion to approve the double fee waiver for the after the fact permit, seconded by Mr. Quade. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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

- a. Brandl Farm Inc (various landowners)- Nutrient Management
LR-014.21, LR-015.21, LR-016.21 and LR-017.21
- b. BTL Ag – Nutrient Management -- LR-018.21
- c. Dar and Colleen Hoffman – Nutrient Management - LR-019.21
- d. Templeton Farms (various landowners) – Nutrient Management
LR-020.21 and LR-021.21

Andrew explained that each agreement is for nutrient management planning and implementation. Some operators have multiple agreements because the landowner also has to be party to it. These contracts will use almost all of the allocated dollars from DATCP for nutrient management and are 100% reimbursed by DATCP.

Supervisor Sweeney made a motion to approve each of the agreements, seconded by Supervisor Aegerter. **Motion carried unanimously.**

10. Action Item: Resolution. APPROVAL OF CERTAIN SOIL AND WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GRANT COST SHARE PAYMENTS

Andrew explained that any contract amount over \$10,000 must follow the County's standard practice of being approved by Finance Committee and County Board via resolution. This resolution addresses that requirement.

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

11. Action Item: Resolution. YAHARA RIVER BASIN ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PROJECT APPROVAL OF INCENTIVE PAYMENTS

Andrew explained that any payment amount over \$10,000 must follow the County's standard practice of being approved by Finance Committee and County Board via resolution. This resolution addresses that requirement for the Yahara WINS payments for 2021. In each case, the landowner has chosen to take payments for the practices over a multi-year timeframe. These payments are 100% reimbursed by Yahara WINS.

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

12. Review 2021 PACE Applications – Staff Presentation

Ref. # (not ranking)	Landowner Name	Parcel #	Primary Target Acquisition Area	LESA	ACRES	Town Section
1	Craig Myre*	6-16-8	No	5.5	79	Porter 2
2	Curt Watson*	6-16-17	No#	6.9#	34.7	Porter 2
3	Evan Sayre*	6-16-110	Yes	7.3	82	Porter 13
4	Evan Sayre*	6-16-114	Secondary	6.8	73	Porter 13
5	Evan Sayre*	6-16-205	Secondary	6.6	80	Porter 4
6	McNall	6-9-256	Yes	7.77	151	Johnstown 29
7	McNall	6-9-258	Yes	8.02	85	Johnstown 30

Andrew displayed a Powerpoint presentation for this item. Andrew informed the LCC of the account balances for the PACE Program. This has been no indication that budgeting sales tax funds for the program will be changed in 2022.

Andrew updated the Council regarding the status of past applications. Specifically discussed was the fact that one Barlass parcel had to be withdrawn from consideration because the landowner entered into a solar development lease. NRCS will not approve a conservation easement on land under that type of lease agreement even if the solar project has not been finalized. Currently working on finalizing four easements, two for Barlass, Vanthournout and Watson. Beginning acquisition process on the Conway parcel, which was selected late in the process by NRCS after two other parcels were withdrawn.

Andrew reviewed our local ranking process along with the NRCS priorities. When consider our applications it is important to consider both ranking process, which is why staff calculates an approximate score based on the federal system as well as the LESA score. The LCC discussed the details of each application. In this application cycle, there were five parcels renewed from prior years and two new parcels. Reviewing the scores, the County LESA ranking aligned with the federal ranking system. Discussion

followed regarding balancing the tendency to select high scoring parcels with budget limitations and preserving properties that do not necessary rank the highest on paper. The LCC also discuss the recommendation from the PACE Council.

- 13. Action Item.** Select 2021 PACE Application(s) to move forward in the acquisition process.

Supervisor Sweeney made a motion to accept the PACE Council recommendation, meaning application numbers 7 (the 85 acre McNall), 3 (82 acre Sayre) and 2 (34.7 acre Watson parcel) be selected for application to the federal USDA-NRCS program, ranked in priority in that order, seconded by Supervisor Aegerter. **Motion Carried.**

- 14. Action Item:** Approval of Cooperative Agreement to Satisfy Eligibility for Rock River Coalition to Apply for Lake Monitoring & Protection Network Grant Application on Behalf of Rock County.

Andrew explained that this agreement will allow the Rock River Coalition to apply for grant funds on behalf of the County and will implement programs intended to address aquatic invasive species. The funding, approximately \$11,000, is already allocated to each County, simply have to make an application including a plan for the program. The agreement includes the plan. The LCD has not been involved in programs addressing aquatic invasive species in the past, so this will be a good way to implement the funds in the County in a way that has not been done before. Supervisor Sweeney noted that the Lake District will soon be making efforts to address water quality, primarily sedimentation, in the portion of the Rock River Basin feeding Lake Koshkonong. There may be an opportunity to work in partnership with the Rock River Coalition through this program or one of their other initiatives.

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

- 15. Adjourn:** Mr. Quade made a motion to adjourn at 8:36pm, 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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