



## MINUTES

### ROCK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE Wednesday December 2, 2020, 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:** Andrew Baker, Bill Wilson (soon to be appointed Committee member)

Chair Bostwick welcomed soon to be appointed Supervisor and Committee member Bill Wilson, who joined the meeting as a guest. Mr. Wilson is replacing Jeremy Zajac, representing District 5 (City of Milton, Wards 1-8).

2. **Approval of Agenda:** Supervisor Davis moved to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Supervisor Aegerter. **Motion carried unanimously.**
3. **Approval of Minutes – November 2, 2020 LCC meeting.** Mr. Quade moved the approval of the minutes, seconded by Supervisor Lokrantz. **Motion carried unanimously.**
4. **Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements:** Andrew noted that he gave a presentation at the Towns Association meeting (virtual) on November 19<sup>th</sup>. The presentation was also sent to the all Town Clerks via PDF. Supervisor Aegerter informed the Committee that the farmers market would be held at the former Janesville Mall on Saturday morning.
5. **Review Bills Paid:** The Committee reviewed the bills to be paid. There were no questions.
6. **Land and Water Resource Management Program - Approval of Cost Share Agreements:**  
Andrew reviewed the Cost Share agreement to be considered for approval;  
A. Hullah (various land owners)- Nutrient Management (approximately 500 acres)  
B. Weberpal Farms LLC – Grade Stabilization and Stream Bank

General discussion followed. Supervisor Sweeney made a motion to approve the cost share agreements presented for approval, seconded by Supervisor Mulligan. **Motion carried unanimously.**

7. **Action Item:** Six month extension for EC-2019-024, Rock County Rifle and Pistol Club. Supervisor Davis and Mulligan had questions about possible lead in soil that was to be stabilized in the berms. Committee questioned the need for the six month extension. Andrew stated he would ask about the specific status, but primary purpose was to complete stabilization of the site. Supervisor Davis made a motion to approve the extension, seconded by Mr. Quade. **Motion carried unanimously.**
8. **Action Item: Creation of the Rock County Illicit Discharge Ordinance.** Andrew explained this item was postponed from November and gave a general summary. The creation of this Ordinance, applicable only for the Urbanized Area associated with the County WPDES MS4 permitted area, is a requirement of the WPDES municipal stormwater permit. Supervisors had questions about future enforcement of the Ordinance and how it applied to existing connections. Andrew referred to the proposed ordinance and explained how it would be implemented. Supervisor Aegerter made a motion to approve the Ordinance presented for approval, seconded by Supervisor Lokrantz. **Motion carried unanimously.**

9. **Action Item:** Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement Between Rock County and the City of Beloit Regarding Technical Services for Water Quality Trading. Andrew explained that the agreement is similar to agreement already in place with Yahara WINS. In this agreement, LCD staff provides all the technical services related to planning and installation of conservation practices, but not involved with the contract or payment to landowners. The City of Beloit enters into these agreements with landowners as a means to meet the TMDL Phosphorous limits associated with the waste water treatment facility. This is an alternative to making upgrades to the facility itself. The term of the agreement is 10 years. In that time, LCD staff will continue to monitor contracted areas on an annual basis. The City will compensate the LCD based on a percentage (15%) of each contract value. The estimate is around \$77,000, with payments made after the practice is installed. The Committee questioned whether or not there is enough time for Staff to complete this extra work. Andrew noted that, yes it is another commitment, but the Department can make it work. Primary workload will be in year one when design and implementation is done. Chris Murphy is the lead person for the work, but other design and implementation tasks are completed by additional staff as well. There is not just one person working on the project. The City of Janesville has also showed interest in a similar agreement, which we are working on drafting.

10. **Action Item. Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements: Review recommendations from PACE Council regarding 2020 applications and selection of applications to be sent to USDA-NRCS for consideration.**

Supervisor Sweeney made a motion to approve the applications for NRCS consideration as recommended by the PACE Council, seconded by Supervisor Lokrantz.

Andrew reviewed the applications via Powerpoint Presentation, which was also reviewed by the PACE Council at the meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup>. The LCC reviewed the LESA scoring system utilized to determine the target acquisition areas based on various factors. Andrew also explained the NRCS ranking system for applications submitted statewide. The ranking is similar, some points are based on County related factors as a whole, so each application from Rock County will have the same score on those factors. There are nine parcels in the application pool this year, from six different landowners. The Vanthournout (two parcels) and Myre (one parcel) applications are renewals from prior years that were not selected. Vanthournout was recommended to NRCS for funding by the LCC last year, but the allocation at the federal level was not quite enough to cover it. The two parcels rank very high on both scoring systems. The LCC discuss the merits of the various parcels, but ultimately agrees with the PACE Council that the highest scoring parcels in priority areas should be considered first.

Andrew reviewed that the PACE Council recommended, in priority order, the Vanthournout applications, the southern Watson parcel (6-16-17.1) and the Conway parcel. There was some discussion regarding Watson as compared to Conway in terms of preference since the LESA score are very close. The LCC felt the Watson parcel has a slight preference because it is adjacent to another PACE easement, therefore will rank slightly higher on the federal score sheet. Also, the Conway parcel is very large (167 acres), which is a good thing, but may use up all funding for one application.

Chair Bostwick called for the vote. **Motion carried unanimously** to have staff send the applications to NRCS as recommended by the PACE Council.

11. **Adjourn:** Mr. Quade made motion to adjourn at 8:30 pm, seconded by Supervisor Mulligan. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew Baker  
County Conservationist