

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 4, 2019 7:00 P.M. LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM 440 N US HWY 14 JANESVILLE WI

AGENDA

- 1. Call Meeting to Order.
- 2. Approval of Agenda.
- 3. Approval of Minutes August 7, 2019.
- 4. Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements.
- 5. Review Bills Paid.
- 6. Resolution <u>Yahara River Basin Adaptive Management Project Approval of Incentive Payments.</u>
- 7. Resolution Accepting The USDA-NRCS Staffing Grant and Amending the 2019 Land Conservation Department Budget to add a New 1.0 FTE Senior Conservation Specialist Position
- 8. Land and Water Resource Management Program
 - a. Approve Cost Share Agreements.
 - b. Approve forwarding Draft Land and Water Resource Management Plan to DATCP and DNR for Preliminary Approval.
- 9. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Approval of Contracts.
- 10. Yahara WINs Program Approval of Cost Share Agreements.
- 11. Erosion Control/Storm Water Management Permit Extension Request.
- 12. Groundwater Nitrate Workgroup
 - a. Approve USDA-NRCS Staffing Grant.
 - b. Update.
- 13. Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) Program Approval of Contract with USDA-NRCS.
- 14. Adjourn.



MINUTES

ROCK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY AUGUST 7, 2019, 7:00 P.M. LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM 440 N US HWY 14 JANESVILLE WI

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Bostwick called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Committee Members Present: Stephanie Aegerter, Rich Bostwick, Wes Davis, Brenton Driscoll, Alan Sweeney, James Quade, and Jeremy Zajac

Committee Members Excused: James Quade and Robert Potter

Others Present: Tom Sweeney, LCD; Anne Miller, LCD

- 2. **Approval of Agenda:** Supervisor Davis moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Supervisor Zajac. **Motion Carried.**
- 3. **Approval of Minutes July 3, 2019:** Supervisor Driscoll moved the minutes from the July 3, 2019 LCC meeting as presented, seconded by Supervisor Aegerter. **Motion Carried.**
- 4. **Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements:** Tom Sweeney noted the Southern Area Association Summer Tour will be held on August 20th by Green County. If any Supervisor is interested, please inform to ASAP.
- 5. **Review Bills Paid:** The committee reviewed the bills paid. Supervisor Davis asked for verification on two bills. Hendrickson Clerk Desk and Staples for office supplies and new clerk chair.
- 6. Land and Water Resource Management Program
 - a. Approve Cost Share Agreements. Supervisor Zajac moved to approve the agreements as presented, seconded by Supervisor Davis. Tom Sweeney reviewed the agreements for Brett Arnold and James Erickson. **Motion Carried**.
 - b. Land and Water Resource Management Plan Update. Tom Sweeney updated the committee on the LWRM Plan update. Tom distributed copies of the final working draft and noted that water quality information on the main stem of the Rock River maybe added. DNR needs to forward to the LCD. The LCC will consider advancing the final working draft to DATCP and DNR during their September 4, 2019 meeting. If you have comments on the working draft, please contact Tom or Anne.
- 7. Yahara WINs Program Approval of Cost Share Agreements: Supervisor Zajac moved to approve the cost share agreements as presented, seconded by Supervisor Driscoll. Tom Sweeney presented the agreements for the Nelson Family, Ryan Nelson (2) Evan Sayre, Sweeney Farms, and Thomas Young. At this time Supervisor Sweeney told Chair Bostwick he would be abstaining from the vote. Motion Carried.

- 8. Construction Site Erosion Control/Storm Water Management Permit Extension Requests: Supervisor Zajac moved to approve the extension requests as presented, seconded by Supervisor Driscoll. Tom Sweeney noted that the Town of Union and Zach Knutson permits have or will expire soon and final work needs to be completed on both sites. Delays are due to weather. Motion Carried.
- 9. **Approval of Application for USDA-NRCS Staffing Grant**: Supervisor Zajac moved to approve the application for the USDA-NRCS Staffing Grant, seconded by Supervisor Driscoll. Tom Sweeney noted the approval request was for the amended application. Tom Sweeney continued stating that a 3 year staffing grant was awarded to the LCD, the amendment adds an additional funding year with an option for a fifth funding year. **Motion Carried.**
- 10. Clean Sweep Funding Allocation ATC Funds: Supervisor Sweeney moved to approve the Clean Sweep Funding Allocation, seconded by Supervisor Davis. Anne Miller presented background information on the Clean Sweep Program and asked the committee to allocate \$50,000 of funding from the recent ATC Environmental Impact deposit. Supervisor Sweeney asked Anne Miller what the chances were to develop formal MOUs with all the Municipalities in the County to assure future funding, noting the ATC fund is finite. Miller stated the Clean Sweep workgroup will be convening in the near future and this will be an agenda item. A long discussion followed regarding MOUs with all partners. Supervisor Sweeney amended the motion to allocate one year funding, not to exceed \$25,000 and develop MOUs with partners, seconded by Supervisor Aegerter. Chair Bostwick noted the vote will be for the amendment. Motion Carried. Chair Bostwick noted the vote will be for the amended.
- 11. **Groundwater Nitrate Workgroup Update:** Tom Sweeney noted the next Groundwater Workgroup meeting will be held on September 16, 2019 at the LCC Conference Room. Also, on August 19, 2019 Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) will be in Rock County to produce a video on Groundwater Issues the County is facing. This Video will be available during the WCA Conference.
- 11. **Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements Update**: Tom Sweeney updated the committee on activities associated with the PACE program, noting an MOU with NRCS for funding the Barlass easements will need approval and the application period for 2019 closes on August 31, 2019.
- 12. **Adjourn:** Supervisor Aegerter moved to adjourn the August 7, 2019 Land Conservation Committee meeting at 8:47 pm, seconded by Supervisor Davis. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Sweeney County Conservationist

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

G: office/lcc/lcc2019/MI080719

ROCK COUNTY

COMMITTEE REVIEW REPORT WITH DESCRIPTION

09/03/2019

FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2019

Account Number	Account Name	PO#	Check Date	Vendor Name	Description	Inv/Enc Amt
62-6200-0000-63100	Office&Misc Exp			***************************************		
		P1900581	08/08/2019	MENARDS	RAYOVAC AA BATTERIES 48PK	32.97
		P1900588	08/22/2019	US BANK	STAPLES, USPS, AMAZON SUPPLIE	96.97
62-6200-0000-64200	Training					
		P1900588	08/22/2019	US BANK	LAND/WATER CONS MTG HOTEL STAY	82.00
					Land Conservation PROG TOTAL	211.94
62-6300-0000-62119	Other Services		,			
		P1902039	08/08/2019	VEOLIA ES TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS	CHEMICALS - CLEAN SWEEP BELOIT	6,628.02
				н	lousehold Clean Sweep PROG TOTAL	6,628.02
62-6311-0000-64928	Cost Sharing					
		P1902120	08/29/2019	SAYRE,EVAN	YAHARA RIVER WATERSHED ADAPTIV	5,625.00
		P1902125	08/29/2019	YOUNG RECOCABLE TRUST, THOMAS C	YAHARA RIVER WATERSHED ADAPTIV	13,320.00
		P1902128	08/29/2019	NELSON,RYAN	YAHARA RIVER WATERSHED HARV BU	6,007.50
		P1902138	08/29/2019	SWEENEY FARMS INC	YAHARA RIVER WATERSHED	7,222.50
		P1902143	08/29/2019	NELSON,JON	YAHARA RIVER WATERSHED	2,070.00
		P1902144	08/29/2019	NELSON, JUDITH	YAHARA RIVER WATERSHED	2,070.00
		P1902145	08/29/2019	NELSON,KARLEEN	YAHARA RIVER WATERSHED	2,070.00
					Yahara WINS PROG TOTAL	38,385.00

I have reviewed the pre	eceding payments in the total amount o	f \$45,224.96
Date:	Dept Head _	
	Committee Chair	

RESOLUTION ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

<u>Land Conservation Committee</u> INITIATED BY

Land Conservation Committee SUBMITTED BY



Thomas Sweeney DRAFTED BY

August 19, 2019 DATE DRAFTED

Yahara River Basin Adaptive Management Project Approval of Incentive Payments

Adaptive Management Program for Rock County's portion of the Yahara River Watershed; and,

WHEREAS, Adaptive Management Projects allows municipalities to implement phosphorus reducing projects within the watershed in lieu of making very expensive upgrades to their wastewater treatment facilities while meeting water quality goals for phosphorus. The most cost effective projects for

WHEREAS, Yahara Watershed Improvement Network (Yahara WINs) approached the Land Conservation Department (LCD) in 2016 to discuss the merits of developing a partnership for the

phosphorus reduction can be found in the implementation of best management practices within the
 agricultural sector; and,

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WHEREAS, through many discussions with Yahara WINs management and Land Conservation Department (LCD) staff a service agreement was developed, outlining all requirements for the programs goals and expectations for both parties, more specifically the agreement requires Yahara WINS to reimburse Rock County for all costs associated with the implementation of phosphorus runoff abatement best management practices and associated costs for staff and support for said project on a dollar for dollar basis; and,

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WHEREAS, the Service Agreement was entered into by the Land Conservation Committee (LCC) and Yahara WINs in early 2017, which allowed the LCD to commence with the implementation phase of the Adaptive Management Project in Rock County's portion of the Yahara River Watershed; and,

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WHEREAS, since early 2017, LCD staff has engaged landowners who expressed interest in program participation, which has resulted in best management practice installation agreements to be initiated by the land owners and the LCC; and,

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WHEREAS, in some instances the BMP costs will exceed the Rock County's financial thresholds of \$25,000 which require additional approvals by the Finance Committee and County Board of Supervisors; and,

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WHEREAS, the Rock County Best Management Practice Installation Agreement WINS-03.19 will exceed the aforesaid thresholds to provide funding for the establishment of a water quality harvestable buffer system in the Yahara River Watershed. The mentioned agreement is based on an incentive payment which requires the landowner to operate and maintain the BMP system for a period of fifteen years.

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36	NOW,	THEREFORE, BE	IT RESOLVED that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled
37	this	day of	, 2019, approves the incentive payments for Rock County Best
8 8	Manage	ment Practice Installa	ation Agreements WINS 03.19 in the sum of \$27.507.50.

Yahara River Basin Adaptive Management Project Page 2	t Approval of Incentive Payments
Respectfully submitted,	
LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE	
Richard Bostwick, Chair	·
Alan Sweeney, Vice Chair	
Stephanie Aegerter	
Wes Davis	
Brenton Driscoll	
Robert Potter	ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:
James Quade, USDA-FSA Representative	Recommended.
Jeremy Zajac	Josh Smith County Administrator
FISCAL NOTE:	
payments are reimbursed by Yahara WINS and no	adget for the cost of this incentive payment. These County funds are required.
Sherry Oja Finance Director	
LEGAL NOTE:	•
The County Board is authorized to take th & 92.07(3), Wis. Stats,	nis action pursuant to §§ 59.01, 59.51
W IL	
Richard Greenlee Corporation Counsel	

Yahara River Basin Adaptive Management Project Approval of Incentive Payments Page 3

Executive Summary

The Yahara River Watershed is threatened by excessive phosphorus from sources identified as agricultural runoff, urban storm water and wastewater treatment plant discharges. The elevated phosphorus levels are a threat to water quality and aquatic life throughout the Yahara Watershed. The Yahara Watershed Improvement Network (Yahara WINs), began in 2012 to reduce all phosphorus loads and meet water quality standards established by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). This program employs watershed adaptive management, a strategy in which all producers of phosphorus pollution, point and non-point sources, in the Yahara watershed basin work together to meet water quality goals. This strategy is more effective and less expensive than the sources working separately on individual solutions. Partners in Yahara WINs include cities, villages, towns, wastewater treatment plants, agricultural producers, environmental groups and others.

Yahara WINS approached the Land Conservation Department in 2016 to discuss the merits of developing a partnership to apply best management practices in Rock County's portion of the Yahara River watershed. A Service Agreement was entered into by both parties and the Land Conservation Department's Budget was amended to facilitate the cost share and/or incentive agreements.

Since then, staff has been engaged with various landowners whom expressed interest in the overall programs goals. Numerous agreements have been signed by landowners who have implemented best management practices. Knowing a few agreements would exceed the financial threshold of \$25,000 established by County Board rules, requiring actions by both the Finance Committee and County Board of Supervisors. Rock County Best Management Practice Installation Agreement WINS-03.19 exceed the established threshold and requires approval from County Board.

Yahara WINS reimburses the County for costs associated with the aforementioned work, on a dollar for dollar basis.

Resolution No.	Agenda No.
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RESOLUTION ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Land Conservation Comm.
INITIATED BY

Land Conservation Comm.
SUBMITTED BY



Thomas Sweeney DRAFTED BY

August 19, 2019 DATE DRAFTED

ACCEPTING THE USDA-NRCS STAFFING GRANT AND AMENDING THE 2019 LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT BUDGET TO ADD A NEW 1.0 FTE SENIOR CONSERVATION SPECIALIST POSITION

1	WHEREAS, the Land Conservation Department (LCD) made an staffing grant application to the USDA-
2	Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in early 2019; and,
•	

WHEREAS, the grant application identified three priorities that are currently out of reach with the current LCD staff and associated workload, those being: Improve surface and groundwater quality in

targeted watersheds through the development of Nine Key Element (9KE) Plans, implement BMP's in select watershed to reduce runoff/infiltration impacts to surface and groundwater resources, provide

8 assistance to UWEX for the formation and fostering of Producer-Led Watershed Groups, and provide

9 technical assistance to NRCS to reduce the current backlog in the Environmental Quality Incentive 10 Program (EQIP); and,

10 Program (EQIP); and

WHEREAS, the NRCS has confirmed that the LCD has been awarded the staffing grant in the sum of
 \$380,000 over a span of four years, with a fifth year funding option, to commence on September 30, 2019
 and with a completion date of September, 30 2024; and,

WHEREAS, the LCD will commence with the development of 9KE Plans, for selected hydrologic unit code (HUC10) watersheds in Rock County. The plans require comprehensive land use inventories, running complex hydrologic models, identifying specific water quality areas needing treatment, the development of a schedule of technical and financial needs, and establishment of a monitoring component for the watershed being studied; and,

WHEREAS, the LCD shall complete the 9KE plans in a timely manner. The completed/approved plans are a requirement for water quality program implementation grant from the WDNR and NRCS, which the

LCD intends to make application for in the future; and,

WHEREAS, the LCD will provide assistance to UWEX for the development of Producer-Led
Watershed Groups in selected watersheds. The groups are part of the solution to improve soil and water
resource quality by encouraging conservation decision making and developing solutions at the users'
level. This activity leads to additional funding opportunities for the implementation of BMPs in select

30 watersheds; and,

WHEREAS, the NRCS is experiencing a large workload backlog (70) in the following three programs: CRP, CSP, and EQIP and as part of the grant LCD will provide technical assistance to the NRCS to reduce the aforesaid backlog.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this _____ day of ______, 2019, accepts the USDA-NRCS staffing grant, creates a new 1.0 FTE Senior Conservation Specialist position in the Land Conservation Department and amends the Land

39 Conservation Department's budget as follows:

ACCEPTING THE USDA-NRCS STAFFING GRANT AND AMENDING THE 2019 LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT BUDGET TO ADD A NEW 1.0 FTE SENIOR CONSERVATION SPECIALIST POSITION Page 2

A/C DESCRIPTION	BUDGET AT 08/01/2019	INCREASE (DECREASE)	AMENDED BUDGET
Source of Funds: 62-6200-0000-42100 Federal Aid	\$0	\$ 7,213	\$ 7,213
Use of Funds: 62-6200-0000-61100 Regular Wages	\$350,429	\$ 5,014	\$355,443
62-6200-0000-61400 FICA	\$ 26,856	\$ 383	\$ 27,239
62-6200-0000-61610	\$ 85,541	\$ 1,417	\$ 86,928
Health Insurance 62-6200-0000-61510	\$ 23,155	\$ 338	\$ 23,493
Retirement-Employers 62-6200-0000-6120	\$ 866	\$ 54	\$ 920
Dental Insurance 62-6200-0000-61630 Life Insurance	\$ 196	\$ 7	\$ 203
Respectfully submitted,		•	
LAND CONSERVATION COM	MITTEE	COUNTY BOARD S	TAFF COMMITTEE
Richard Bostwick, Chair		J. Russell Podzilni, C	hair
Alan Sweeney, Vice Chair		Mary Mawhinney, Vi	ce Chair
Stephanie Aegerter		Richard Bostwick	
Wes Davis		Henry Brill	
Brenton Driscoll	-	Betty Jo Bussie	
Robert Potter		Louis Peer	
James Quade, USDA-FSA		Alan Sweeney	
Jeremy Zajac		Terry Thomas	
		Bob Yeomans	
FINANCE COMMITTEE ENDO	RSEMENT		
Reviewed and approved on a vote	of		
Mary Mawhinney, Chair	Date		

ACCEPTING THE USDA-NRCS STAFFING GRANT AND AMENDING THE 2019 LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT BUDGET TO ADD A NEW 1.0 FTE SENIOR CONSERVATION SPECIALIST POSITION Page 3

FISCAL NOTE:

This resolution authorizes acceptance of a 4 year USDA-NRCS staffing grant, creates 1.0 FTE Senior Conservationist Specialist position to be funded by the grant and amends the Land Conservation Department's budget for the FY 2019 portion of the grant. A 40% match is required. The match requirement will be met using office space, staff support, phone, etc.

Sherry Oja Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to accept grant funds pursuant to sec. 59.52(19), Wis. Stats. As an amendment to the adopted 2019 County Budget, this Resolution requires a 2/3 vote of the entire membership of the County Board pursuant to sec. 65.90(5)(a), Wis. Stats.

Richard Greenlee Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.

Josh Smith

County Administrator

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Land Conservation Department made a staffing grant application to the USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in the spring of 2019 to begin efforts that address the high nitrates being found in the County's groundwater and develop a more concentrated effort that addresses the surface water quality issues. The NRCS notified the LCD in late June 2019 that Rock County's application will receive the grant. NRCS staff stated that four years of funding is currently available and an option to fund the fifth year is included in the grant. If funding is made available in the future, the LCD and NRCS will amend the award to include the fifth year option.

As part of the grant application, the LCD identified three priorities: Improve surface and groundwater quality in targeted watersheds through the development of Nine Key Element (9KE) Plans, implement Best Management Practices (BMP) in targeted watersheds to reduce runoff/nitrate infiltration impacts to surface and groundwater resources, provide assistance to UWEX for the formation and fostering of Producer-Led Watershed Groups, and provide technical assistance to NRCS to reduce the current backlog (70) of best management practices in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP).

The LCD highlighted the need to develop and gain WDNR approval for 9KE Plans for targeted watersheds, as identified by the Groundwater Nitrate Workgroup. The current workload in the LCD prohibits the development of these plans. If approved, the new staff member's primary responsibility will be the development of the aforesaid plans and seek WDNR's approval. Once the plans are approved by the DNR, they will become an integral part of water quality management implementation grant applications, which in turn leads to funding for BMP implementation. Currently, water quality management granting agencies (WDNR and NRCS) require 9KE plans to be considered for implementation funding.

The 9KE plans include comprehensive land use/farming practice inventories, results from running hydrologic models that identify specific water quality areas needing additional treatment for the water resource under consideration, the development of a schedule of technical and financial needs, and establishment of a monitoring component for the targeted watersheds.

The LCD will also assist UWEX with the development of Producer-Led Watershed Groups in the selected/targeted watersheds. These groups are now considered an integral part of the solution to improve soil and water resource quality by encouraging conservation decision making and developing solutions at the users' level. This activity leads to additional funding opportunities for the implementation of BMPs in selected watersheds.

And finally the last priority addresses the current backlog in the NRCS funded aforesaid programs. These programs provide producers incentives (cost sharing) to implement and maintain BMPs that reduce or eliminate impacts to water quality. Currently the NRCS has a back log of 70 specific funded BMPs.

September 4, 2019: Land Conservation Committee Meeting

Land and Water Resource Management Program Cost Share Agreements for Consideration:

C/S	NAME (OW: Owner) (CSR: Cost	Practice	Acres/Ea.	C/S amount	Town/Sec
Agreement#	Share Recipient)				
LR-020.19	County of Rock / Scott Fleming	Cover Crops	323	\$6,723.00	Janesville / 12
LR-021.19	RFP TRUST C/O Steve Fellows	Well Abandonment	2	\$1,000.00	Center / 3
		•	TOTAL	\$6,723.00	

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program 15 year agreements for Consideration:

Owner Name	Practice		Acres	Amount	Town/Sec
Eric Komprood Revocable Living Trust	CP-21 (Stream Buffer)	0.9 ac.		\$122.85	Avon / 1
Hoerler and Hoerler LLC	CP-21 (Stream Buffer)	0.41 ac.		\$1,360.58	Plymouth / 5
	CP-23 (Wetland	5.84 ac.	İ		
	Restoration)				
			TOTAL	\$1,483.43	

YAHARA WINS Program Cost Share Agreements for Consideration:

C/S	NAME (OW: Owner) (CSR: Cost Share	Practice	Acres/Ea.	Town/Sec
Agreement #	Recipient)			
WINS-01.19	George Brothers Farms, INC	Harvestable Buffer/	7.4 ac	Union / 3
		Perennial Vegetative Area	7.88 ac	

Construction Site Erosion Control Storm Water Management Permit Extension Requests

PERMIT	PERMIT HOLDER	DATE ISSUED	REASON
ECSW-2019-1	Gomez Properties	06/18/2019	Weather Delay