

**Walworth County Board of Supervisors
Land Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 15, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.
Walworth County Government Center, County Board Room 114
100 W. Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Brian Holt at 1:00 p.m.

Roll call was conducted and the following members were present, either in person or by remote attendance: Chair Brian Holt; Vice Chair Daniel Kilkenny; Supervisor Nancy Russell; and FSA Representative Sharon Travis. Citizen Member Rosemary Badame was absent. A quorum was declared.

Others in Attendance either in person or by remotely:

County Staff: Corporation Counsel/Director of Land Use and Resource Management (LURM) Michael Cotter; Acting Deputy Director of LURM/Sr. Urban Conservation Specialist Fay Amerson; Senior Planner Matt Weidensee; and Sr. Rural Technician Brian Smetana.

On motion by FSA Representative Travis, second by Supervisor Russell, the agenda was approved with no withdrawals.

On motion by FSA Representative Travis, second by Supervisor Russell, the minutes of the February 15, 2021 Land Conservation Committee Meeting were approved.

Public Comment – There was none.

New Business

6. Water Alliance for Preserving Geneva Lake

Acting Deputy Director of Land Use and Resource Management (LURM)/Sr. Urban Conservation Specialist Fay Amerson referred to and briefly detailed the Water Alliance 2020 Accomplishments and Water Alliance for Preserving Geneva Lake 2021 Projects and Plans found on Pages 6-8 of the packet. Amerson stated the goal of this alliance is to preserve water quality and recreational use of Geneva Lake. Amerson referred to the 2021 Alliance Geneva Lakes Projects document, distributed at the meeting, in which 25 sites around the lake were identified as needing attention. The accompanying list detailed those observations and what measures are being taken to remedy these sites. Sr. Rural Technician Brian Smetana noted this group is not pointing the finger at any one entity as the problem and encompasses all issues causing harm to the watershed.

7. Targeted Runoff Management Grant Application (TRM) cost-share grant for conservation practices on agricultural lands in Geneva Lake Watershed

Amerson applauded Smetana for his time spent assessing and evaluating the agricultural land within the watershed. Smetana stated the funding received from the state is not enough to provide for this endeavor. The Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Grant would come from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR.) This is a statewide grant to which all counties can apply. Smetana noted the application deadline is April 15 and he plans to request \$100,000 in funding: \$80,000 for structural practices and \$20,000 to cover crops. **FSA Representative Travis offered a motion, second by Supervisor Russell, to write the resolution to apply for the Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) grant. Motion carried 4-0.**

8. Farmland Preservation Plan Up-date. Citizens Advisory Committee

Amerson distributed a list of recommended citizens to participate on the Citizens Advisory Committee. Discussion ensued relative to other individuals who may be willing to serve on the advisory committee. The Committee did agree that the number of eleven members, discussed previously, would be sufficient.

9. Farmland Preservation Plan Up-date. Coordination with Town and Village of Bloomfield, and other Incorporated Areas

Senior Planner Matt Weidensee referred to the Memo included in the packet (Pages 13-14.) Weidensee noted that a letter has been distributed to all townships within Walworth County explaining the Farmland Preservation Plan process. The County is requesting to know what A-1 lands each municipality are proposing to keep A-1 over the next 15 years. The towns and municipalities have 30 days to respond.

Amerson noted it's important to be clear with Bloomfield that the County will create the plan, but any zoning, not currently in compliance, will need to be mitigated by Bloomfield themselves. Cotter stated this is not an attempt by Walworth County to redo Bloomfield zoning. Chair Holt reiterated that the concern of the Land Conservation Committee (LCC) is to get as many municipalities to participate in this plan as possible; it is an unintended side effect that the zoning of some A-1 lands in Bloomfield is not in compliance with Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) requirements. Amerson pointed out the County will manage zoning only for those municipalities that fall within its jurisdiction.

10. 2021 Soil and Water Resource Management Program Work Plan

Amerson referred to her Memorandum (Page 23) and stated that Smetana created The Walworth County 2021 Annual Work Plan Locally-Identified Priorities document (Pages 24-33.) FSA Representative Sharon Travis advised that she finds the plan to be very aggressive. Smetana agreed the plan is ambitious, but reiterated that this information comes directly from the Land and Water Plan that was recently updated. Supervisor Russell noted a scrivener's error on Page 29 "Host 1 workshop for buildings, contractors and real estate agents" should read builders instead of buildings. **FSA Representative Travis offered a motion, second by Supervisor Russell, to approve the work plan. Motion carried 4-0.**

11. Potters Lake District representative vacancy

Cotter stated Citizen Member Rosemary Badame has resigned from Potters Lake District. Cotter will compile detailed information in reference to the schedule of meetings and asked for members to keep him apprised of any individual who may be interested in serving.

12. 2021 Conservation Award Winner - Outstanding Employee – Senior Urban Conservation Technician Fay Amerson - Walworth Co.

Cotter shared that Amerson received the 2021 Conservation Award for Outstanding Employee from the State of Wisconsin. He requested this be sent to the County Board in April as a Special Order of Business; and that LCC Chair Holt and/or County Board Chair Russell present the award to Amerson. Amerson stated she was surprised and honored that her colleagues put together the nomination for her to receive this award. **FSA Representative Travis offered a motion, second by Supervisor Russell, to request a Special Order of Business to recognize Fay Amerson winning the 2021 Conservation Award – Outstanding Employee. Motion carried 4-0.**

Reports/Announcements – Amerson shared that the Invasive Species Webinar held on March 4 was a great success with over 100 attendees. She reminded that the second webinar will be held on March 30 for municipal employees. Amerson noted the fact sheets on invasive species have been created in Spanish and are included in the packet (Page 36.) Also included is information and registration for the 2021 Lakeshore Landscape Contractor's Workshop being held virtually on March 24 (Page 39.)

Amerson stated the Lake Monitoring and Protection Network (LMPN) grant has been issued and is included in the packet (Page 40-45); she and Cotter are creating a plan to exercise the tasks included in the grant agreement.

Amerson noted there were two second place winners that participated in the Area 2021 Conservation Poster Contest; one from Lake Geneva Middle School and the other from Traver School.

Holt spoke briefly regarding his attendance at the Wisconsin Land and Water Conference March 2-5. He stated there were 340 attendees in the "kick-off" Zoom meeting and that the event was very successful.

Confirmation of next meeting – The next meeting was confirmed for Monday, April 26, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

On motion by FSA Representative Travis, second by Vice Chair Kilkenny, the meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

Submitted by Jennifer Stinnett, Administrative Assistant. Meeting minutes were approved by the Land Conservation Committee at their April 26, 2021 meeting.