

**Walworth County Board of Supervisors
Land Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 26, 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 Citizen Member Rosemary Badame. FSA Representative Sharon Travis was absent. A quorum was declared.

Others in Attendance either in person or by remotely:

County Board Supervisors: Ryan Simons.

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; Sr. Rural Technician Brian Smetana; Conservation Technician Chris Rieck; and County Administrator Mark W. Luberd.

Members of the Public: Justin Poinatte and Zofia Noe of Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC).

On motion by Vice Chair Kilkenny, second by Supervisor Russell, the agenda was approved with no withdrawals.

On motion by Vice Chair Kilkenny, second by Supervisor Russell, the minutes of the March 15, 2021 Land Conservation Committee Meeting were approved.

Public Comment – There was none.

New Business

6. 2021 Walworth County Lake Monitoring and Protection Program Update: SEWRPC Proposal to conduct *Meander Study for Army and Wandewega Lakes*

Acting Deputy Director of LURM/Sr. Urban Conservation Specialist Fay Amerson announced Walworth County received a \$14,000 check from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to advance the lake monitoring and protection project. Ten applicants have applied for an intern position and interviews will commence on Wednesday. Amerson anticipates the intern will begin working on this project sometime in May. One of the elements of the lake monitoring and protection project is to conduct a meander survey for two lakes within Walworth County. The Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) will be assisting Walworth County with the meander survey of Army and Wandewega Lakes. SEWRPC's proposal can be found on Pages 7-9 of the packet.

Justin Poinatte and Zofia Noe of SEWRPC gave a brief overview of their work experiences and described the scope of work that will take place for the monitoring and lake meander studies of Army and Wandewega Lakes. A map was provided at the meeting indicating the locations of where the snorkeling sample sites, deep hole water quality testing, and boat meandering will take place.

Discussion then focused on what a meander survey entails and the information that will be provided, as a result of the survey. Amerson stated the estimated project budget is \$1,550, which will be covered 100% under the DNR grant. Corporation Counsel/Director of Land Use and Resource Management (LURM) Michael Cotter reported there is a newer access road to Army Lake with a DNR launch that he believes will be utilized more frequently and that it would be beneficial to conduct a study on this underserved lake.

Vice Chair Kilkenny offered a motion, second by Citizen Member Badame, to approve staff's use of the grant funds to retain SEWRPC for the meander study and to have the study focus on Army and Wandewega Lakes. Motion carried 4-0. Discussion ensued relative to conducting a clean boat/clean water type of program that will survey any boats entering Army Lake to help minimize the introduction of new invasives.

7. Comprehensive Lake Management Plan for Lake Comus

Amerson gave a brief overview of the functions of lake management districts and referred to SEWRPC's update relative to the Lake Comus Management Plan (Pages 11-24.) At the request of Chair Holt, Poinatte explained the multiple variances between Lake Geneva and Lake Comus, as an example of two extreme opposite lakes within Walworth County and Southeastern Wisconsin. Poinatte and Noe collaboratively gave a brief overview of work that SEWRPC has performed for various lake districts in the past. Discussion then focused introducing the various lake districts to SEWRPC, who can provide assistance with the planning grant process.

Amerson stated SEWRPC requested the County's help with investigating and providing a drone presentation for the Comprehensive Lake Management Plan. Conservation Technician Chris Rieck proceeded to give a brief presentation of drone footage over the inlet area of Lake Comus. From the drone footage, SEWRPC will be able to identify areas of algae growth, sediment depths, and capture the flow of current(s). SEWRPC plans to include still photos from the drone footage within their report provided the County grants permission. Discussion then focused on the draft timeline provided on Pages 25-26. Poinatte anticipates that SEWRPC may have to request an extension on the grant for up to six months, potentially a year. Discussion ensued. Cotter stated this matter could be placed on a future Land Conservation Committee (LCC) Agenda to help keep the County Board Supervisors apprised as to the status of the Comprehensive Lake Management Plan for Lake Comus. It was also suggested that with the permission of SEWRPC, perhaps a draft of the plan could be emailed to the County Board Supervisors and/or Chairman of the various lake districts for their review.

8. Basics of Lake Districts Webinars

Cotter referred to Pages 27-28 of the packet containing various workshops being offered, and stated he is willing to help with registration fees if required.

9. Potters Lake District Representative Vacancy

Cotter continues to seek an individual to fill the vacancy on the Potters Lake District. The position is first offered to a member of the Land Conservation Committee, then to a County Board Supervisors, and lastly to a member of the public. Cotter will place this on a future LCC Agenda, once there is a qualified member to interview.

10. 2020 Land Conservation Division Annual Report

Amerson provided a brief overview of the 2020 Land Conservation Division Annual Report (Pages 29-32.) Despite COVID-19, the Walworth County Land Conservation Division issued a record 546 Construction Site Erosion and Sediment Control Permits and 42 Storm Water Management Permits in 2020. Amerson reported difficulties with reviewing permit plans and performing on-site inspections. She also expressed disappointment in the lack of reclaimed acreage relative to nonmetallic mining sites and suggested working with the operators to encourage them to review their phasing plans. Discussion then focused on the permit process with Cotter reporting the County Zoning Ordinance allows 30 days to issue a permit.

11. Reports/Announcements

a. Producer Led Watershed Group

Sr. Rural Technician Brian Smetana stated one individual was interviewed for the Producer Led Watershed Group Coordinator position, however, they continue to seek a qualified participant with a strong agricultural/farming background.

b. SWRM Buffer Grant

Smetana reported Walworth County received \$20,000 for a harvestable buffer grant that is supplemental funding from the Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) Grant received from the Department of Agriculture. The funds are to be utilized in establishing ten acres within the Geneva Lake watershed and ten acres within the Delavan Lake watershed. Smetana stated he is waiting to receive the contract paperwork from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and he anticipates that seeding will commence in 2022.

c. Farmland Preservation Planning Grant

Amerson stated the Town of Bloomfield has been providing feedback and that maps have been received from other communities relative to the Farmland Preservation Program. She reported Senior Planner Matt Weidensee has been working directly with the Department of Agriculture Farmland Preservation Specialist on how to deal with some of

the policy considerations. Data will be received during the month of May for the Farmland Preservation Plan and the first Citizen Advisory Committee meeting will be held in June.

Confirmation of next meeting – The next meeting was confirmed for Monday, May 17, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

**On motion by Vice Chair Kilkenny, second by Citizen Member Badame, the meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m.
Motion carried 4-0.**

Submitted by Patricia Sommers, Administrative Assistant. Meeting minutes were approved by the Land Conservation Committee at the June 14, 2021 meeting.