

**Walworth County Board of Supervisors
Land Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 18, 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; Sr. Urban Conservation Specialist Fay Amerson; Sr. Rural Technician Brian Smetana; Conservation Technician Josie Hanrahan; and Senior Planner Matt Weidensee.

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

On motion by Supervisor Russell, second by FSA Representative Travis, the minutes of the December 14, 2020 Land Conservation Committee Meeting were approved. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Comment – There was none.

New Business

6. Lauderdale Lakes Watershed Planning

Corporation Counsel/Director of Land Use and Resource Management (LURM) Michael Cotter announced that Brian Vallesky of the Lauderdale Lakes Improvement Association has requested more time to prepare and noted this matter will be placed on a future agenda.

7. 2021 WI Land + Water Dues

Cotter gave a brief overview of the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Dues and inquired if the Committee had any objection to making payment. Funds for these dues are included in the budget.

8. 2021 Conservation Poster Contest

Cotter announced the posters for the 2021 Conservation Poster Contest are presented in the hallway of the Government Center and thanked Sr. Urban Conservation Specialist Fay Amerson and Conservation Technician Josie Hanrahan for organizing the poster contest in Shannon Haydin's absence. Hanrahan briefly summarized the contest guidelines and requested that all Judging Sheets for the County/Local contest be turned in by Friday, January 22nd. In early February, the Land Conservation Committee will be asked to judge the posters for the Area Contest.

9. Farmland Preservation Recertification Update

Amerson provided an overview of the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation and Recertification Program, of which Walworth County has been a participant since 1978. Walworth County's Farmland Preservation Plan Update and Department of Agriculture Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP) certification of the Plan Update must be completed by December 31, 2022. The plan update process requires local input and support from the County's residents and units of government and serves as a way to educate the public about opportunities to protect Walworth County's productive agricultural lands. The Land Conservation Committee (LCC) orchestrates this process. There is an opportunity for grant funding to cover 50% of the cost to create

the plan up to \$30,000. Supervisor Russell inquired about the possibility of submitting the proposed plan for approval prior to re-election of the Supervisors in April of 2022. Amerson noted the DRAFT – Sequence of Events and Schedule found on Page 25 of the packet will need to be amended to accommodate Supervisor Russell’s recommendation for a deadline of March 2022.

Sr. Rural Technician Brian Smetana briefly explained the certification and recertification process. He noted the City of Elkhorn Exterritorial Zone district, Villages of Fontana and Williams Bay’s Exterritorial Zone district, and the Township of Bloomfield have not been certifying their farmland preservation zoning within their boundaries. Smetana expressed the importance of reaching out to municipalities within extra-territorial zoning to educate and assist with certifying and/or recertifying landowners into the Farmland Preservation Program.

Amerson noted a citizen advisory committee is not mandated within the program requirements or statutes. She asked the Land Conservation Committee (LCC) to consider what entity or who should make up the advisory committee to help develop the plan.

Senior Planner Matt Weidensee spoke briefly regarding non-metallic mining, solar and wind power, spoil spreading and big ponds within Farmland Preservation areas that will need to be considered when making policy decisions. Discussion then focused on creation of the A1NC zoning representing A1 zoning with no credit so that land could be brought back into A1 zoning and receive the credit.

Cotter announced there is a Citation from the Wisconsin Senate, located on the back south wall in the County Board Room, recognizing Walworth County passing the Farmland Preservation Plan in 1978.

Discussion then focused on when application could be made for the Farmland Preservation Planning Grant. Supervisor Russell suggested inclusion of farmers as citizen members for the advisory committee.

10. SEG Innovation Supplemental Allocation Grant – Harvestable Buffers

Smetana briefly explained the purpose for the SEG Innovative Supplemental Allocation Grant. He suggested developing a proposal that would create 10 acres of buffers in the Delavan Lake and Geneva Lake watersheds over a five year contract period in hopes that any potential grant money would cover the initial seeding costs and rent for the first two years and then seek funding assistance for the next three years from the Delavan Lake Improvement Association and/or the Geneva Lakes Conservancy. The proposal deadline is February 15th. Discussion then focused on receiving potential funding from the City of Lake Geneva and Villages of Williams Bay and Fontana; reviewing the grant disbursement and matched funding requirements; and obtaining letters of support from the Delavan Lake Improvement Association and the Geneva Lakes Conservancy. **FSA Representative Travis offered a motion, second by Supervisor Russell, to support and approve application for the SEG Innovation Supplemental Allocation Grant. Motion carried 4-0.**

Confirmation of next meeting – The next meeting was confirmed for Monday, February 15, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

On motion by Vice Chair Kilkenny, second by FSA Representative Travis, the meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.