

**Walworth County Board of Supervisors
Land Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 17, 2022
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 1:01 p.m.

Roll call was conducted and the following members were present: Chair Brian Holt; Vice Chair Sheila Reiff; Supervisor Rick Stacey; and Citizen Representative Sharon Travis. Citizen Member Richard Kuhnke, Jr. was absent. A quorum was declared.

Others in Attendance either in person or remotely:

County Staff: Corporation Counsel/Director-Land Use and Resource Management (LURM) Michael Cotter; Deputy Director of LURM/County Conservationist Mandy Bonneville; Senior Rural Conservationist Brian Smetana; Senior Planner Matthew Weidensee; Consultant Fay Amerson; and County Administrator Mark W. Luberda

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

On motion by Citizen Representative Travis, second by Supervisor Stacey, the minutes of the September 19, 2022, Land Conservation Committee meeting were approved.

Public Comment – There was none.

6. **Public Hearing** – Pursuant to Ch. 91.10(3) under ss. 66.1001(4) of the Wisconsin Statutes
Walworth County Farmland Preservation Plan Update

Chair Holt opened the Public Hearing at 1:02 p.m. on motion and second by Citizen Representative Travis and Vice Chair Reiff. Those present were the same as listed above.

Deputy Director of LURM/County Conservationist Mandy Bonneville informed the Committee that a public hearing is required for the update of the County's Farmland Preservation Plan and summarized the required process. Bonneville and Senior Planner Matthew Weidensee collaboratively gave an overview of the *DRAFT – Walworth County Farmland Preservation Plan Update 2022* distributed prior to the meeting and highlighted:

- The significant changes between the Walworth County Farmland Preservation Plan Update of 2012 and 2022
 - The approximate 605 acres removed from the farmland preservation area, which is a 0.33% reduction since adoption of the 2012 plan.
- The recommendations submitted by the Citizens Advisory Committee, which are included in Appendix A
 - Policy consideration allowing commercial horse stables within the A-1 zoned district
 - Policy consideration for Nonmetallic Mining within farmland preservation areas
 - The three year timeframe after certification of the plan to pursue the policy considerations brought forth by the Citizens Advisory Committee
 - Policy consideration of increasing the capacity of solar panels in the A-1 zoned district so a farm could have a solar panel facility that would run their entire dairy operation, which would expand it from 12.5 kilowatt to somewhere around 300 kilowatts

Discussion ensued relative to the application process and requirements for Farmland Preservation Certification.

Chair Holt opened the meeting for public comment.
There was none.

Vice Chair Reiff offered a motion, second by Supervisor Stacey, to close the public hearing. Motion carried 4-0.

Chair Holt closed the public hearing at 1:17 p.m.

7. Resolution Approving the Walworth County Farmland Preservation Plan Update for 2022

Senior Rural Conservationist Brian Smetana briefly explained why one-third of the A-1 zoned district property is not involved in the Farmland Preservation Program, for example:

- The property owner must pay Wisconsin Taxes.
- Either the property may not meet conservation compliance with the Nutrient Management Plan or the property owner has no interest in maintaining said compliance.
- The property owner does not wish to navigate and complete the paperwork required.

Corporation Counsel/Director-Land Use and Resource Management (LURM) Michael Cotter commended Consultant Fay Amerson for assisting the Land Use and Resource Management Department (LURM) through the plan update process and mentioned former County Board Supervisor Nancy Russell who was instrumental in creating the 2012 Plan and pushing for completion of the 2022 Plan prior to the previous Board leaving, which did not happen.

Chair Holt expressed appreciation and commended the efforts put forth by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Committee (SEWRPC), Land Use and Resource Management Department, Land Conservation Committee, and Citizens Advisory Committee in creating and completing the updated plan.

Amerson thanked everyone involved for their efforts and stated she enjoyed working on the updated plan.

Supervisor Stacey offered a motion, second by Vice Chair Reiff, to approve the Walworth County Farmland Preservation Plan Update for 2022. Motion carried 4-0.

8. 2023 Walworth County Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program Budget and Crop Prices

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Wildlife Specialist Joshua Holden gave a brief overview of the Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP). He noted the Land Conservation Committee (LCC) is required to make the decision as to whether or not they wish to approve the budget. If approved, Chair Holt would be required to execute the County Budget/Financial Plan (Pages 9-11) for submission to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR.)

Chair Holt expressed concern and requested the price proposed for Straw include \$30 for a large square bale and \$60 for a round bale.

Discussion then focused on the following:

- The non-existent claims over the past 10 years.
- That participation is mostly due to Act 82 for shooting permit purposes.
- Potential future claims due to current Crane population.

Citizen Representative Travis offered a motion, second by Vice Chair Reiff, to approve the 2023 Walworth County Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program Budget and Crop Prices as amended by Chair Holt. Motion carried 4-0.

Chair Holt was advised by Mr. Holden to manually write in the two amendments he requested earlier, sign, and return the document.

9. Lake District Representatives

Cotter indicated Walworth County is currently seeking to fill two Lake District positions: one for Booth Lake and one for Lauderdale Lake. Chair Holt noted he plans to attend the next Lauderdale Lake Management District meeting and offered to act as the appointed representative moving forward. Discussion then focused on the duties of an appointed representative.

Supervisor Stacey offered a motion, second by Vice Chair Reiff, to move forward and provide the County Board with the list of recommended Lake Management District Representatives, which is to include Chair Holt for Lauderdale Lake and exclude Booth Lake at this time. Motion carried 4-0.

10. 2023 Conservation Poster Contest

Bonneville gave a brief overview of the 2023 Conservation Poster Contest and stated there is a link on the LURM website for more information. The 2023 National Poster Contest Theme is “One Water”. Posters will be available for judging on January 16, 2023 in the hallway outside of the County Board Room. Discussion ensued.

Confirmation of next meeting – The next meeting was confirmed for Monday, November 14, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

On motion and second by Supervisor Stacey and Citizen Representative Travis, Chair Holt adjourned the meeting at 1:41 p.m.