

**Walworth County Board of Supervisors  
Land Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes  
Monday, September 20, 2021  
Walworth County Government Center, County Board Room 114  
100 W. Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin**

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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 remotely:**

County Staff: Corporation Counsel/Director-Land Use and Resource Management (LURM) Michael Cotter; Deputy Director LURM/County Conservationist Lindsay Motl; Sr. Urban Conservation Specialist Heather Marquardt; Senior Conservation Technician Brian Smetana; and County Administrator Mark W. Luberd.

**Vice Chair Kilkenny offered a motion, second by FSA Representative Travis, to approve the agenda with one amendment: 1) to remove, Item #10, National Association for Conservation Districts Publication. The agenda as amended was approved.**

**On motion by Supervisor Russell, second by FSA Representative Travis, the minutes of the July 19, 2021 Land Conservation Committee meeting were approved.**

**Public Comment** – There was none.

**New Business**

6. Introduction of new Senior Urban Conservation Specialist: Heather Marquardt  
Deputy Director LURM/County Conservationist Lindsay Motl introduced Heather Marquardt as the new Senior Urban Conservation Specialist and noted Heather previously held a position in the Zoning Division. Marquardt briefly explained her qualifications and work experience.

Corporation Counsel/Director-Land Use and Resource Management (LURM) Michael Cotter and Motl collaboratively explained their concerns with the current workflow challenges within the Land Conservation Division. Motl assured the Committee that Land Conservation is working as diligently and quickly as they can to review and turn around the various projects.

Chair Holt requested that LURM continue to update the Land Conservation Committee relative to trends associated with violations and the permitting processes.

7. 200' Setback for non-metallic mining update

Marquardt briefly explained a recent review and unanimous decision made by the County Zoning Agency (CZA) to maintain a 200' setback for non-metallic mining, which is relatively consistent with neighboring county setbacks. Cotter stated an operator approached the CZA Chair asking to reduce the 200' setback, which initiated the review. There was no need to present the request to the Land Conservation Committee (LCC) due to the decision made by the CZA. Discussion then focused on the procedures required for potential approval of a setback variance by the Board of Adjustment. Motl concluded by stating the CZA would request input from LCC prior to making any decision to change the 200' setback requirement.

8. Farmland Preservation Non Compliance Recipients: **Voluntary Waivers**: Roger & Gloria Wutke and David Roe

Senior Conservation Technician Brian Smetana gave a brief overview of the Voluntary Waivers of Roger & Gloria Wutke and David Roe and requested authorization for their removal from the Farmland Preservation Program.

Smetana stated there is the option to reverse and reinstate Roger & Gloria Wutke and/or David Roe to the Farmland Preservation Program, provided they are in compliance. **FSA Representative Travis offered a motion, second by Vice Chair Kilkenny, to approve the Voluntary Waivers of Roger & Gloria Wutke and David Roe. Motion carried 4-0.**

9. Southeast Area Association tour scheduled for Thursday, October 7, 2021 in Racine County  
Motl announced the Southeast Area Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association's Fall Tour will be held on Thursday, October 7, 2021. Smetana noted the Tour will be hosted by Kenosha County this year, not Racine. Committee members who plan on attending should turn their registration form into LURM for payment prior to the deadline date of September 27, 2021.

10. National Association for Conservation Districts Publication  
**This item was previously removed from the agenda.**

11. AIS Project update  
Motl gave a brief overview of the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Grant Accomplishments 2021 Packet (Pages 8-16) created by Water Quality Specialist Emma Yurkovich, who was unable to attend the meeting. Chair Holt asked Cotter and Motl to pass along the Committee's gratitude for all of Yurkovich's efforts and accomplishments.

12. Wisconsin DNR Surface Water Grant Application  
Motl gave a brief overview of her Memo found on Page 17 of the packet and requested permission to continue to receive funding for lake monitoring initiatives and to have this grant appropriated as an on-going funding source. The initial application can be found on Pages 18-21, while the proposed resolution of support can be found on Pages 23-25. The proposed resolution of support is required to accompany the application due November 1, 2021. The allocation in 2022 will once again be \$16,110. Discussion then focused on progress reports and documentation required by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Surface Water Integrated Monitoring System (SWIMS.)

13. Resolution authorizing the Land Use and Resource Management Department to Apply for a Surface Water Grant through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
**Vice Chair Kilkenny offered a motion, second by FSA Representative Travis, to approve the proposed resolution. Motion carried 4-0.**

14. Reports/Announcements  
Chair Holt reported the County's Health Assessment is experiencing difficulties acquiring feedback from various communities, especially the farming community. Any concerns or issues may be reported to Chair Holt, who will then pass them along to Health and Human Service for use in the Health Assessment.

15. Chair Updates: Comments on Farmland Preservation Plan CAC and Producer-Led Watershed position update  
Chair Holt provided a brief update relative to the vacant Farmland Preservation Plan CAC and Producer-Led Watershed position and requested input relative to potential candidates who possess a farmland background and are willing to work with land conservation.

**Confirmation of next meeting** – The next meeting was confirmed for Monday, October 18, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.

## **Adjournment**

**On motion and second by FSA Representative Travis and Vice Chair Kilkenny, Chair Holt adjourned the meeting at 1:39 p.m.**