

**Walworth County Board of Supervisors  
Land Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes  
Monday, October 18, 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; Senior Urban Conservation Specialist Heather Marquardt; Senior Conservation Technician Brian Smetana; County Administrator Mark W. Luberd; and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Wildlife Specialist Joshua Holden.

**On motion by FSA Representative Travis, second by Vice Chair Kilkenny, the agenda was approved with no withdrawals.**

**On motion by Supervisor Russell, second by FSA Representative Travis, the minutes of the September 20, 2021 Land Conservation Committee meeting were approved.**

**Public Comment** – There was none.

**New Business**

6. Potters Lake District representative vacancy interview – MaryJo Jones  
Corporation Counsel/Director-Land Use and Resource Management (LURM) Michael Cotter spoke briefly regarding MaryJo Jones who was attending remotely and extended his appreciation for her willingness to serve. Chair Holt asked Ms. Jones a series of questions regarding her qualifications, experience, desire to serve on the Potters Lake District, and whether she had any conflicts of interest that would prohibit her from serving. **Vice Chair Kilkenny offered a motion, second by Supervisor Russell, to approve and advance the appointment recommendation of MaryJo Jones for the Potters Lake District on to the County Board. Motion carried 4-0.**

7. 2022 Walworth County WDACP Program Budget & Crop Prices  
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 7-9) for submission to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR.)

Chair Holt noted the price for straw was left blank on the 2021 Crop Price Proposal sheet (Page 9) due to the lack of average prices and recommended \$4 for a small square bale, \$40 for a large square bale, and \$35 for a large round bale. Holt stated he found the other prices listed to be within commodity pricing.

**Vice Chair Kilkenny offered a motion, second by FSA Representative Travis, to approve the County Budget/Financial Plan and prices as indicated by Chair Holt. Motion carried 4-0.** Cotter noted the importance of having individuals of the farming community serving on the various committees and boards for items such as this.

8. National Association for Conservation Districts Publication – Walworth County referenced on Pg. 20

Senior Urban Conservation Specialist Heather Marquardt referred to and spoke briefly regarding Pages 20-21 of the National Association for Conservation Districts Publication and commended Senior Conservation Technician Brian Smetana for his efforts and dedication.

#### 9. Discussion of Geneva Lake Conservancy Letter of Support

Smetana stated the Geneva Lake Conservancy has approached Walworth County and requested a letter of support relative to their application for a DNR Surface Water Grant in order to continue the Geneva Lake Management Plan Update. Smetana requested the Committee's input and thoughts on three items:

- Whether or not to submit a letter of support.
- Whether or not to pledge financial support to implement the recommendations of the Geneva Lake Management Plan, including staff hours, volunteer hours, grant monies already secured, organizational funds, or merely technical support.
- Who the letter of support will come from.

Discussion then focused on the sample draft letter found on Page 39 of the packet and Walworth County's history of working with the Geneva Lake Conservancy and other lake districts. Supervisor Russell suggested creating a letter of support utilizing portions of the first and last paragraph of the draft letter while omitting any mention of financial support. Vice Chair Kilkenny suggested inclusion of language indicating Walworth County's general support. **Vice Chair Kilkenny offered a motion, second by FSA Representative Travis, granting authority for Brian Smetana to re-write a letter of support with no indication of financial support, as discussed.** Discussion ensued. **Motion carried 4-0.**

#### 10. Reports/Announcements

At the request of Chair Holt, Cotter provided a brief update relative to current and potential future vacancies within the Land Use and Resource Management Department. Supervisor Russell suggested contacting UW-Extension for assistance relative to potential candidates.

#### 11. Chair Updates

Chair Holt stated he attended the Southeast Area Association Tour in Kenosha on October 7, 2021 and provided a brief update.

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

#### Adjournment

**On motion and second by Vice Chair Kilkenny and Supervisor Russell, Chair Holt adjourned the meeting at 1:37 p.m.**

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Submitted by Patricia Sommers, Administrative Assistant. Meeting minutes were approved by the Land Conservation Committee at the January 17, 2022 meeting.

\*The incorrect date was presented at the meeting.