

**Walworth County Board of Supervisors  
Land Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes  
Monday, January 16, 2023  
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: Chair Brian Holt; Vice Chair Sheila Reiff; Supervisor Rick Stacey; Citizen Representative Sharon Travis; and Citizen Member Richard Kuhnke, Jr. 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 and Deputy Director of LURM/County Conservationist Mandy Bonneville.

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

**On motion by Vice Chair Reiff, second by Supervisor Stacey, the minutes of the November 14, 2022, Land Conservation Committee meeting were approved.**

**Public Comment** – There was none.

6. 2023 WI Land + Water Dues

Deputy Director of Land Use and Resource Management (LURM) Mandy Bonneville gave a brief overview of her Memorandum (Page 5) seeking approval for payment of the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association Dues - 2023. The Land Use and Resource Management budget includes funds for these dues, as well as for the Standards Oversight Council. There were no objections to making payment.

7. 2023 WI Land + Water Annual Conference

Bonneville announced the Wisconsin Land and Water Annual Conference will be held March 1-3 in Wisconsin Dells. Anyone interested in attending should contact LURM for registration purposes. Bonneville will be attending on behalf of Walworth County and the Land Use and Resource Management Department. Chair Holt announced he would be attending the conference as Vice Chair of our region and stated he is willing to deliver any silent auction ideas and/or items for donation. Discussion then focused on the benefits of being a member of the WI Land + Water Conservation Association, which allows Walworth County to collaborate with other counties within the state of Wisconsin.

8. 2023 Conservation Poster Contest

Bonneville announced the posters for the 2023 Conservation Poster Contest are displayed in the hallway of the Government Center and briefly summarized the contest guidelines. She requested that all Judging Sheets for the County contest be turned into LURM by Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. Winners will be announced at the February Land Conservation Committee (LCC) meeting and will go on to the Southeast Area contest. If they advance, they will go on to the state level and possibly the national level. The poster of last year's County contest winner is to be judged at the national level in February.

This year the Land Conservation Committee (LCC) is holding a People's Choice Award where County employees are encouraged to vote for their overall favorite poster design.

9. DNR 2023 Lake Monitoring and Protection Grant Update

Bonneville provided an overview of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Lake Monitoring and Protection Grant money received through the Surface Water Grant Program and how it will be utilized to fund the Water Quality Specialist intern position that will continue with the duties of identifying and fighting aquatic invasive species. LURM intends on working with the Human Resources Department to begin advertising the intern position as soon as possible. Discussion ensued relative to advocacy of the grant money and the good will created between the lake committees and Walworth County.

#### 10. Farmland Preservation Plan Recertification Update

Bonneville briefly summarized the certification status of the Farmland Preservation Plan and noted the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) requested additional criteria in order to certify the plan update. Refer to Pages 25-67 for further information. Content added or changed is designated with RED text. The revised version will be submitted to DATCP for certification in mid-January. Once certification is received, a resolution approving the final revised plan update will be prepared and brought before the LCC for review and approval and then presented to the County Board for approval. Discussion then focused on the December 31, 2022 expiration date and request for an extension to December 31, 2023 allowing time to amend the plan as requested, receive approval by DATCP contingent upon approval of LCC and the County Board. It is uncertain as to whether or not the 2022 date or the 2023 expiration date will be used for recertification in 10 years. Bonneville noted County Board Chair Rick Stacey is required to sign another Application for Submittal.

**Confirmation of next meeting** – The next meeting was confirmed for Monday, February 20, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

Corporation Counsel/Director-Land Use and Resource Management (LURM) Michael Cotter announced that Bonneville would be taking over the duties of reporting the agenda items at Agenda Setting. Committee members are to report any items they wish to have placed on the agenda to either Bonneville, Cotter or Supervisor Holt for consideration and placement on the agenda.

#### **Adjournment**

**On motion and second by Citizen Representative Travis and Vice Chair Reiff, Chair Holt adjourned the meeting at 1:29 p.m.**