

**Walworth County Board of Supervisors
Land Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 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 1:00 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 Citizen Member Richard Kuhnke, Jr. FSA Representative Sharon Travis 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 Conservation Technician Brian Smetana; and County Administrator Mark W. Luberd.

Corporation Counsel/Director-Land Use and Resource Management (LURM) Michael Cotter introduced Richard Kuhnke, Jr. as the new Citizen Member. Mr. Kuhnke stated he looks forward to serving on the Land Conservation Committee.

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

On motion by Vice Chair Kilkenny, second by Supervisor Russell, the minutes of the October 18, 2021 Land Conservation Committee meeting were approved.

Public Comment – There was none.

New Business

7. 2022 WI Land + Water Dues

Cotter gave a brief overview of the 2022 Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation dues requiring payment and noted the funds are included in the budget. Chair Holt stated he sits on the regional board as a County representative and expressed how beneficial the information provided by this organization is for the Land Use and Resource Management Department.

8. 2022 Conservation Poster Contest

Smetana summarized the 2022 Conservation Poster Contest guidelines and noted this year's theme is "Healthy Soil: Healthy Life." The posters are presented in the hallway of the Government Center. The Land Conservation Committee has been asked to either complete their judging sheets on-line or return them to LURM prior to January 28th. Winners from the County contest will be announced at the February meeting.

9. Farmland Preservation Recertification Update

Cotter stated former employee Faye Amerson has agreed to return to assist Walworth County with the Farmland Preservation Recertification process. Chair Holt, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Amerson for her willingness to assist Walworth County.

10. 2022 Multi Discharge Funding

Smetana stated the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regulates wastewater treatment plants and noted upgrades to those treatment plants have become very costly due to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rules that regulate the amount of phosphorous discharged into the streams. He explained the multi-discharge option a municipal plant would be eligible for, should they be unable to meet the criteria of phosphorus discharged from a pipe. This option would allow the plant to pay the counties within an affected watershed basin \$50 per pound of phosphorus above the annual regulated amount. In order to participate in the program, Walworth County would have to request the multi discharge funding and create a plan utilizing any funds received. Discussion then focused on how funding received in previous years was utilized. Consensus of the Committee was to continue participating in the program. Cotter noted he would provide an update to the Land Conservation Committee once cycling through the process of requesting, receiving, and creating a plan utilizing any multi discharge funding.

Chair Holt announced the Wisconsin Land and Water Conference will be virtual this year and that he would be moderating a few of the sessions.

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

Adjournment

On motion and second by Vice Chair Kilkenny and Supervisor Russell, Chair Holt adjourned the meeting at 1:22 p.m.