

**Walworth County Board of Supervisors
Land Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 14, 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 and Senior Urban Conservation Specialist Heather Marquardt.

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 January 17, 2022 Land Conservation Committee meeting were approved.

Public Comment – There was none.

New Business

6. FSA Committee member representation issues

Corporation Counsel/Director-Land Use and Resource Management (LURM) Michael Cotter referred to and gave a brief overview of correspondence from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Paul G. Johnson, Attorney Advisor (Pages 4-5) and correspondence from USDA Tyler Radke, Acting State Executive Director (Pages 6-8) relative to Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committee Member Participation in Land Conservation Committee (LCC)/Equivalent Boards. Cotter stated Sharon Travis has been an active and valued member on the LCC and that she has represented the Walworth County farming community well. Discussion then focused on the following options:

- Refrain from using FSA terminology moving forward
- Administratively place the recommendation that any future citizen appointment should possess a strong background in farming along with crop price knowledge.

Cotter agreed to reach out to Sharon Travis to inquire if she would be willing to serve on the LCC without the title of FSA Representative, but rather as a Citizen Representative until the FSA County Committee Member Participation issue has been fully addressed.

7. 2022 Conservation Poster Contest Results

Senior Urban Conservation Specialist Heather Marquardt stated this year's Conservation Poster Contest resulted in 50 participants from Traver Elementary and Woods School. The first place winners of the Walworth County contest were Matthew Christesen of Traver Elementary who won the Middle Division (Grades 4-6) and Madison Wojciuch of Traver School who won the Junior Division (Grades 7-9.) Both winning posters were forwarded on to the Southeast Area Contest. Marquardt noted that Wojciuch won the Southeast Area Contest for her poster that will now advance to the state level for judging at the annual WI Land + Water Conference in early March. Discussion followed with: 1) Marquardt being asked to email the results and winning pictures to the Supervisors; 2) Each participant is to receive a Certificate of Participation; and 3) It was proposed that a formal resolution be created and then presented to Wojciuch by the County

Board Chair, should she win at state. Cotter concluded by expressing his appreciation to the LCC for their participation in the poster contest.

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

Adjournment

On motion and second by Vice Chair Kilkenny and Citizen Member Richard Kuhnke, Jr., Chair Holt adjourned the meeting at 1:14 p.m.

Submitted by Patricia Sommers, Administrative Assistant. Meeting minutes were approved by the Land Conservation Committee at the March 14, 2022 meeting.