

**Walworth County Board of Supervisors
Land Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 25, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.
Walworth County Government Center
County Board Room 114
100 W. Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin**

The meeting was called to order by Michael Cotter, Corporation Counsel/Director of Land Use and Resource Management (LURM) at 1:00 p.m.

Roll call confirmed all members were present either in person or remotely: Supervisors Brian Holt, Sheila Reiff, Rick Stacey; and Citizen Member Richard Kuhnke, Jr. Sharon Travis was absent. A quorum was declared.

Others in Attendance:

County Staff: Corporation Counsel/Director of Land Use and Resource Management (LURM) Michael Cotter; County Administrator Mark W. Luberdia; and Senior Conservation Technician Brian Smetana.

Public Comment – There was none.

Special Order of Business

4(a)(b) Chairperson Nominations/Elections

Cotter announced that nominations for the Land Conservation Committee Chairperson were open.

On motion by Supervisor Stacey, second by Citizen Member Kuhnke, Supervisor Brian Holt was nominated for Land Conservation Committee Chairperson. Cotter asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, **Supervisor Reiff moved to close nominations, second by Supervisor Stacey. Motion carried 4-0. On motion and second by Supervisors Stacey and Reiff, Brian Holt was unanimously elected as Land Conservation Committee Chairperson.**

4(c)(d) Vice-Chairperson Nominations/Elections

Chair Holt announced that nominations for the Land Conservation Committee Vice-Chairperson were open.

On motion by Supervisor Stacey, second by Citizen Member Kuhnke, Supervisor Sheila Reiff was nominated for Land Conservation Committee Vice-Chairperson. Chair Holt asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, **Supervisor Stacey moved to close nominations, second by Citizen Member Kuhnke. Motion carried 4-0. On motion and second by Supervisor Stacey and Citizen Member Kuhnke, Sheila Reiff was unanimously elected as Land Conservation Committee Vice-Chairperson.**

4(e) Role and Responsibilities of the Land Conservation Committee

Cotter provided a brief overview of the role and responsibilities of the Land Conservation Committee, as indicated in Section 2-143 of the Walworth County Code of Ordinances (Page 3-5.)

Senior Conservation Technician Brian Smetana introduced himself and offered his assistance to the Committee.

Cotter gave a brief overview of the current controversy relative to Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committee Member (Sharon Travis) participation in Land Conservation Committee (LCC)/Equivalent Boards and noted other counties are getting around the bureaucracy by entitling them as Farm Community Members.

Cotter announced that future Deputy Director of LURM/County Conservationist Mandy Bonneville would begin work on May 2nd.

- 5) **On motion by Supervisor Stacey, second by Vice-Chair Reiff, the agenda was approved with no withdrawals.**
- 6) **On motion by Supervisor Stacey, second by Vice-Chair Reiff, the minutes of the March 14, 2022 meeting were approved.**

7) Lake District Representatives

Cotter explained how Land Conservation Committee (LCC) members are given the first opportunity to serve on a lake district of their choice. The opportunity is then offered to the County Board Supervisors and finally to citizen representatives per Wisconsin State Statutes. Citizen members are to be interviewed by LCC and recommended for approval. Cotter provided a status report on the various lake management districts and noted he is looking to fill the positions by June.

- 8) Farmland Preservation Non Compliance Recipients: Voluntary Waivers: James/Sharon Wutke Trust Smetana gave a brief overview of the Voluntary Waiver of the James/Sharon Wutke Trust and requested authorization for their removal from the Farmland Preservation Program. He stated there is the option to reverse and reinstate the James/Sharon Wutke Trust to the Farmland Preservation Program, provided they are in compliance. Discussion then focused on the desire for LCC and LURM to be in agreement with the removal of an individual/entity from the program. **Supervisor Stacey offered a motion, second by Vice-Chair Reiff, to accept the Voluntary Waiver of the James/Sharon Wutke Trust. Motion carried 4-0.**

9) Correspondence from Lauderdale Lake Management District regarding LURM drone

Cotter referred to and gave a brief overview of correspondence from Dean Bostrom, President of the Lauderdale Lakes Lake Management District (LLLMD) inquiring if Walworth County would be receptive to discussing the potential use of the county's drone with the LLLMD. Refer to Page 11 for further information.

Discussion then focused on LURM's desire to eventually have drone footage of all lakes within Walworth County; Walworth County would maintain possession of the drone footage and the public would have to request access to the footage; and that LURM would set the optimal height and angle requirements in order to maximize the footage for LURM's utilization.

Supervisor Stacey inquired if it was possible to notify surrounding landowners through a Lake Management District Notice, when planning to capture drone footage. Cotter expressed concern with avoiding all personal privacy issues and noted he would prefer filming either in early spring or late fall, when the leaves are off.

Chair Holt expressed concern with outside entities requesting the utilization of county resources, as a cost saving mechanism.

Cotter was asked to return to the Committee with potentially a three to five year plan; a demonstration of drone footage; a checklist of what is allowed and how the drone can be used; and for LURM to decide how they would like to proceed now and into the future.

Confirmation of next meeting – The next meeting was confirmed for Monday, May 16, 2022, 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

On motion by Supervisor Stacey, second by Vice-Chair Reiff, the meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.