

DRAFT

**Walworth County Board of Supervisors
Land Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 17, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.
Walworth County Government Center
County Board Room 114
100 W. Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Charlene Staples at 2:00 p.m.

Roll call was conducted. Members present included Chair Charlene Staples, Vice Chair Daniel Kilkenny, Supervisor Nancy Russell, Citizen Member Rosemary Badame, and FSA Representative Sharon Travis. A quorum was declared.

Others in Attendance:

County Staff: Director of Land Use and Resource Management (LURM)/Deputy Corporation Counsel Michael Cotter; Deputy Director of LURM/County Conservationist Shannon Haydin; County Administrator David Bretl; LURM Urban Conservation Specialist Fay Amerson; LURM Sr. Rural Technician Brian Smetana; and Ted Peters of the Geneva Lake Environmental Agency.

On motion by FSA Representative Travis, second by Citizen Member Badame, the agenda was approved with no withdrawals.

Supervisor Russell offered a motion, second by Citizen Member Badame, to approve the May 20, 2019 Land Conservation Committee meeting minutes. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Comment – There was none.

New Business

- John Strong letter of 5-16-19 regarding Starry Stonewort issue on Geneva Lake
Deputy Director of LURM/County Conservationist Shannon Haydin gave a brief overview of John Strong's letter regarding Starry Stonewort and stated there has been a request for the County to appropriate \$800,000 to assist with the eradication of Starry Stonewort in Geneva Lake.

Director of LURM/Deputy Corporation Counsel Michael Cotter stated Mr. Strong's letter brought forth the opportunity for Ted Peters of the Geneva Lake Environmental Agency (GLEA) to come before the Committee and provide a presentation on Starry Stonewort. **The Committee chose to pass on Items #6 and #7 of the Agenda to give Mr. Peters, who was not present, an opportunity to appear before the Land Conservation Committee (LCC). The Committee proceeded onto Item #8 of the Agenda.**

The Committee returned to Item #6 and chose to hear from Ted Peters, who was now present. Supervisor Russell inquired as to whether or not the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has the power to close the Trinke Lagoon that is currently affected by Starry Stonewort and not allow boats in or out? Mr. Peters stated the DNR does have the authority to close the lagoon, but is reluctant to do so. However, GLEA has made application and was granted closure in and out of the Trinke Lagoon for a period of ten days due to a chemical treatment that will be applied June 18th.

The Committee chose to move onto Item #7 of the Agenda in order to hear from Ted Peters prior to taking action on this item. No further action was taken.

- Ted Peters, Geneva Lake Environmental Agency on Starry Stonewort
Ted Peters began his presentation by stating Starry Stonewort is a macro algae that has been identified in Geneva Lake. The plant reproduces bulbils that are located approximately 5cm below the sediment. There have been no female plants found in the United States. However, a male plant is able to clone itself and reproduce. Peters proceeded to explain the difficulties and adverse effects with the concept of dredging. He said there have been two

boat warning buoys introduced to the Trinke Lagoon in hopes of containing the algae to the lagoon. Eventually, there will be five markers indicating that Starry Stonewort has been found and identified. Mr. Peters highlighted the following during his presentation:

- How Starry Stonewort might affect the lake.
- Where Starry Stonewort originated and how it may have entered the lake.
- Lakes in Wisconsin that have been affected by Starry Stonewort.
- GLEA's Initial Response with the DNR.
- Map identifying the location of Starry Stonewort within the Trinke Lagoon, Geneva Lake.
- Management strategy for eradication of Starry Stonewort.
- Grants through the DNR.

Peters distributed and explained a Hydraulic Dredging Site Map relating to the Trinke Lagoon. He concluded by requesting the Committee's assistance in promoting education on Starry Stonewort.

Discussion then focused on the possibility of the tourism tax helping with the treatment of Trinke Lagoon; potential loan funds and/or contributions from surrounding property owners relating to chemical treatments and/or dredging costs relating to Trinke Lagoon; and worse case scenarios for Geneva Lake, the plants, and other aquatic species as a result of the chemical treatments and/or dredging practices. Peters stated there are additional slides that he would have liked to have included in his presentation. **The Committee directed Mr. Peters to insert the additional slides to his presentation and requested LURM to post the full presentation to their conservation website.** Supervisor Russell commended Peters and GLEA for their remarkable efforts.

Peters stated he will contact John Strong personally regarding his letter of 5-16-19, Item #6 of the Agenda. Peters will direct Mr. Strong to view the video of today's LCC meeting and to review the information that will be placed on the LURM conservation website.

Supervisor Russell requested that Mr. Peters return before the Committee with follow-up information relating to the efficacy of Starry Stonewort.

- Presentation on storm events and runoff

Haydin briefly explained the purpose for the presentation on storm events and runoff due to past and anticipated future atypical rains that are causing localized flooding. LURM does have a Stormwater and Erosion Control Ordinance. However, often times flooding occurs in places where Walworth County does not necessarily have jurisdiction over; for example, issues that are not subject to the stormwater code and for the non-shoreland municipalities that have pulled out from County zoning relating to the Erosion Control Code.

LURM Urban Conservation Specialist Fay Amerson gave a brief presentation on storm events and runoff as it relates to construction and conservation. Amerson highlighted the following:

- Construction Site Erosion – 2018/2019.
- October 2018 – Delavan Lake – SFR Construction.
- March 2019 – Geneva Lake – The Highlands SFR Construction.
- May 2019 – Small Landscaping Project – The Highlands - Geneva Lake
- Geneva Lake – Construction Erosion
- Filtering Discharges from Dewatering Required; Stockpile Stabilization; Temporary and Winter Stabilization; Final Stabilization/Landscaping
- May 2019 – Discharges from Nonmetallic Mining – Town of Delavan – Williams Bay Pit.

Amerson stated Walworth County is utilizing the state standards and LURM will continue to educate the municipal building inspectors and new contractors.

Discussion then focused on the calculation process used relating to soils, slope, slope length, duration that the soil is exposed, and management practices of choice to achieve the soil loss limit on a construction site; and implementation of the best management practices to equal the final goal.

LURM Sr. Rural Technician Brian Smetana gave a brief overview of storm events and runoff as it relates to agricultural land.

Discussion then focused on the calculation process applied when designing a manure pit; ways in which manure pits are effected by storm events, runoff, frost in the ground, and the preferred disbursement practices. Smetana concluded by stating recent storm events are pushing individuals to investigate available wetland programs.

- Resolution supporting funding for conservation

Haydin gave a brief overview of the efforts being made by Representative Novak potentially putting forward some amendments. It is believed that the legislation budget has been prepared and is ready for a vote, which will then move on to the Governor. Haydin stated the level of funding is not within the prepared budget, not to say that those amendments will not come later. She explained the proposed resolution is requesting the statutory levels of funding to be restored.

Supervisor Kilkenny offered a motion, second by FSA Representative Travis, to approve proposed Resolution No. **-/19 Supporting Budget Priorities to Improve Local Land and Water Resources. Motion carried 5-0.**

- Southeast Area Land and Water Conservation Association Meeting – June 27th at 1 pm, UW-Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences

Haydin serves as President of the Southeast Area Land and Water Conservation Association, which is a sub group of the statewide organization. Haydin gave a brief overview of the meeting agenda, date, and location should any of the Committee members choose to attend.

- Burnett County Resolution #2019-16 – County Forest Administration Grant Program

Haydin gave a brief overview of Burnett County Resolution #2019-16 and stated there are no county forests in Walworth County.

Supervisor Kilkenny offered a motion, second by FSA Representative Travis, to place Burnett County Resolution #2019-16 on file. Motion carried 5-0.

Confirmation of next meeting – The next meeting was confirmed for Monday, July 15, 2019, at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment

On motion by Citizen Member Badame, second by FSA Representative Travis, the meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Submitted by Patricia Sommers, Administrative Assistant. Meeting minutes are not considered final until approved by the committee at the next regularly scheduled meeting.