

**Walworth County Board of Supervisors  
Land Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes  
Monday, July 20, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.  
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. Members present either in person or remotely included: Chair Brian Holt, Vice Chair Daniel Kilkenny, Supervisor Nancy Russell, Citizen Member Rosemary Badame and FSA Representative Sharon Travis. A quorum was declared.

**Others in Attendance either in person or by remotely:**

County Board members: Rick Stacey

County Staff: County Administrator Mark W. Luberda; Corporation Counsel/Director of Land Use and Resource Management (LURM) Michael Cotter; and Deputy Director of Land Use and Resource Management (LURM)/County Conservationist Shannon Haydin.

**On motion by Supervisor Russell, second by Citizen Member Badame, the agenda was approved with no withdrawals.**

**On motion by Supervisor Russell, second by FSA Representative Travis, the minutes of the June 15, 2020 Land Conservation Committee Meeting were approved. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Public Comment** – There was none.

**New Business**

- Lake District Representative Approval
  - Beulah Lake – Supervisor Rick Stacey
  - Comus Lake – VACANT until a replacement can be appointed
  - Honey Lake – Sharon Travis – LCC Committee FSA Representative
  - Lauderdale Lakes – Supervisor Susan Pruessing
  - Potters Lake – Rosemary Badame – LCC Committee Member
  - Whitewater-Rice Lakes – Supervisor Jerry Grant

Corporation Counsel/Director of Land Use and Resource Management (LURM) Michael Cotter suggested tabling approval of the appointments to the various Lake Districts until the next Land Conservation Committee (LCC) meeting, as the Administrative Office is currently performing the required background checks. Cotter stated there is one individual interested and waiting to attend a Comus Lake meeting prior to committing to serve. Citizen Member Badame stated Sue Bernstein of the Village of Bloomfield may be interested in serving. Cotter will follow up with Bernstein, should the original candidate chose not to serve. **FSA Representative Travis offered a motion, second by Citizen Member Badame, to table approval of the appointments to the various Lake Districts until the next LCC meeting and to continue searching for a Comus Lake representative. Motion carried 5-0.**

- County Board Referral from Wood County – Requesting the State Senate to convene in “extraordinary session” to address the 13 “Water Bills” passed in the Assembly earlier this year

Deputy Director of LURM/County Conservationist Shannon Haydin referred to her Memorandums (Pages 5-12) and gave a brief overview of the Wood County and Juneau County resolutions that were referred by the County Board. She stated in March the Land Conservation Committee passed a resolution supporting Senate Bill 723, which is the companion bill to AB 790. The two resolutions from Wood County and Juneau County are requesting the Wisconsin State Senate hold a special session to vote on the Companion Senate Bills. Haydin inquired as to how the Committee would like to proceed. Discussion followed. **Vice Chair Kilkenny offered a motion, second by Supervisor Russell, directing staff to draft correspondence highlighting the passage of Walworth County**

**Res. No. 02-04/20 – Supporting Budget Priorities to Improve Local Land and Water Resources and supporting the two resolutions passed by Wood County and Juneau County for the LCC Chair to sign and forward onto the Senate for consideration. Motion carried 5-0.**

- County Board Referral from Juneau County – Resolution No. 20 – 21 – Supporting a State Senate Special Session on Water Quality

Vice Chair Kilkenny stated no further action was required on this item.

- Summer County Conservationist Meeting – Summary

Haydin and Chair Holt gave a brief overview of their experiences with the virtual Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Summer County Conservationist Meeting. Haydin shared a presentation obtained from a session on climate change entitled “Oconto County Flooding Excerpts from Ken Dolata’s Wisconsin Land and Water Association Summer County Conservationist Meeting 7/9/2020”. Discussion then focused on the possibility of including language regarding Producer-Led Watershed Protection in the Land and Water Management Plan; the need for motivated individuals from the farming industry to spearhead various organizations in order to keep them moving forward; generating interest of farmers who may wish to become more engaged and potentially serve on a committee; and to promote and emphasize agriculture as part of our economy.

- Potential Farmer-Led Watershed Protection Group and Grant Application

Chair Brian Holt briefly explained the writing process for the Producer-Led Watershed Protection grant and stated this is a match grant. Haydin said the Land Conservation Committee has provided letters of support in the past for grants. Cotter confirmed there is no conflict of interest for Chair Holt participating in the group while seated on the LCC. Discussion followed with Haydin and Chair Holt providing further information relative to the Producer-Led Watershed Protection Group and eligible grant money. **FSA Representative Travis offered a motion, second by Supervisor Russell, directing staff to draft correspondence indicating Walworth County is in support of the Potential Farmer-Led Watershed Protection Group and Grant Application. Motion carried 5-0.**

- Wisconsin DNR Surface Water Grant Changes

Haydin gave a brief overview of the Surface Water Grant program through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The preliminary draft of information and formal guidance indicates Walworth County is to receive approximately \$16,000. There is no county cost share required for this grant. Notification of our intent to apply for the grant needs to be provided to the DNR by September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Haydin explained the different options available to implement the money, which are to use the allocation internally, partner with other counties, or partner with a cooperating entity as a sub-contractor. Discussion ensued. Chair Holt concluded by stating it seems as though the Land Conservation Committee is leaning toward a collaboration with other counties. Haydin stated she will begin working to collaborate with other counties.

**Confirmation of next meeting** – The next meeting was confirmed for Monday, September 14, 2020, 1:00 p.m.

**Adjournment**

**On motion by Vice Chair Kilkenny, second by FSA Representative Travis, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.**

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Submitted by Patricia Sommers, Administrative Assistant. Meeting minutes were approved at the September 14, 2020 Land Conservation Committee meeting.