

**Walworth County Board of Supervisors
Land Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 14, 2020 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 Chair Brian Holt at 1:02 p.m.

Roll call was conducted. Members present either in person or remotely included: Chair Brian Holt; Vice Chair Daniel Kilkenny; Supervisor Nancy Russell; and Citizen Member Rosemary Badame. FSA Representative Sharon Travis was absent. A quorum was declared.

Others in Attendance either in person or by remotely:

County Staff: County Administrator Mark W. Luberdia; 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 Citizen Member Badame, the minutes of the July 20, 2020 Land Conservation Committee Meeting were approved. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Comment – There was none.

Public Hearing: Walworth County Land and Water Conservation Plan 2021-2030

Deputy Director of Land Use and Resource Management (LURM)/County Conservationist Shannon Haydin informed the Committee that a public hearing is required for the update of the County's Land and Water Resources Management Plan. Haydin summarized the process required to update the plan and proceeded to give a brief presentation entitled Walworth County Land and Water Resource Management Plan. The last time the plan was updated was in 2010.

- Supervisor Russell stated the photo presented in the plan of Geneva Lake is misleading as to the amount of boat traffic that can occur and asked if a photo taken from the Williams Bay pier area could be used reflecting the concentration of piers.
- Supervisor Russell commented on the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's (DOT) decision to only mow along state highways once a year. Russell asked if this concept could be included in the plan presented.
- Supervisor Russell asked if LURM could team up with UW-Extension relative to training. It appears training is duplicated in a few areas.

Chair Holt opened the Public Hearing at 1:27 p.m. Those present were the same as listed above. Chair Holt inquired if there were any testimonies by individuals attending remotely. Hearing none, Chair Holt proceeded to inquire about the following:

- Trajectory of goal setting as it relates to the past 10 years and moving forward. Haydin spoke in favor of the progress that has been made over the last 10 years, given the resources available. Haydin referred to the supplemental packet that was distributed at the meeting entitled Land and Water Conservation Board Package, which summarizes LURM's accomplishments. Corporation Counsel/Director of Land Use and Resource Management (LURM) Michael Cotter spoke briefly on non-metallic mining, which bears notice due to the changes that have taken place over the years. Cotter reported a series of articles were submitted to the *Lake Geneva Regional News* sharing the expertise of Shannon Haydin, LURM Urban Conservation Specialist Fay Amerson, and LURM Sr. Rural Technician Brian Smetana.

- Public relations within the community. Haydin said she would like to distribute more information to the community whether it be via the County website or other social media. She briefly explained the working relationships between the strong leaders within the community and LURM staff to help promote water quality.
- Holt referred to the partnership of Lake Geneva and Delavan Lake and inquired as to what LURM is doing to encourage partnerships to form. Haydin explained how Conservation Technician Josie Hanrahan is working to generate more interest in the Healthy Lake Initiative Program; and how the Surface Water Grant will bring \$16,000 into Walworth County, which will be utilized to help foster more relationships.
- Holt agreed with Supervisor Russell relative to strengthening a partnership with UW-Agriculture & Extension.

Holt asked if there were any other public comments. There being no further public comment, **Supervisor Russell offered a motion, second by Citizen Member Badame, to close the public hearing.** At 1:36 p.m. Cotter informed the committee the audible connection with Vice Chair Kilkenny has been lost. Audible connection with Vice Chair Kilkenny was reestablished at 1:38 p.m. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Chair Holt closed the public hearing at 1:38 p.m.

New Business

- **Wisconsin DNR Surface Water Grant Application**

Haydin gave a brief overview of her Memo found on Page 6 of the packet and stated in order to secure any potential funding, she put together a pre-application that was submitted to the DNR prior to the September 2nd deadline. Haydin referred to and briefly explained the initial application found on Pages 7-10. Discussion then focused on how collaboration with other counties could not come to fruition due to the constraints of neighboring counties with hiring and staffing priorities in their departments; and Item #5, which refers to a previous “meander” survey on County lakes. Chair Holt and Supervisor Russell acknowledged they were in support of accepting the grant. **Supervisor Russell offered a motion, second by Citizen Member Badame, to move forward with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Surface Water Grant Application. Motion carried 4-0.**

- Resolution authorizing the Land Use and Resource Management Department to Apply for a Surface Water Grant through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Supervisor Russell offered a motion, second by Citizen Member Badame, to approve the resolution authorizing LURM to apply for a Surface Water Grant through the Wisconsin DNR. Motion carried 4-0.

- Geneva Lake Water Alliance (fka Geneva Lake Task Force)

Haydin gave a brief overview of the Geneva Lake Water Alliance and the efforts they have been putting forth relative to the number of pressing water quality issues.

Confirmation of next meeting – The next meeting was confirmed for Monday, October 19, 2020, 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

On motion by Citizen Member Badame, second by Supervisor Russell, the meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

Submitted by Patricia Sommers, Administrative Assistant. Meeting minutes were approved at the November 16, 2020 Land Conservation Committee meeting.