



PORTAGE COUNTY

LAND & WATER CONSERVATION MINUTES

ANNEX CONFERENCE ROOM 5
1462 STRONGS AVENUE
STEVENS POINT, WI 54481

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021
5:00 PM

1. REMOTE ATTENDANCE & COMMENT

To attend this meeting by telephone : dial 1-608-338-1399, after dialing the number you will then be asked to enter in a meeting number. Use the following meeting number: 706 828 328, then press #

To attend this meeting by video: go to [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Due to COVID-19 and the potential risk to members of the public who attend meetings in-person, any person who plans to attend the meeting remotely, but wishes to comment on an agenda item can send their comments via email to benedicp@co.portage.wi.us. The deadline for sending comments by email is 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting. Emailed comments will be delivered to committee members at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. Remote comment by the public during the meeting will be at the discretion of the Chair.

Face coverings are required for in-person attendance unless an exemption applies.

2. CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: B. JACOWSKI, C. GUTH, G. ZASTROW, J. MORROW, M. JACOWSKI AND M. NEVILLE

In person attendees – Staff – Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict; Pete Arntsen, Tor Anderson, Kim Krupka, Kyle Gordon, Todd Stiteley

Remote attendees – Staff – Jen McNelly, Tracy Arnold, Dan O’Connell; County Board Supervisors Larry Raikowski, Ray Reser, Vinnie Miresse; Kevin Masarik, UWSP Center for Watershed Science and Education; Barry Benson, USDA-APHIS; Ken Schroeder, UW-Extension; Josh Stolzenberg, Bob Connachen, Lisa Anderson, Gary/Elaine Anderson; Jim Walker, Kim Bremmer, unidentified phone callers

B. Jacowski announced comments will not be taken from public attending remotely.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4. [21-2857](#) JANUARY 5, 2021 MINUTES

Documents: [01-05-21 LWCC DRAFT MINUTES.PDF](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair G. Zastrow, seconded by Member M. Jacowski, to approve.
The motion carried by unanimous vote.

5. REPORTS

6. [21-2858](#) COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

a. Lakes Management District - Neville - Neville reported she was unable to attend recent Lake Jacqueline and McDill Pond meetings. She will review their minutes and report at the next LWCC meeting.



PORTAGE COUNTY

LAND & WATER CONSERVATION MINUTES

ANNEX CONFERENCE ROOM 5
1462 STRONGS AVENUE
STEVENS POINT, WI 54481

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021
5:00 PM

-
- b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) - Zastrow**
- (RC&D and CSGCC reports were inadvertently combined during meeting and have been separated for these minutes.) Zastrow reported on the January 21 RC&D Council meetings. Columbia County was approved as a member. RC&D is considering offering all digital versus printed materials.
 - c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (NCLWCA) - Zastrow**
- Zastrow reported the WI Land+Water Annual Conference will be virtual. A shoreline stabilization outreach publication is being developed. Funding for printing is needed. County reports were given. Benedict announced Portage County posters placed first in all five divisions and advance to the State contest. In the speaking contest, Annika Waltenberg placed first in the Senior Division, advancing to the State contest. Ciara Waltenberg placed second in the Elementary Division.
 - d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership (CWWP) - B. Jacowski/Morrow-Alternate -Benedict will send a Doodle poll to schedule an Advisory Committee meeting in April.**
 - e. Portage County Drainage District - M. Jacowski/Morrow Alternate - M. Jacowski reported the application process for commissioners has been posted.**
 - f. Mill Creek Watershed - B. Jacowski/Zastrow-Alternate - Due to COVID, O'Connell stated the Annual Meeting for the Friends of Mill Creek is postponed until at least late summer.**
 - g. Little Plover River Workgroup (LPR) - M. Jacowski, Morrow, Zastrow - Zastrow said funding is needed for the Little Plover River Appreciation Field Day to be held in the spring.**
 - h. Farmer Led Councils - B. Jacowski/Zastrow-Alternate - O'Connell reported the Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed Council may meet within the next couple of weeks. B. Jacowski stated the Farmers for Tomorrow has a meeting scheduled on February 9 at the Jensen Center. Schroeder explained the meeting will consist of morning presentations and a box lunch to go.**
 - i. Central Sands Groundwater County Coalition (CSGCC) - Zastrow/M. Jacowski-Alternate - Zastrow reported discussion took place on gap analysis**
-



PORTAGE COUNTY

LAND & WATER CONSERVATION MINUTES

ANNEX CONFERENCE ROOM 5
1462 STRONGS AVENUE
STEVENS POINT, WI 54481

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021
5:00 PM

for water related issues. Portage County was mentioned as a source for data on hand. A solar field will be erected on a site formerly planned for a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) in the Town of Saratoga. A Central Sands lake study is being performed now. The Lakes Convention, now Water Week, takes place March 8-12. The next meeting is April 26.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Benedict provided copies via email to remote members and distributed to in-person members: A letter from Golden Sands RC&D regarding dues, an email update on the WI Land+Water Annual Conference, an email from DATCP regarding a Farmer Focus Group Opportunity, and the February DATCP report.

8. PUBLIC NOTICE

Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order. Anderson and Arntsen requested to speak. B. Jacowski allowed in-person audience to speak on agenda items.

9. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SPECIAL MEETINGS (PORTAGE COUNTY ORDINANCE 3.1.47 & 3.1.48)

- REQUEST FOR SPECIAL MEETING ATTENDANCE - Neville requested to possibly attend the virtual WI Land+Water Annual Conference. Motion by M. Jacowski, 2nd by B. Jacowski to approve WI Land+Water Annual Conference attendance for interested LWCC members.
- APPROVAL OF ATTENDANCE OF SPECIAL MEETINGS - Motion by M. Jacowski, 2nd by B. Jacowski to approve special meeting attendance. Zastrow noted agendas and some minutes are attached to the green sheets for his meetings.
- SPECIAL MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORTS - Given under Committee Representative Reports.

10. 21-2865 REVIEW VOUCHERS, PURCHASES, AND PROCUREMENT CARD CHARGES

Vouchers, purchases, and procurement card charges were reviewed. Benedict noted the new LWCD truck was delivered in January.

11. 21-2859 WILDLIFE DAMAGE PROGRAM UPDATE



PORTAGE COUNTY

LAND & WATER CONSERVATION MINUTES

ANNEX CONFERENCE ROOM 5
1462 STRONGS AVENUE
STEVENS POINT, WI 54481

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021
5:00 PM

Benson announced his retirement after 29 ½ years. His last day was January 29. He gave a brief history of his time with Wildlife Services. His position will be announced and should be filled in March. He thanked the LWCC and staff. Appreciation was returned to Benson.

12. NELSONVILLE GROUNDWATER SITUATION

Anderson gave an update on the testing program the Nelsonville Groundwater Protection Committee is conducting. Another round of samples was taken in January. A total of 21 samples were taken. Anderson will provide a copy of the results. He pointed out that five of 21 wells tested had the highest nitrate concentration to date. Eighteen of 21 samples were over the EPA limit of 10 parts per million (ppm) and are not potable water. Anderson said testing has been done quarterly for nearly the last two years. Another round is planned in spring. M. Jacowski asked Anderson to provide quarterly results to Benedict to be forwarded to the LWCC.

13. 21-2861

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION - MONITORING WELLS

Documents: [MCNELLY LWCC MEMO 1_25_21.DOCX](#), [NELSONVILLE MONITORING WELL ROI LETTER.DOCX](#)

Per the LWCC's request at the last meeting, McNelly and Bradley sent letters to several engineering firms and the Center for Watershed Science and Education to get information and cost estimates for monitoring wells. They will report on responses at the March meeting. Bradley said they started with local firms and the Committee can decide if the responses are sufficient or if they want to go outside the area.

14. GROUNDWATER ISSUES DISCUSSION

Gordon said the DNR is working on a nitrogen budgeting system and a lot is happening in terms of nutrient management plans. The DNR is gathering information from across the State and hopes to share before farmers start planting crops. He reported their farm is putting in hundreds of acres of single and multi-species cover crops.

15. 21-2860

NITROGEN BUDGETS PRESENTATION - KEVIN MASARIK

Masarik provided background and explained nitrogen budgets, various methods, the importance of scale, determining the purpose and the level of detail needed to meet the desired goals. Nitrogen budgets can be done in all types of scales, i.e. State, river basin, county level, watershed, whole farm or



PORTAGE COUNTY

LAND & WATER CONSERVATION MINUTES

ANNEX CONFERENCE ROOM 5
1462 STRONGS AVENUE
STEVENS POINT, WI 54481

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021
5:00 PM

individual field. He referred to a spreadsheet that can be used as a calculator. He explained how to use the spreadsheet and went through some examples. Nitrate leaching occurs when inputs exceed outputs. Finding ways to keep the nitrogen in the top foot will help reduce nitrate leaching losses. Inputs can be reduced, outputs increased, using cover crops to temporarily store nitrogen and subsequently credit the nitrogen to the following year's crop are possible strategies. Nitrogen budgets can be used to help make decisions and predict what impact those types of management decisions will have on groundwater. There was discussion on various scales, levels of data needed, types of nitrogen, application techniques, soil types, conservation practices, diversifying crop rotations, septic systems and drainfields, and revisions to NR 151.

Bradley asked Masarik how to relate to Nelsonville. Masarik said he has seen groundwater flow maps, which provide a good idea of the area to focus on. He said numbers can be run based on the nutrient management plans over the last few years as well as for other scenarios to determine whether there may be a difference in terms of reducing leaching. He reiterated a goal needs to be established. Without a goal, it is hard to understand whether different scenarios are going to meet the objective. Bradley asked whether there is a way to account for legacy nitrate in the groundwater. Masarik said legacy nitrogen applies more to rivers and streams. He believes legacy is less of a concern in Central Wisconsin because most wells do not tend to be very deep, between 10' to 50', into the aquifer.

16. [21-2863](#) **DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION - NITROGEN BUDGETING**

This discussion will be ongoing. No action taken.

17. [21-2862](#) **DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION - GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE**

Documents: [GMP APPENDIX A SUMMARY.PDF](#)

McNelly stated she updated Appendix A, which lists goals, objectives, and actions. She input accomplishments, what has been worked on, what is in the process of being addressed, and what has not been addressed. She noted much of the focus the last few years has been on water quality. Due to high levels recently, McNelly pointed out there have been fewer accomplishments in the water quantity portion of the plan.



PORTAGE COUNTY

LAND & WATER CONSERVATION MINUTES

ANNEX CONFERENCE ROOM 5
1462 STRONGS AVENUE
STEVENS POINT, WI 54481

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021
5:00 PM

Zastrow thanked McNelly for providing the updates. He suggested dedicating time to review item by item at the next meeting. Elaboration may be needed on some items, but he feels this is a good starting point.

18. [21-2864](#)

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION - NITROGEN APPLICATION RATES UPDATE

McNelly said this item dovetails with the nitrogen budgeting discussion. At a previous meeting, Neville asked about the status of the resolution asking UW-Madison to consider revising the recommended application rates for nitrogen to consider water quality. McNelly stated other counties submitted similar resolutions as did WI Land+Water. In response to the resolutions, the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences assembled a work group on nitrate recommendations. McNelly reached out to John Exo, a former UW-Extension employee and head of the work group, which includes representatives from DATCP, DNR, and NRCS and is in the process of having conversations related to nitrogen and application. One topic is nitrogen budgeting to be used as a tool to address this issue. In December 2019, Governor Evers directed that NR 151 be reopened and address nitrate. That is where NR 151 Targeted Performance Standard revisions are coming from in the discussion relating to those. Exo told McNelly members of the UW nitrate work group have been in discussions for months to coordinate identification of respective priorities, driving the development of nitrogen budgeting, what kind of output tools will be generated, and who the intended users should be. Most of what is driving the current efforts across the agencies and UW is the DNR Watershed Bureau's desire for a tool that can estimate pounds of nitrogen leach per inch of recharge to aid producers and agronomists in assessing risk and complying with the perspective nitrate performance standard for a variety of cropping systems and biophysical environments. The DNR is tasked with creating the technical performance standard and DATCP is responsible for developing the specifics of how the technical standards will be implemented in agriculture. A lot of the discussion is geared toward the NR 151 Performance Standards. McNelly also participated in a conference call with Chris Clayton, DATCP Section Chief. The DNR has also assembled a task force, bringing producers and experts together. Their discussions have mostly wrapped up and they are in the process of drafting the technical performance standards. An economic impact statement is expected in spring or summer and will go out for public comment. Review and public comment on the draft performance standard is not expected until late 2021, if not 2022. McNelly said Exo has offered to provide an update to the LWCC and/or Groundwater Citizens Advisory Committee (GCAC). McNelly also offered to ask Clayton to



PORTAGE COUNTY

LAND & WATER CONSERVATION MINUTES

ANNEX CONFERENCE ROOM 5
1462 STRONGS AVENUE
STEVENS POINT, WI 54481

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021
5:00 PM

provide a more detailed overview of the process for the development of the NR 151 performance standards. B. Jacowski said Exo and Clayton should be invited to present to the LWCC, GCAC, and the Agriculture and Extension Education Committee at a future meeting. In the meantime, Zastrow asked for updates on NR 151 discussions. McNelly will reach out to Clayton to provide her with updates.

19. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 2 at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Rooms 1 and 2, County Annex.

20. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by M. Jacowski, second by Guth to adjourn. Motion passed by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

21. NOTICES

Notice: Any person who has special needs planning on attending this meeting in-person or remotely should contact Facilities Office at 715-346-1598 as soon as possible to ensure that reasonable accommodations can be made.

Notice: A quorum of the Portage County Board of Supervisors, or any committee thereof, may be present at this meeting.