



PORTAGE COUNTY

MEETING MINUTES

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

PORTAGE COUNTY ANNEX
CONFERENCE ROOMS 1 & 2
1462 STRONGS AVENUE
STEVENS POINT, WI 54481

Tuesday, September 5, 2023

7:00 PM

REMOTE ATTENDANCE & COMMENT

To attend this meeting by telephone : dial 1-872-242-7813 after dialing the number you will then be asked to enter in a meeting number. Use the following meeting number: 288 260 030 973, then press #

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

CALL TO ORDER

The Land and Water Conservation Committee meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Barry Jacowski, Catherine Guth, David Peterson, Mike Splinter, Mark Hemmrich

Attending In-Person: Barry Jacowski, Catherine Guth, David Peterson, Mike Splinter

Attending Online: Mark Hemmrich

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Attending: Tim Reed, Steve Bradley, Jen McNelly, Patty Benedict

Others Attending: In-person: Jeff Nyquist, DNR Forester; County Executive John Pavelski; Steve Fritz, George Kraft, Ray Reser, Crista Greening, Jim McKnight, Tor Anderson, Mildred Neville, Lisa Anderson.

Attending Remotely: Kyle Gordon, Matt Krueger, Jim Stephani, Frank Fetter, Jenny Larsen

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.

George Kraft, Ray Reser, Jim McKnight, Tor and Lisa Anderson, Mildred Neville registered to speak on agenda items.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of July 12, 2023 Minutes

A motion was made by Catherine Guth, seconded by Mike Splinter, to approve. Motion to approve carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

CORRESPONDENCE

2. July and August DATCP Reports - Submitted by Shauna Minick, DATCP Conservation Program Associate

Reports were included in meeting packets.

3. AIS Highlights/July and August - Submitted by Colton Wolosek, Golden Sands RC&D

Report was included in meeting packets.

VOUCHERS

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases, and Procurement Card Charges

Vouchers, purchases and procurement card charges were reviewed.

REPORTS

5. Tree Planter Report - Jeffrey Nyquist, DNR Forester

Nyquist reviewed the written report and rental agreement forms for the tree planters and agricultural boom sprayer which were included in meeting packets.

6. Portage County Fair, Amherst, Nitrate Screening Summary

McNelly reviewed the report included in meeting packets. She also noted screenings were done at the Rosholt Fair over Labor Day weekend and plans to continue to have a booth at the fairs annually. She will reach out to towns and festival/event organizers and offer to hold screenings.

7. Nelsonville Monitoring Well Testing

McNelly reviewed the memo and timeline in meeting packets. She is working with the lab to schedule a round of sampling in October. She indicated weather conditions in January may make collecting samples a challenge. Scientists from the WI Geologic Natural History Survey, UWSP, and a DNR Hydrogeologist, will assist in reviewing the data.

8. Quarterly Budget Review

Quarterly budgets were included in meeting packets and reviewed.

9. 2023 Projected/2024 Proposed Budgets

Bradley reported the 2024 DATCP grant allocation for Land and Water Conservation staff was decreased by \$12,600. The Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership (CWWP) is a self-funded program and does not use tax levy.

10. COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

- a. Lakes Management Districts-Peterson
- b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)-Bradley
- c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (NCLWCA)-B. Jacowski
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership (CWWP)-B. Jacowski
- e. Portage County Drainage District-Splinter/Guth-Alternate
- f. Mill Creek Watershed-Splinter
- g. Farmer Led Councils-Guth
- h. Central Sands Groundwater County Coalition (CSGCC)-Olson

- a. Lakes Management Districts-Peterson - No report.
- b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)-Bradley - Bradley reported on the July 20 meeting. Three new staff have been hired - a regenerative agricultural coordinator, a coordinator for the Northeast Wisconsin Invasive Species project, and an urban conservationist. The Executive Director resigned as of August 4.
- c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (NCLWCA)-B. Jacowski - The Summer Tour was held in August.
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership (CWWP)-B. Jacowski - No report.
- e. Portage County Drainage District-Splinter/Guth Alternate - Guth reported the Drainage District Board will be five members instead of three. Applications are being accepted.
- f. Mill Creek Watershed-Splinter - Splinter reported on the July 24 meeting. Chloride levels remain high. The DNR began monitoring stretches of Mill Creek in July and will continue for one year. McNelly is working with Kevin Masarik, UWSP, to install a conductivity meter in the upper watershed to gather real time data; however, the City of Marshfield or a private landowner must grant permission.
- g. Farmer Led Councils-Guth - Farmers for Tomorrow is holding an event at Guth Farms on Monday, September 11 at 11:00 a.m. There will be a soil pit and no till and cover crop demonstrations.
- h. Central Sands Groundwater County Coalition (CSGCC)-Vacant - A representative can be appointed at the October LWCC meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for the end of October.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

11. Discussion/Possible Action - Resampling of 2018 Nelsonville Private Well Testing

McNelly stated funding for the sampling was previously approved along with the monitoring wells using ARPA funds. Sampling will take place the first week of November and be conducted the same as in 2018.

12. Discussion/Possible Action - Resolution Revising Portage County Code of Ordinances Section 3.1.17, Entitled "Land and Water Conservation Committee", to Remove the USDA Farm Service Agency Designated Member and Add a Citizen Member Engaged in Agricultural Use

Reed explained the resolution was approved by the Executive/Operations Committee. A motion was made by Barry Jacowski, seconded by Catherine Guth, to amend, inserting the following between the 2nd and 3rd WHEREAS - "WHEREAS the appointment shall be made from a list of names put forth by any, or a combination of the following agricultural organizations: Portage County Farm Bureau, Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed, Farmers for Tomorrow River Watershed, Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association, Wisconsin Cranberry Growers Association, Professional Dairy Producers, or the Portage County FSA Board. All appointees shall be a resident of Portage County."

The motion to amend Passed by the following vote:

4 Yes: Barry Jacowski, David Peterson, Catherine Guth, Mark Hemmrich

1 No: Mike Splinter

0 Abstain: None

NOTE: The amendment passed; however, the LWCC did not approve the amended resolution, which equates to no action on the resolution. The resolution will be presented to the County Board based on approval by the Executive/Operations Committee.

13. Discussion/Possible Action - Appointment of Authorized Representative for Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Healthy Lakes and Rivers Grant

A motion was made by Mike Splinter, seconded by Barry Jacowski, to approve. Motion to approve carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

14. Discussion/Possible Action Re: Special Meeting Attendance (Portage County Ordinance 3.1.47 & 3.1.48)

- Request for special meeting attendance
- Approval of attendance of special meetings
- Special meeting attendance reports

Request for special meeting attendance-None.

Approval of attendance of special meetings-A motion was made by Barry Jacowski, seconded by Catherine Guth, to approve Splinter attending the Friends of Mill Creek meeting on July 24 at the Eau Claire Town Hall and Peterson attending the Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin water tour on July 13 in Middleton, WI. Motion to approve carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

Special meeting attendance reports-Splinter gave his report under Committee Representative Reports. Peterson reported the water tour included the Nine Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant in Dane County, EnTech Solutions Middleton Digester, and a farm contributing to the digester.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 3 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mike Splinter, seconded by Catherine Guth, to adjourn. Motion to adjourn carried by voice vote, with no negative votes. The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.