



# PORTAGE COUNTY

## MEETING MINUTES

### LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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

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Tuesday, November 7, 2023

7:00 PM

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#### 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: 241 287 294 726, 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, Steve Fritz

Attending In-Person: Barry Jacowski, Catherine Guth, David Peterson, Mike Splinter, Mark Hemmrich, Steve Fritz

Attending Online: None

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

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

Others Attending: In-person - Pete Arntsen, Pat Quigley, Paul Klein, Beth Janssen, Bill DeVita, Jenny Larson, DJ Firkus, Becca Henningsen, Ben Vasquez, Eric Naas, John Bertelson, Tarion O'Carroll, Mike Juris, Caleb Wolf, Caleb Vackar, Alex Brehmer, Gina DeLisle, Glenn Coenen, Spencer B, Will Watry, George Kraft, Mildred Neville, Amberle Schwartz

Attending Remotely - Roy Diver, USDA-NRCS District Conservationist; Stan Potocki, Renee Porod, Jeff Pollock, E. Mousseau, Cody Trowbridge, James Walker, Nena Fisher

#### 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.**

Pete Arntsen, DJ Firkus, Tarion O'Carroll and George Kraft registered to speak.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Benedict noted the DATCP monthly reports are now being sent directly to LWCC members via email, but she had a hard copy available at the meeting.

1. September and October Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Highlights - Submitted by Chris Hamerla, Golden Sands RC&D

Included in meeting packets.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Approval of October 3, 2023 Minutes

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

#### REPORTS

3. USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report - Roy Diver

Diver reported there were 33 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) applications funded for nearly \$1.9 million for 2023. The deadline for the 2024 EQIP sign up was November 3. Forty-six applications were submitted and are being reviewed for funding. Annual payments are currently underway for the 2023 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Approximately \$250,000 will be paid between 44 contracts. For 2024, six landowners applied for CSP contract renewals and were funded. Diver reported the office is

at full staff, with another Farm Bill Biologist position coming on board in December. He noted the federal government is under a continuing resolution until November 17.

**4. 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)-Vacant

a. Lakes Management Districts-Peterson - Peterson attended the Lake Jacqueline District meeting on October 17 via Zoom. The aquatic weed management plan was updated in the Lake Management Plan and has been forwarded to the DNR. Peterson also attended the McDill Annual Meeting on October 20. The Healthy Lakes and Rivers grant has 20 projects, with five spots available. There was discussion on the use of a product called muck biotics that residents could purchase to reduce muck along the shoreline. Multiple areas were chemically treated and 144 loads of weeds were harvested. The City of Stevens Point will manage and staff the harvesting equipment in 2024 and invoice the District.

b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)-Bradley - The next meeting is scheduled for November 16.

c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (NCLWCA)-B. Jacowski - No report.

d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership (CWWP)-B. Jacowski - The next meeting is scheduled for November 13. Project Coordinator, Shannon Rohde, explained the program and reported 8.4 miles of windbreaks and living snow fences were installed in 2023. Due to drought conditions this season, many trees and shrubs did not survive and will have to be replanted in the spring. He is working on sales for 2024 and placing orders with nurseries.

e. Portage County Drainage District-Splinter/Guth-Alternate - Splinter reported that George Kraft was appointed as a commissioner.

f. Mill Creek Watershed-Splinter - McNelly reported the DNR has been sampling monthly since June. No results have been released.

g. Farmer Led Councils-Guth - No report.

h. Central Sands Groundwater County Coalition (CSGCC)-Vacant - McNelly reported a meeting was held on October 30. The next meeting is scheduled for the end of January.

**DISCUSSION ONLY**

**5. Nelsonville Well Monitoring Report**

McNelly reviewed and provided explanations for the materials in meeting packets.

**DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION**

**6. Discussion/Possible Action - Nomination of Representative for McDill Inland Lake and Rehabilitation District**

Fritz was unable to connect with the District. Planning & Zoning staff will assist. A motion was made by Mike Splinter, seconded by Steve Fritz, to postpone until the next meeting. Motion to postpone until the next meeting carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

**7. Discussion/Possible Action - Cost Share Contract Approval**

Bradley explained the cost-share project. A motion was made by Barry Jacowski, seconded by Catherine Guth, to approve. Motion to approve carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

**8. 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 - None

Special meeting attendance reports - None

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 5 at 7:00 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Barry Jacowski, seconded by Catherine Guth, to adjourn. Motion to adjourn carried by voice vote, with no negative votes. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

