



PORTAGE COUNTY

MEETING MINUTES

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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

Tuesday, December 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: 235 978 880 758, 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 7:11 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, Steve Fritz

Attending Online: Mark Hemmrich

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Attending: Tim Reed , Steve Bradley, Patty Benedict

Others Attending: In-person: Taron O'Carroll, John Bertelson, Mike Juris, Mildred Neville, Gary Anderson, Elaine Anderson, Pat Keller, District 14 Supervisor

Attending remotely: Bill DeVita, Jimbo, Citizen-Nelsonville

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.

John Bertelson registered to speak on agenda item #7.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Monthly AIS Update - Email submitted by Chris Hamerla, Golden Sands RC&D

Included in meeting packets.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Approval of November 7, 2023 Minutes

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

REPORTS

3. Vendor Invoice Lists

Included in meeting packets.

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 and Fritz will attend the McDill District meeting on Thursday, December 7 at 6:00 p.m. at Ben Franklin Junior High.
- b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)-Bradley - Bradley attended the RC&D Council meeting on November 16. Jennifer Glad was introduced as the Executive Director. The draft 2024 budget was reviewed. Ed Hernandez, Waushara County Conservationist and President of the RC&D Council, is retiring in January. Two NRCS co-employment staff, a Soil Conservationist and an AIS Coordinator, are starting in December.
- c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (NCLWCA)-B. Jacowski - No report.
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership (CWWP)-B. Jacowski - A meeting was held on November 13. The budget and Plan of Work were reviewed. No changes were made to the fee schedule. The Project Coordinator, Shannon Rohde, will determine pay rates for the LTEs and student interns.
- e. Portage County Drainage District -Splinter/Guth-Alternate - Splinter and Guth attended the November 16 meeting. The number of Board commissioners increased from three to five. Ditch 9, except 1/4 mile, was cleared and brush was cut. A website and FaceBook page will be implemented. Affected Drainage District landowners will be receiving a letter regarding the new solar project. The solar company will clear brush within 75 feet of the ditches. An estimate of \$60,000 was received to clear Ditch 3. There was discussion on trout habitat. There were approximately 15 landowners in attendance. The levy amount will decrease to \$2.00. Guth noted the District can apply for \$30,000 in matching funds.
- f. Mill Creek Watershed-Splinter - A field day is scheduled for December 13 at Eron's Event Barn from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm.
- g. Farmer Led Councils-Guth - Guth reported grant funding is being explored to hold more events for FFA chapters.
- h. Central Sands Groundwater County Coalition (CSGCC)-Vacant - No report.

DISCUSSION ONLY

- 5. Nelsonville Monitoring Wells/Nelsonville Residential Well Sampling

A memo from Water Resource Specialist, Jen McNelly, was included in meeting packets. Discussion took place.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

- 6. 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 - Peterson and B. Jacowski requested to attend the December 13 field day at Eron's Event Barn.

Approval of attendance of special meetings - Chair Peterson approved Splinter attending the Portage County Drainage District meeting on November 16 at the Buena Vista Town Hall.

Special meeting attendance reports - Splinter's report was given under Committee Representative Reports.

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

A motion was made by Barry Jacowski, seconded by Guth, to nominate Supervisor Fritz as the representative for McDill Inland Lake & Rehabilitation District. Motion to nominate Supervisor Fritz as the representative for McDill Inland Lake & Rehabilitation District carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

- 8. Discussion/Possible Action - Soil and Water Resource Management Cost Share Carryover

A motion was made by Barry Jacowski, seconded by Steve Fritz, to carryover approximately \$26,750 to 2024 if projects arise. Motion to carryover approximately \$26,750 to 2024 if projects arise carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 2 at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Barry Jacowski, seconded by Mike Splinter, to adjourn. Motion to adjourn carried by voice vote, with no negative votes. Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.