



PORTAGE COUNTY

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

MEETING MINUTES

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

7:00 PM

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: 599 188 014, then press #

To attend this meeting by video: [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.

CALL TO ORDER

The Land and Water Conservation Committee meeting was called to order at

Members Present: Mildred Neville, Matt Jacowski, Barry Jacowski, Julie Morrow, Gerry Zastrow, Catherine Guth

Attending In-Person: Mildred Neville, Matt Jacowski, Barry Jacowski, Catherine Guth

Attending Online: Julie Morrow, Gerry Zastrow

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Attending: Steve Bradley, Tracy Arnold, Jen McNelly, Patty Benedict

Others Attending: In person - Lisa and Tor Anderson, James and Marianne Walker, Mark and Lois Brueggeman, Tarion O'Carroll, Kim Bremmer, Kim Krupka, Kyle Gordon, Todd Stitely, John Eron. Remote - County Executive Chris Holman, Pete Arntsen, Bob C, Jennifer Prideaux.

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

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.

Tor Anderson, Marianne Walker, Kim Bremmer, Tarion O'Carroll John Eron, and Kyle Gordon registered to speak.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. April 6, 2021 Minutes

A motion was made by Gerry Zastrow, seconded by None, to approve minutes. Motion failed for lack of a second. A motion was made by Matt Jacowski, seconded by Catherine Guth, to send the minutes back for revision. Motion passed by voice vote, with Mildred Neville voting nay. M. Jacowski stated a presentation to the County Board by the Wisconsin Counties Association recommends abbreviated minutes. Revised minutes will be revisited at the June meeting.

REPORTS

2. COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS
 - a. Lakes Management District - Neville
 - b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) - Zastrow

- c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (NCLWCA) - Zastrow
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership (CWWP) - B. Jacowski/Morrow-Alternate
- e. Portage County Drainage District - M. Jacowski/Morrow-Alternate
- f. Mill Creek Watershed - B. Jacowski/Zastrow-Alternate
- g. Little Plover River Workgroup (LPR) - M. Jacowski, Morrow, Zastrow
- h. Farmer Led Councils - B. Jacowski/Zastrow-Alternate
- i. Central Sands Groundwater County Coalition - Zastrow/M. Jacowski-Alternate

- a. Lakes Management District - Neville - No report.
- b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) - Zastrow - No report.
- c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (NCLWCA) - Zastrow - Zastrow provided a report on the May 4 virtual meeting. Land and Water supervisors and staff were asked to contact their legislators and Joint Finance Committee (JFC) member, Senator Felzkowski, in support of funding county conservation in the State budget for \$13 million. Wood County is hosting the Summer Tour in August. The public comment period for economic impact statement for NR 151 ended on April 10. Comments can be accessed on the DNR website by searching "nitrate standard". Public comments for the entire rule will take place in the summer.
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership (CWWP) - B. Jacowski/Morrow-Alternate - A second UWSP student intern was hired. Stock was received.
- e. Portage County Drainage District - M. Jacowski/Morrow-Alternate - No report.
- f. Mill Creek Watershed - B. Jacowski/Zastrow Alternate - John Eron provided copies of the Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed Council newsletter and reported on outreach and education activities. On May 14, Kids' Connection will be filmed, highlighting local farmers' conservation practices, to be shown in schools nationwide.
- g. Little Plover River Workgroup (LPR) - M. Jacowski, Morrow, Zastrow - No report.
- h. Farmer Led Councils - B. Jacowski/Zastrow-Alternate - John Eron reported he spoke with Rachel Rushman, Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP). Statewide, farmer led groups are cooperating and sharing what they have learned.
- i. Central Sands Groundwater County Coalition - Zastrow/M. Jacowski-Alternate - Zastrow reported on the April 26 meeting. An estimated \$100 million is proposed in the State budget for water issues, with \$20-25 million dedicated to polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). A suggestion was made to contact members of the JFC to support these measures in the State budget. A Communication Committee and Outreach Committee were formed to begin planning for the \$60,000 grant received. The staff person will start in July. There was discussion on the Clean Water referendum passed by Marquette, Portage, and Wood Counties. McNelly will provide talking points for the May 7 Communications Committee.

3. Tree Planter Report - Jeff Nyquist, DNR Forester

Nyquist was unable to connect to the meeting.

4. Introduce Wyatt Puent, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Damage Technician

LWCC members and staff introduced themselves. Puent gave a short biography on himself.

5. Weed Commissioner Report - John Eron

Eron explained the Weed Commissioner position. He reported the Highway Department will be using a contractor to do intense spraying to control wild parsnip. Citizens are able to report the location of wild parsnip to the County GIS Department, which is mapped. Eron recommended visiting Portage County's website, which contains valuable information on reporting wild parsnip and chemical eradication measures.

6. Village of Plover Wetland Restoration Project Video

Video was played. M. Jacowski noted Portage County has agreed to purchase approximately 60 acres to add to the project for wetland mitigation.

7. Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed Council Video

Video was played.

CORRESPONDENCE

The May DATCP report was distributed.

VOUCHERS

8. Review Vouchers, Purchases, and Procurement Card Charges

Vouchers, purchases and procurement card charges were reviewed.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION**9. Discussion/Possible Action Re: Regarding 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 - No requests. B. Jacowski told members to contact him if a meeting comes up they would like to attend.

Approval of attendance of special meetings - None presented.

Special meeting attendance reports - No reports given.

10. Discussion/Possible Action - Resolution - Budget Adjustment for Land and Water Conservation Division Soil and Water Resource Management Cost-Sharing Grant 2020 Extended Funds

A motion was made by Matt Jacowski, seconded by Mildred Neville, to approve the budget adjustment for LWCC SWRM cost-sharing grant 2020 extended funds. Motion to approve by voice vote, with no negative votes.

11. Discussion/Possible Action - Central Wisconsin Invasives Partnership (CWIP) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

A motion was made by Catherine Guth, seconded by Matt Jacowski, to approve the CWIP MOU. Motion to approve by voice vote, with no negative votes. John Eron said he does not oppose.

GROUNDWATER ISSUES DISCUSSION**NELSONVILLE GROUNDWATER SITUATION****12. County Executive Memo**

County Executive Holman stated he will provide a draft Request for Proposal to Bradley and McNelly and feels the process should move quickly. He hopes to have responses by the next LWCC meeting.

13. Village of Nelsonville Well Statistics

Tor Anderson provided the results from the quarterly tests done for the Village of Nelsonville. He noted the numbers continue to rise for some residents. Bradley suggested studying the depth and location of the wells that have increased and decreased. McNelly offered to look at the data from all of the test results from the Village and provide a spreadsheet. Several Village residents spoke about their concerns of nitrates in their wells.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for June 1 at 7:00 p.m. B. Jacowski suggested holding a special meeting in Nelsonville to allow residents to voice their concerns. Tor Anderson will consult with Village residents to determine their interest.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Matt Jacowski, seconded by Catherine Guth, to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

NOTICES

Notice: Any person who has special needs and plans on attending this meeting in-person or remotely should contact the 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.