



PORTAGE COUNTY

MEETING MINUTES

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

6:00 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: 257 137 410 33, 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 6:24 p.m.

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

Attending In-Person: Barry Jacowski, David Peterson, Mark Hemmrich, Steve Fritz

Attending Online: Mike Splinter, Catherine Guth (joined @ 6:45 p.m.)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Attending: Tim Reed, Steve Bradley, Dan O'Connell, Patty Benedict

Others Attending: In-Person: County Executive John Pavelski, John Eron, Jack Eron, Bob Lang, John Bertelson, James Walker, Taron O'Carroll, Pete Arntsen, Mark Brueggeman, D.J. Firkus, Ray Reser, Mildred Neville (Other members of the public attended, but did not sign in.)

Attending Remotely: Tim Baumgartner, Chad Zulegar, Guest, Citizen Guest, Jacob Wills, KK Guest, D. Worzalla

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.

James Walker, Pete Arntsen, D.J. Firkus, and Ray Reser registered to speak.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. January AIS Highlights - Submitted by Chris Hamerla, Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development

Included in meeting packets.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Approval of January 2, 2024 Minutes

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

REPORTS

3. Weed Commissioner Report

John and Jack Eron, Pete Arntsen, and Bob Lang, Portage County Highway Department, gave a presentation.

4. Nelsonville Monitoring Wells Report

The report was included in meeting packets.

5. Update on Nelsonville Private Well Testing

The update was included in meeting packets.

6. Directors Report

- Resignation of Water Resource Specialist

Reed reported paperwork to refill the position has been provided to Human Resources. In the interim before the position is filled, Reed had discussions with Health and Human Services and UWSP water lab staff to provide assistance with ongoing projects and programs.

7. COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

- a. Lakes Management Districts-Peterson/Fritz
- 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/Fritz - Approval for Fritz's appointment to the McDill Association will be on the February County Board meeting agenda. The next McDill meeting is scheduled for February 24.
- b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)-Bradley - Bradley reported on the January 18 Council meeting. A financial report was given. Wood County citizen's water group will hold a panel presentation, "The Future of Clean Drinking Water in the Central Sands" at the McMillan Library on March 18 at 6:00 p.m. Outagamie County moved their membership to Glacierland RC&D. Shane Wucherpennig, Wood County Conservationist, was elected president. They are in the process of hiring a full-time neighborhood gardens coordinator. An Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) coordinator to cover southern counties has been hired. A new project, Monarch and Pollinator Collaboration, was approved to restore and enhance 1,000 acres of monarch habitat.
- c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (NCLWCA)-B. Jacowski - Benedict shared the results from the Area poster and speaking contests, held in Oneida County. Portage County is advancing a speaker and two posters to the State contest. One poster placed second. The State speaking contest kicks off the WI Land+Water Annual Conference on March 6. The poster contest takes place March 6 and 7 during the conference.
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership (CWWP)-B. Jacowski - No meeting.
- e. Portage County Drainage District-Splinter/Guth-Alternate - No report.
- f. Mill Creek Watershed-Splinter - Splinter attended the Friends of Mill Creek annual meeting on January 29.
- g. Farmer Led Councils-Guth - Peterson reported the Farmers for Tomorrow are holding a meeting on Friday, February 23 at the Jensen Center in Amherst. RSVPs are due February 16.
- h. Central Sands Groundwater County Coalition (CSGCC)-Vacant - No report.

8. Vendor Invoice Lists

Vendor lists are included in meeting packets.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION**9. Discussion/Possible Action - Wildlife Damage Program Organic Crop Prices**

Maddy Pfaff, Wildlife Specialist, presented prices for organic corn and soybeans. A motion was made by Mark Hemmrich, seconded by Barry Jacowski, to approve. Motion to approve carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

10. Discussion/Possible Action - Approval of Wildlife Damage Claims

A motion was made by Barry Jacowski, seconded by Mark Hemmrich, to approve as presented. Motion to approve as presented carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

11. 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 - Requests from Steve Fritz to attend the McDill meeting on February 24 and Barry Jacowski and David Peterson to attend the Farmers for Tomorrow meeting.

Approval of attendance of special meetings - A motion was made by Barry Jacowski, seconded by Fritz, to approve special meeting attendance. Motion to approve special meeting attendance carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

Special meeting attendance reports - Benedict read Splinter's written report on the Friends of Mill Creek annual meeting - A

representative of the DNR made a presentation along with Tracy Arnold about the tracing of high salt content in Mill Creek. He asked for a grant last year to do scientific testing that were certified by the UWSP laboratory. After the year long testing is completed, he will meet with Marshfield City representatives about the source of the at point salt pollution into Mill Creek that is not agricultural or simply salt runoff from winter road salting. The Weed Commissioner for Portage and Wood County gave an update on treating wild parsnip in the County of Portage. He also said there is a new weed just starting called teasail which he hopes to "nip in the bud". Leif Erickson stepped down as chair after 21 years. New officers were elected after the meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 5 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Barry Jacowski, seconded by Fritz, to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.