



PORTAGE COUNTY

MEETING MINUTES

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

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: 218 686 362 092, 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 7:21 pm.

Members Present: Amberle Schwartz, James Yetter, Janell Wehr, Justin Isherwood, Nancy Eggleston, Steve Fritz

Attending In-Person: Amberle Schwartz, James Yetter, Justin Isherwood, Nancy Eggleston, Steve Fritz

Attending Online: Janell Wehr

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Attending: Tim Reed, Steve Bradley, Tracy Arnold, Tyler Kunze, Patty Benedict

Others Attending: Ray Reser, Tarion O'Carroll, Pete Arntsen, DJ Firkus, George Kraft, Tor and Lisa Anderson, Jeff Nyquist

CORRESPONDENCE

Benedict has hard copies of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and National Conservation Foundation (NCF) 2023 Annual Reports. The reports can also be found on their websites.

1. Email from Ethan Cline, Middle School Camp Scholarship Recipient

Included in meeting packets.

2. June Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Highlights - Submitted by Andrew Senderhauf, Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.

Included in meeting packets.

3. Drainage District Correspondence - Submitted by Citizen Member Justin Isherwood

Justin Isherwood noted he is awaiting community interest response. He has not approached the Izaak Walton League or Boy Scouts yet.

PRESENTATIONS

4. Land and Water Conservation Division (LWCD) Staff Duties - Tracy Arnold, Conservation Technician

Tracy Arnold reviewed her main duties, including: nonmetallic mine permitting, inspection and reclamation and serves on the State board, working with lakes, updating lake management plans, coordinating lake monitoring with citizen volunteers, water chemistry data collection, overseeing Healthy Lakes and Rivers grant program and serves on the State board, manages the Lakes and Rivers Facebook page, collects lake level data, assists with grazing projects, streamflow, monitoring wells sample collection, producer led groups, chloride sampling, environmental education programs.

REPORTS

5. Tree Planter Fund, Jeff Nyquist, DNR Forester

Jeff Nyquist distributed information on the services and equipment provided through the Tree Planter Fund. Six tree planters and a 300 gallon sprayer are available to rent. He noted the sprayer has not been rented for several years. He suggested having a discussion in the future on whether to keep the sprayer. The equipment is in good condition. He reviewed revenues and expenses. In

spring 2024, eight landowners rented the planters, planting approximately 16,000 trees. He noted the Governor signed a bill in 2021 committing to plant 75 million trees by 2030. A list of species sold by DNR is listed on their website. One DNR nursery remains active in Boscobel, Wisconsin. The minimum purchase is 300 seedlings.

6. Nelsonville Monitoring Well Sampling Verbal Report - Tyler Kunze, Water Resource Specialist

Tyler Kunze reported a round of sampling was completed in July. Another round of sampling will be done in October. Samples were sent to the lab at UWSP. Future sampling will be done in spring, summer, and fall, and possibly in winter if conditions allow.

7. COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

a. Lake Management Districts

- Lake Helen Protection and Rehabilitation District-Supervisor Ray Reser
- Lake Jacqueline Protection and Rehabilitation District-Supervisor Jeanne Dodge
- McDill Inland Pond Rehabilitation District-Supervisor Suzanne Oehlke

b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)-Supervisor Nancy Eggleston

c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (NCLWCA)-Supervisor Janell Wehr/Supervisor Amberle Schwartz-Alternate

d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership (CWWP)-Citizen Member Justin Isherwood

e. Portage County Drainage District-Citizen Member Justin Isherwood

f. Farmer Led Councils-Supervisor Amberle Schwartz

g. Central Sands Groundwater County Coalition (CSGCC)-Supervisor Amberle Schwartz/Supervisor Janell Wehr-Alternate

a. Lake Management Districts

- Lake Helen Protection and Rehabilitation District-Supervisor Ray Reser - No report
- Lake Jacqueline Protection and Rehabilitation District-Supervisor Jeanne Dodge - Written notes were provided by Supervisor Jeanne Dodge and read by Nancy Eggleston: Minutes from April 9 were approved. Parts for the aerator have been ordered. The first cut for weed control could not be done as water was too high. A full cut will be done Labor Day. Water quality testing has not been done; however, a monitor is available to use. News is posted on the Lake Jacqueline Facebook page. A Google page is being set up. For the annual meeting, a certification for district members is being developed. The next meeting is August 18 at 10:00 am at Faye Nault's residence. Income was \$187.50 x 50 lots = \$9,375. Expenses totaled \$13,260. There was discussion regarding fundraising to supplement the budget.

- McDill Inland Pond Rehabilitation District-Supervisor Suzanne Oehlke - The next meeting takes place in September.

b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)-Supervisor Nancy Eggleston/Supervisor Amberle Schwartz-Alternate - A written report from Nancy Eggleston is included in meeting packets. Amberle Schwartz also attended the July 18 meeting and reported that the Ag and Forestry Committee is being split into two committees as there are many projects. There was a presentation on how solar farms and agriculture can be used together. The next meeting will be in September. Amberle Schwartz noted there are many programs offered through Golden Sands RC&D that could be explored.

c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (NCLWCA)-Supervisor Janell Wehr/Supervisor Amberle Schwartz-Alternate - No report.

d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership (CWWP)-Citizen Member Justin Isherwood - No report.

e. Portage County Drainage District-Citizen Member Justin Isherwood - A meeting will take place later in August. Topics to be covered include a website and possibly hiring a part-time executive secretary to manage meetings and public notices, etc.

f. Farmer Led Councils-Supervisor Amberle Schwartz-No report.

g. Central Sands Groundwater County Coalition (CSGCC)-Supervisor Amberle Schwartz/Supervisor Janell Wehr-Alternate - No report.

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 public comment ordinance and the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order.

Tarion O'Carroll and Pete Arntsen requested to speak.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

8. Approval of July 2, 2024 Minutes

A motion was made by Amberle Schwartz, seconded by Justin Isherwood, to approve. Motion to approve carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

9. Discussion: Committee Review of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's (DATCP's) Required Five-Year Review of Portage County's Land and Water Resource Management Plan Prior to Submission to DATCAP

Bradley explained that as part of the five-year review process for the Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plan, he provided responses to the questionnaire included in meeting packets along with 2023 work plan accomplishments and 2024 work plan priorities. He will incorporate any feedback, finalize at the next LWCC meeting, and forward to DATCP. The Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) will take action during their October meeting. Bradley and any LWCC members are welcome to attend in-person or virtually. It was suggested to include the Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program (NOPP).

10. 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 - Nancy Eggleston and Amberle Schwartz attended the Golden Sands RC&D Council meeting on July 18. Supervisor Jeanne Dodge attended the Lake Jacqueline Protection and Rehabilitation District meeting on July 30. Nancy Eggleston attended the NCLWCA area summer tour on July 26 in Langlade County. A motion was made by Steve Fritz, seconded by Amberle Schwartz, to approve. Motion to approve carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

Special meeting attendance reports - Nancy Eggleston reported on the NCLWCA tour stops at Spsychalla Farms and Schroeder Brother's Farms, Antigo. She noted a discussion took place regarding the six county collaborative for nutrient management training for farmers and SEG funds for nutrient management. Nancy Eggleston will include an agenda item for the next meeting regarding SEG funding.

NEXT MEETING DATE

11. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 3, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Rooms 1 and 2.

ADJOURNMENT

Nancy Eggleston adjourned the meeting at 8:37 pm.