



PORTAGE COUNTY

MEETING MINUTES

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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

Tuesday, October 1, 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: 262 906 989 135, 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 pm

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

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

Attending Online: None

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

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

Others Attending: In person - John Pavelski, Ray Reser; Andrea Topper, Kirk Langfoss, Ken Schroeder, Guolong Liang, Roy Diver, Maddy Pfaff, Pete Arntsen, D.J. Firkus, Lisa and Tor Anderson, Jennifer Glad, Tarion O'Carroll, Mildred Neville, George Kraft, Lynn Markham

Attending Remotely: Lindsey Rushford

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Dimensions of Groundwater Nitrate in Portage County Groundwater - Submitted by George J. Kraft
2. Correcting Errors in Testimony from the September 4 LWCC Meeting Regarding the UWSP Water and Environmental Analysis Laboratory (WEAL) - Submitted by George J. Kraft
3. September Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Highlights - Submitted by Andrew Senderhauf, Regional AIS Coordinator, Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council

PRESENTATIONS

4. Nutrient Management - Andrea Topper, Nutrient Management Outreach Specialist, Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection
5. Six County Collaboration Providing Nutrient Management Farmer Education through UW-Extension, Mid-State Technical College, Northcentral Technical College - Kirk Langfoss, Marathon County Conservation Analyst
6. Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Projects - Guolong Liang

Presenters included Guolong Liang, Ken Schroeder, and Lindsey Rushford, UW-Extension.

REPORTS

7. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report - Roy Diver, District Conservationist

Roy Diver reviewed the written report included in packets.

8. 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 Lake and Rehabilitation District-Supervisor Suzanne Oehlke
- b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)-Supervisor Nancy Eggleston/Supervisor Amberle Schwartz-Alternate
- c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (NCLWCA)-Supervisor Janell Wehr/Supervisor Amberle Schwartz-Alternate
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership-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 - Supervisor Ray Reser attended the September 19 meeting. They are applying for a DNR Surface Water Grant. Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) is a significant issue. Chemical treatment is being considered. Discussion took place on what treatment to use; which is most effective, and which is dangerous to the environment of the lake? A landowner plugged the small culverts to stop an influx of phosphorus from adjacent wetlands. They are working with the DNR on how to deal with the situation.

-Lake Jacqueline Protection and Rehabilitation District-Supervisor Jeanne Dodge - No report.

-McDill Inland Lake and Rehabilitation District-Supervisor Suzanne Oehlke - A written report will be provided for the next meeting.

b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)-Supervisor Nancy Eggleston/Supervisor Amberle Schwartz-Alternate - Supervisor Nancy Eggleston will provide a written report for the next meeting.

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 - No report.

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

g. Central Sands Groundwater County Coalition (CSGCC)-Supervisor Amberle Schwartz/Supervisor Janell Wehr-Alternate - Supervisor Janell Wehr attended the September 23 meeting. Minutes were reviewed. They discussed lobbying the legislature and sending a resolution to all counties as a response to Senate Bill 58. The promotional flyer is complete. There was discussion on the member-at-large status. County groundwater updates were given. Jen McNelly is working with counties on social media content as well as summaries of neonicotinoids and nitrate studies for individual counties.

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.

Lisa Anderson registered to speak.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

9. Approval of September 3, 2024 Minutes

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

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

10. Discussion/Possible Action - 2025 Wildlife Damage Program Budget

Madeline Pfaff, USDA-Wildlife Services, described the Wildlife Damage Program. A motion was made by James Yetter, seconded by Amberle Schwartz, to approve the 2025 Wildlife Damage Program budget. Motion to approve the 2025 Wildlife Damage Program budget carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

11. Discussion/Possible Action - Wildlife Damage Program Crop Prices

Madeline Pfaff explained how crop prices are determined. She mentioned there are two organic farms with damage claims. She will have prices for those crops at a future meeting. A motion was made by Janell Wehr, seconded by Justin Isherwood, to approve the 2024 Wildlife Damage Program crop prices. Motion to approve the 2024 Wildlife Damage Program crop prices carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

12. Discussion/Possible Action - Wildlife Damage Program Deer Donation 2025 Agreement to Participate

Madeline Pfaff noted People's Meat Market is the participating processor. They are reimbursed for processing donated deer. A motion was made by Amberle Schwartz, seconded by Janell Wehr, to approve. Motion to approve carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

- 13.** Discussion/Possible Action - Memorandum of Agreement Between the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) and Portage County Land and Water Conservation Division

Roy Diver provided background on the Memorandum of Agreement between USDA-NRCS and LWCDs. The documents were reviewed by Corporation Counsel. A motion was made by Justin Isherwood, seconded by Amberle Schwartz, to approve. Motion to approve carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

- 14.** Discussion/Possible Action - Department of Natural Resources Authorizing Resolution-2025 Healthy Lakes and Rivers Grant

Tracy Arnold explained the Healthy Lakes and River grant program. A motion was made by Amberle Schwartz, seconded by Justin Isherwood, to approve. Motion to approve carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

- 15.** Discussion/Possible Action - Department of Natural Resources Authorizing Resolution - Management Plan Implementation Grant - Lime Lake Shoreland Restoration

Tracy Arnold explained the project on Lime Lake. A motion was made by James Yetter, seconded by Justin Isherwood, to approve. Motion to approve carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

- 16.** 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 - No requests.

Approval of attendance of special meetings - Approvals were presented for: Supervisor Nancy Eggleston attending the Golden Sands RC&D meeting on September 19; Suzanne Oehlke attending the McDill Inland Lake and Rehabilitation District meeting on September 19; Supervisors Nancy Eggleston and Janell Wehr attending the virtual Land and Water Conservation Board meeting on October 1. A motion was made by Amberle Schwartz, seconded by James Yetter, to approve special meeting attendance. Motion to approve special meeting attendance carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

Special meeting attendance reports - Written reports will be provided at the November meeting.

DISCUSSION ONLY

- 17.** Discussion Only - Nelsonville Monitoring Well Project

Tyler Kunze provided an update on the monitoring well sampling project. July sampling results are on the DNR Groundwater Retrieval Network (GRN) database. He has not reviewed the July results in depth. He will complete the next round of sampling the week of October 7-11.

NEXT MEETING DATE

- 18.** The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 5, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Rooms 1 and 2, County Annex.

ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Nancy Eggleston adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.