



PORTAGE COUNTY

MEETING MINUTES

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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

Tuesday, November 5, 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:235 101 674 197, 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 7:02 p.m.

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: In-person - Tim Reed, Tracy Arnold, Tyler Kunze, Patty Benedict. Attending remotely: Steve Bradley

Others Attending: In-person - Ray Reser, John Pavelski, Lynn Isherwood, Pete Arntsen, Lynn Markham, Kevin Skinner, Erin Tomasik, John and Jack Eron, Peter Mallek, Tarion O'Carroll, D J Firkus, Bob Gifford, Bart Sopa, Kim Bremmer, Sara Byl, Jenny Binversie, Brad Olson, others that did not sign in

Attending remotely: Lisa Doerr, Shaun Przybylski, Julie Morrow, TA, James McKnight

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letters submitted by Citizen Member Justin Isherwood dated September 22 and October 7, 2024

Included in meeting packets.

2. Technical Memorandum 2024-1, Geologic Investigation of the Nelsonville Area - Submitted by George Kraft

Included in meeting packets.

3. Technical Memorandum 2024-2, Groundwater Elevations and Flow Direction in the Nelsonville Area - Submitted by George Kraft

Supervisor Nancy Eggleston noted a correction is to be made to Figure 4. A revised copy will be included in the December meeting packet.

PRESENTATIONS

4. Nitrate Calculation Followup to Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program (NOPP) - George Kraft

George Kraft presented.

5. Town Partnership Operations Ordinance, Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) - Liza Doerr, Town Partnership, Chair, Town of Laketown, Polk County

Lisa Doerr presented.

REPORTS

6. July Nelsonville Monitoring Wells Water Sampling Data - Tyler Kunze, Water Resource Specialist

Tyler Kunze, Water Resource Specialist, reported on the results of the July Nelsonville monitoring well sampling.

COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS FROM ATTENDANCE AT COMMITTEE APPOINTED MEETINGS

7. Supervisor Ray Reser for the Lake Helen Protection and Rehabilitation District Meeting

Supervisor Ray Reser reported on the October 24 Lake Helen P&R District meeting. Projects and grant opportunities were reviewed. A culvert is blocked that feeds into Lake Helen. The District is working with Portage County and the Town of Alban to measure elevation changes between State Highway 49 and the culvert. Discussion took place on Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) control plans, boat monitoring, fish stocking for 2024, and expanding Healthy Lakes and Rivers grant funded native plantings in 2024 and 2025. He noted multiple counties have passed resolutions to ban or restrict wake boats. The District would like Portage County to adopt similar restrictions.

8. Supervisor Jeanne Dodge for the Lake Jacqueline Protection and Rehabilitation District Meeting

Supervisor Nancy Eggleston read a report from the Lake Jacqueline Board of Commissioners meeting on October 22 provided by Supervisor Jeanne Dodge. Items covered: Bag limit and size for bass, NR 107 and NR 109, report on aerator, weed control and cutting, Portage County's grant to install native plantings, water quality, oxygen levels and clarity. The next meeting is January 14, 2025.

9. Supervisor Suzanne Oehlke for the McDill Inland Lake and Rehabilitation District Meeting

Supervisor Suzanne Oehlke's written reports from the September 19 and October 17 meetings were included in meeting packets.

10. Supervisory Nancy Eggleston and/or Supervisor Amberle Schwartz for the Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. Meeting

Supervisor Nancy Eggleston's written report from the September 19 meeting was included in meeting packets.

11. Supervisor Janell Wehr and/or Supervisor Amberle Schwartz for the North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (NCLWCA) Meeting

No report.

12. Citizen Member Justin Isherwood for the Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership (CWWP) Meeting

The next meeting is November 19 at 9:30 am at the Hancock Agricultural Research Station.

13. Citizen Member Justin Isherwood for the Portage County Drainage District Meeting

Citizen Member Justin Isherwood reported the DNR has selected the Portage County Drainage District as the seed source for brook trout for hatcheries.

14. Supervisor Amberle Schwartz for the Farmer Led Councils Meetings

No report.

15. Supervisor Amberle Schwartz and/or Supervisor Janell Wehr for the Central Sands Groundwater County Coalition (CSGCC) Meeting

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.

Erin Tomasik, Kim Bremmer, Sara Byl, Jenny Binversie, and Brad Olson registered to speak on agenda items 17 through 21.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

16. Approval of October 1, 2024 Minutes

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

DISCUSSION ONLY

17. Consideration of Draft Portage County Large-Scale Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) Ordinance

Supervisor Steve Fritz stated before drafting an ordinance, he would like to have ordinances from other counties and towns available. Supervisor Nancy Eggleston stated this is not a ban but covers several considerations for new CAFOs and does not affect small-scale

farms. She suggested revisiting in January 2025 as a discussion/possible action item after looking at other ordinances. Director Tim Reed offered to have staff develop a process to include the farm community.

18. Consideration of Draft Portage County Moratorium on Livestock Facilities Ordinance

Supervisor Nancy Eggleston stated the purpose of a moratorium is to allow time to develop an operation ordinance prior to potential CAFOs locating in the county. This item will be revisited for discussion at the January 2025 meeting. The committee requested research on what other counties have in place, and to hold a forum for open discussion on agenda items 17 and 18 to allow input from farmers and the public, potentially a meeting of the whole.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

19. Discussion/Possible Action - Seek Segregated (SEG) Funding from the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to Provide Farmers Opportunities to Develop Nutrient Management Plans

A motion was made by Janell Wehr, seconded by Amberle Schwartz, to seek Segregated (SEG) funding from DATCP to provide farmers opportunities to develop nutrient management plans and revision within the current budget cycle to assist Portage County farmers with nutrient management plan development and revision as grant opportunities arise. Motion to seek Segregated (SEG) funding from DATCP to provide farmers opportunities to develop nutrient management plans and revision within the current budget cycle to assist Portage County farmers with nutrient management plan development and revision as grant opportunities arise carried by voice vote, with no negative votes. The application for 2026 SEG funds from DATCP is submitted in spring 2025.

20. Discussion/Possible Action - Nominate, Endorse, and Submit for Consideration Land and Water Conservation Board Candidates to Serve on the State Land and Water Conservation Board Pursuant to its Written Election Policy

A motion was made by Janell Wehr, seconded by James Yetter, to nominate, endorse, and submit for consideration Rebecca Clark as a Land and Water Conservation Board candidate to serve on the State Land and Water Conservation Board pursuant to its written election policy. Motion to nominate, endorse and submit for consideration Rebecca Clark as a Land and Water Conservation Board candidate to serve on the State Land and Water Conservation Board pursuant to its written election policy carried by voice vote, with no negative votes. After clarification, it was determined three nominations are to be made. A motion was made by Janell Wehr, seconded by James Yetter, to amend to nominate Rebecca Clark, Monte Osterman, and Mike Hofberger to the Land and Water Conservation Board. Motion to amend to nominate Rebecca Clark, Monte Osterman, and Mike Hofberger to the Land and Water Conservation Board carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

21. 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 - None.

Special meeting attendance reports - None.

NEXT MEETING DATE

22. Tuesday, December 3, 2024, 7:00 p.m., Conference Rooms 1&2, County Annex

ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Nancy Eggleston adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.