



PORTAGE COUNTY

MEETING MINUTES

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

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: 479 286 501, then press # To attend this meeting by video: [Join the meeting now](#)

CALL TO ORDER

The Land and Water Conservation Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

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

Excused: James Yetter

Staff Attending: Tim Reed, Camryn Brewbaker, Tracy Arnold, Tyler Kunze, Shawn O'Connell, Andrew Senderhauf Others

Attending: Jennifer Glad, Lisa Anderson, Mildred Neville

Others Attending Online: Jennifer Jossie, Jeanne Dodge

CORRESPONDENCE

PRESENTATIONS

1. Village of Nelsonville Citizen Water Monitoring Program - George Kraft

Reviewed the Summary of Village of Nelsonville Residential Quarterly Nitrate Results for April 2025 presented by George Kraft.

REPORTS

2. Tracy Arnold - County Conservationist Report

- New Staff Introductions: Senior Conservation Technician and Conservation Technician
- Information and Update on County Wide Conservation Projects

New staff introductions in the Land and Water Conservation Division: Camryn Brewbaker (Administrative Associate II), Andrew Senderhauf (Conservation Technician), and Shawn O'Connell (Senior Conservation Technician). Tracy Arnolds' new introduction as the County Conservationist as well.

John Eron will not be the Weed Commissioner for 2025, and we are in the process of looking for a replacement.

Reviewed information and updates on County Wide Conservation Projects: Nutrient Management Plans, North Central Producer-Led Summit, FPP/Datcp, Nonmetallic Mining, Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program Grant, National Water Quality Initiative Grant, Lake Management Plans, and the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Grant. Portage County grant application is ranked #1 in the state.

3. Tyler Kunze - Monitoring Well Sampling in the Village of Nelsonville

Discussed the successful completion of the Monitoring Well Sampling in the Village of Nelsonville. Once the results are in, the data will be presented to the committee.

COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS FROM ATTENDANCE AT COMMITTEE APPOINTED MEETINGS

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

Reviewed Lake Helen projects, their Aquatic Plant Management Plan, and discussed enhanced wake boat legislation. There were 2 aerators running through the winter and the water temperature is currently being monitored for chemical treatment for EWM. Lake

Land and Water Conservation Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2025

Helen has installed 6 fish sticks structures successfully on ice this season and has 5 Healthy Lakes and Rivers Grant sites. There will be Clean Boats Clean Waters staff at the boat landing again this summer.

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

Reviewed Lake Jacqueline District Meeting and discussed enhanced wake legislation. There are 4 aerators running through winter and there is 1 Healthy Lakes and Healthy Rivers grant site. They will continue to monitor dissolved oxygen, percent saturations and temperature profiles in the lake.

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

Reviewed McDill Pond projects. Discussed dam maintenance on the pond and gearing up for a chemical treatment. They are also coordinating harvesting for 2025. There will be water samples collected for sediment and nutrient loading. They have 2 Healthy Lakes and Healthy Rivers grant sites.

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

Reviewed the Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Department Council, Inc. Meeting. As of now, none of their federal grants or contracts have been canceled. There will be 12 seasonal LTEs and student interns for the summer.

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

No report. Next meeting is May 13th.

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

No report.

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

A new attorney was hired due to an increased hourly wage.

11. Supervisor Amberle Schwartz for the Farmer-Led Councils Meetings

No report.

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

No report. Next meeting 5/19.

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.

Members of the Public:

Lisa Anderson - expressed her support for the ordinance as being part of a 5th generation farming family. Mildred Neville - expressed her support for the ordinance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

13. Approval of March 4th, 2025 Minutes

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

14. Discussion/Possible Action Re: Resolution to support increasing base funding for county conservation staffing to \$20.2 million annually

15. Discussion/Possible Action Re: 2026 Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) Grant Application

No action needed as the SWRM grant is in the Land and Water Conservation Division's annual budget.

16. Discussion Only Re: Discussion on the Industrial Livestock Operations Ordinance process and timeline

Reviewed The Industrial Livestock Operations Ordinance Process and Timeline. This was first introduced in November 2024 and is specific to Portage County's unique needs and circumstances. This is not a CAFO ordinance. CAFO is a DNR term used to define a

Land and Water Conservation Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2025

specific number of animal units in a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation. This ordinance will not be bound to those animal units; the numbers are yet to be determined. This ordinance will not be prohibited and is a licensing agreement with standard industrial safeguards for the county. The intent of the ordinance is to provide local control. It will protect groundwater, support local farms and protect townships from potential expenses due to industrial livestock operations. There will be monthly updates as we have more information to report to these committee meetings. This ordinance will be written by the department staff with input from the Citizens Advisory Group and the Land and Water Conservation Committee. Progress was delayed due to research into the process for appointing the Citizens Advisory Committee and the need for an experienced outside council. The Citizens Advisory Committee will be appointed by the County Board Chair. The formation of the committee will need to go to the full County Board for approval. Outside council and need to gain approval for the Citizens Advisory Committee from the County Board.