



PORTAGE COUNTY

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

MEETING MINUTES

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 6, 2021

7:00 PM

REMOTE ATTENDANCE & COMMENT

To attend this meeting by telephone : dial 1-608-338-1399 after dialing the number you will then be asked to enter in a meeting number. Use the following meeting number: 611 187 196, then press #

To attend this meeting by video: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Due to COVID-19 and the potential risk to members of the public who attend meetings in-person, any person who plans to attend the meeting remotely, but wishes to comment on an agenda item can send their comments via email to benedicp@co.portage.wi.us. The deadline for sending comments by email is 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting. Emailed comments will be delivered to committee members at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. Remote comment by the public during the meeting will be at the discretion of the Chair.

CALL TO ORDER

The Land and Water Conservation Committee meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mildred Neville, Matt Jacowski, Barry Jacowski , Julie Morrow, Gerry Zastrow, Catherine Guth

Attending In-Person: Neville, M. Jacowski, B. Jacowski, Morrow, Guth

Attending Online: Zastrow

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Attending: Steve Bradley, Patty Benedict, Jen McNelly

Others Attending: In person - Asa Plonsky, Golden Sands RC&D; Tor Anderson, Kyle Gordon, Kim Krupka, Pete Arntsen. Remote - County Executive Chris Holman; County Board Chair Al Haga; County Board Supervisors Larry Raikowski and Ray Reser; Jim McKnight, Terry O'Carroll, Lisa Anderson, Kim Bremmer, Jim Walker

B. Jacowski announced comments will not be taken from public attending remotely.

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.

Kyle Gordon, Asa Plonsky, and Pete Arntsen registered to speak.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. March 2, 2021 Minutes

A motion was made by Julie Morrow, seconded by Matt Jacowski, to Approve. Motion to Approve Passed by voice vote, with no negative votes.

REPORTS

2. COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS
 - a. Lakes Management District - Neville
 - b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) - Zastrow
 - c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (NCLWCA) - Zastrow
 - d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership (CWWP) - B. Jacowski/Morrow-Alternate

- e. Portage County Drainage District - M. Jacowski/Morrow-Alternate
- f. Mill Creek Watershed - B. Jacowski/Zastrow-Alternate
- g. Little Plover River Workgroup (LPR) - M. Jacowski, Morrow, Zastrow
- h. Farmer Led Councils - B. Jacowski/Zastrow-Alternate
- i. Central Sands Groundwater County Coalition - Zastrow/M. Jacowski-Alternate

- a. Lakes Management District - Neville - No report.
- b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) - Zastrow - Zastrow reported on activities taking place in the member counties.
- c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (NCLWCA) - Zastrow - The next virtual meeting is May 4. Zastrow reported he attended the virtual WI Land+Water Annual Conference, March 2-5.
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership (CWWP) - B. Jacowski/Morrow-Alternate - B. Jacowski reported on the April 6 meeting.
- e. Portage County Drainage District - M. Jacowski/Morrow-Alternate - M. Jacowski reported the Agriculture and Extension Education Committee forwarded three names to the judges as candidates for commissioners.
- f. Mill Creek Watershed - B. Jacowski/Zastrow-Alternate - No report.
- g. Little Plover River Workgroup (LPR) - M. Jacowski, Morrow, Zastrow - No report.
- h. Farmer Led Councils - B. Jacowski/Zastrow-Alternate - No report.
- i. Central Sand Groundwater County Coalition - Zastrow/M. Jacowski-Alternate - A meeting is scheduled for the end of April. McNelly reported the Groundwater Coordinating Council grant was funded.

CORRESPONDENCE

The April report was distributed before the meeting. An open letter will be submitted to print media for the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) 66th Annual Stewardship Week to be celebrated April 25-May 2.

- 3. March 2021 DATCP Report

VOUCHERS

- 4. Review Vouchers, Purchases, and Procurement Card Charges

Vouchers, purchases and procurement card charges were reviewed.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

- 5. Discussion/Possible Action Re: Regarding 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 - B. Jacowski told members to contact him if a meeting comes up they want to attend.
Approval of attendance of special meetings - A motion was made by Julie Morrow, seconded by Matt Jacowski to approve special meeting attendance. Motion to Approve Passed by voice vote, with no negative votes.
Special meeting attendance reports - Given under Committee Representative Reports.

- 6. Discussion/Possible Action - 2022 Soil and Water Resource Management Grant Application

A motion was made by Catherine Guth, seconded by Julie Morrow, to Approve. Motion to Approve Passed by voice vote, with no negative votes. Bradley provided an explanation of the 2022 staffing grant request.

- 7. Discussion/Possible Action - Central Wisconsin Invasives Partnership (CWIP) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

B. Jacowski stated Corporation Counsel reviewed the document and did not have any issues with participating in the CWIP. Morrow stated John Eron had reservations about participating. Bradley said Eron asked to delay for a month or two while he waits for information on potential State funding for invasives treatment. A motion was made by Julie Morrow, seconded by Mildred Neville to postpone until more information is provided by Eron. Motion to Postpone Passed by voice vote, with no negative votes.

- 8. Discussion/Possible Action - Tree Planter Storage Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

A motion was made by Julie Morrow, seconded by Matt Jacowski, to Approve. Motion to Approve Passed by voice vote, with no negative votes.

- 9. Discussion/Possible Action - Resolution - Support for Achieving Base Funding Goal for County Conservation Staffing

A motion was made by Matt Jacowski, seconded by Julie Morrow, to Approve. Motion to Approve Passed by voice vote, with no negative votes. Bradley explained the resolution was forwarded to counties from WI Land+Water. State Statutes contain a staff funding formula (100% of the first position, 70% for a second position and 50% for additional positions). The resolution urges the Legislature to fully fund the formula.

GROUNDWATER ISSUES DISCUSSION

10. Discussion/Possible Action - Groundwater Management Plan Appendix A Review

McNelly resumed review of activities and accomplishments beginning with Objective 2.3. M. Jacowski suggested including chloride data under 2.3. McNelly will see if radioactivity and arsenic are concerns and should be monitored. McNelly stated she is currently creating a State of the Water Report, containing County water quality and quantity information. Relating to NR151, McNelly noted a joint meeting involving the LWCC and Groundwater Citizens Advisory Committee (GCAC) has been tentatively scheduled for June 3. John Exo, UW College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Chris Clayton, DNR, will provide updates.

NELSONVILLE GROUNDWATER SITUATION

11. Address Anti-Agriculture/Lying Accusations

Zastrow read a prepared statement. A hard copy was provided for the record. Apologies and statement retractions were made by Supervisors Barry Jacowski and Matt Jacowski.

12. Discussion/Possible Action - Monitoring Wells and Potential Future Plan

McNelly summarized similarities and differences in the engineering firm proposals. Potential grant funding opportunities were discussed. A motion was made by Julie Morrow, seconded by Mildred Neville, to find funding for a private consulting company to develop a comprehensive plan to set up a monitoring well program in the Village of Nelsonville. The consulting services for this plan would not exceed \$20,000. The program would test for nitrates in the groundwater at varying locations and depths, and then map out the results. This would identify the vertical and lateral distribution of nitrate in the groundwater, which would then allow us to model the groundwater flow patterns in the area, and evaluate the effects of land use practices. Motion to Approve Passed by voice vote, with one negative vote. County Executive Holman said a Request for Proposals with defined parameters and costs is recommended. There was discussion on formulating a work plan. Holman said funding would have to come out of reserves through a contingency request. Haga added the request has to go through the County Board.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 4, at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Rooms 1 and 2.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

NOTICES

Notice: Any person who has special needs and plans on attending this meeting in-person or remotely should contact the Facilities Office at 715-346-1598 as soon as possible to ensure that reasonable accommodations can be made.

Notice: A quorum of the Portage County Board of Supervisors, or any committee thereof, may be present at this meeting.