



PORTAGE COUNTY

MEETING MINUTES

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

5:00 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: 635 709 745, 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 5:00 p.m.

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

Attending In-Person: Mildred Neville, Matt Jacowski, Barry Jacowski, Julie Morrow, Gerry Zastrow, Catherine Guth

Attending Online: None

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Attending: Tim Reed, Planning & Zoning Director; Lindsay Benaszkeski, Health & Human Services; Steve Bradley, Patty Benedict

Others Attending: In-person: Jeanne Dodge, District 21 County Board Supervisor; John Bertelson Jr. Remote: Tarion O'Carroll, Kim Krupka

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve March 1, 2022 Minutes

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

REPORTS

2. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Update

Steve Bradley and Lindsay Benaszkeski provided an update. The core components are basically the same as presented at a previous meeting. Some cost adjustments were made based on vendor input for reverse osmosis (RO) systems for private wells. In cases where nitrate levels exceed the effectiveness of RO systems, it may be necessary to provide compensation for a new well instead of an RO system. A Request for Bid for treatment systems is in the process and the water lab has been informed. The Health and Human Services and Finance Committees have approved. The program will begin June 2022 and possibly run through 2024, with \$2,325,000 dedicated. It is estimated 1,250 homes may receive RO systems. Signup is on a first come basis; however, it was suggested to give priority for wells with the highest concentrations. Wells will be tested before and again one year after installing RO systems and it was recommended to test the system for up to five years after treatment systems have been in place to collect data. Statistics were provided on nitrate levels for TN wells. Funds would target those with nitrate levels exceeding 20 mg/L first (10 systems), then those between 10-20 mg/L (15 systems), then those under 10 mg/L (10 systems).

3. COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

- a. Lakes Management Districts - Neville
- b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) - Zastrow
- c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (NCLWCA) - Zastrow/B. Jacowski-Alternate
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership - B. Jacowski/Morrow-Alternate
- e. Portage County Drainage District - M. Jacowski/Morrow-Alternate
- f. Mill Creek Watershed - B. Jacowski/Zastrow-Alternate
- g. Farmer Led Councils - B. Jacowski/Zastrow-Alternate
- h. Central Sands Groundwater County Coalition (CSGCC) - Zastrow/M. Jacowski-Alternate

- a. Lakes Management Districts - Neville - Neville reported Lake Helen had discussions regarding fish sticks and aeration system installations, and blue-green algae. Their annual meeting is scheduled for June 5. Neville attended a Portage County Lakes & Rivers meeting via Zoom. The main focus was discussion on updating lake management plans.
- b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) - Zastrow - Zastrow noted information overlaps with the CSGCC report.
- c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (NCLWCA) - Zastrow/B. Jacowski-Alternate - No report.
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership (CWWP) - B. Jacowski/Morrow-Alternate - B. Jacowski attended the April 4 CWWP Advisory Committee meeting. Increases were approved for fee schedules due to cost increases for fuel, labor, and materials. Living snow fence and windbreak projects are lined up for 2022. Two UWSP interns have been hired. An agreement with Golden Sands RC&D was approved to provide hiring and payroll services for LTEs.
- e. Portage County Drainage District - M. Jacowski/Morrow-Alternate - M. Jacowski reported a recommendation will be made at the next Agriculture and Extension Education Committee meeting for a Drainage District Commissioner appointment to be made by Circuit Court judges.
- f. Mill Creek Watershed - B. Jacowski/Zastrow-Alternate - The Friends of Mill Creek (FOMC) annual meeting was held on March 29. A fundraiser was held at Eron's Event Barn to provide funds to cover meeting expenses.
- g. Farmer Led Councils - B. Jacowski/Zastrow-Alternate - A meeting of the Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed Council took place on March 29 following the FOMC annual meeting. Chloride samples are showing high levels in Mill Creek. The DNR has been notified. Updates will be provided to the LWCC.
- h. Central Sands Groundwater County Coalition (CSGCC) - Zastrow/M. Jacowski-Alternate - Zastrow reported legislative and county updates were provided. A solar farm is taking 2,000 acres out of agricultural production. Monitoring wells will be installed to determine whether the land use change makes a difference. Dr. Romano provided an update on grant progress.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

4. 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 - No requests. Contact B. Jacowski if any meetings come up.

Approval of attendance of special meetings - A motion was made by Julie Morrow, seconded by Gerry Zastrow, to approve. Motion to approve carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

Special meeting attendance reports - Reports given under Committee Representative Reports.

5. Discussion/Possible Action - 2023 Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) Grant Application

Bradley reviewed the grant application. A motion was made by Gerry Zastrow, seconded by Catherine Guth, to approve. Motion to approve carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

CORRESPONDENCE

The March Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) highlights, provided by Chris Hamerla, Golden Sands RC&D, and the April DATCP Report were distributed.

VOUCHERS

6. Review Vouchers, Purchases, and Procurement Card Charges

Voucher, purchases, and procurement card charges were reviewed.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 3 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Matt Jacowski, seconded by Catherine Guth, to adjourn. Motion to adjourn carried by voice vote, with no negative votes. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

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.