



PORTAGE COUNTY

MEETING MINUTES

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

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: 107 106 047, 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. by Chair David Peterson

Members Present: Barry Jacowski, Catherine Guth, Mike A. Olson, Lionel Weaver, David Peterson, Mike Splinter

Attending In-Person: Barry Jacowski, Catherine Guth, Mike A. Olson, Lionel Weaver, David Peterson, Mike Splinter

Attending Online: None

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Attending: Tim Reed, Planning & Zoning Department Director, Steve Bradley, Jen McNelly, Patty Benedict

Others Attending: In-person - John Pavelski, County Executive; Jeff Nyquist, DNR Forester; John Bertelson Jr., James & Marianne Walker, Tarion O'Carroll, Katy Bailey, Lisa Anderson, Ray Reser, Al Jastromski, Jim McKnight, Susan Tupper, George Kraft, Kyle Gordon, Robert Glisczinski, Todd Stiteley, Bob Gifford, Larry Raikowski, Scott Soik, Mildred Neville

Attending Remotely - Mark Brueggeman, HB, Gary & Elaine Anderson, Josh Stolzenburg

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. May 3, 2022 Minutes

A motion was made by Mike Splinter, seconded by Mike A. Olson, to Approve. Motion to Approve carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

REPORTS

2. Tree Planter Fund - Jeff Nyquist, DNR Forester

Jeff Nyquist, DNR Forester, gave background on the Tree Planter Fund program and summarized activities. Tree planters were rented by 11 individuals this spring with an estimated 24,000 trees planted through the program. Approximately 150,000 trees have been planted in the county this spring between this program, other private landowners, the school district project and what DNR has planted to date in 2022. Repairs and maintenance of the tree planters is ongoing. He noted there were no issues with the minimum rental fee and cleaning deposit approved by the LWCC in 2021. He reported 25,000 trees were planted for the Tomorrow River School District project with roughly half planted by students using the county tree planters. He will monitor the site for survival and expects there to be follow-up planting on that site where survival rates are low. The DNR provides school districts up to 5,000

seedlings per year at no cost to the school districts. Nyquist expressed his appreciation for waiving the rental fee for the school district, which was greatly appreciated.

3. Presentation - Improving Soil Health - Phillip Davis, Genesis Ag

Phillip Davis was unable to attend.

4. PFAS Update

McNelly referred to two reports distributed at the meeting. The Villages of Plover and Amherst and the City of Stevens Point voluntarily participate in municipal water sampling for PFAS with the DNR and Department of Health Services (DHS). The samples were below the proposed detection limit of 20 parts per trillion. Requirements for municipalities to test for PFAS will not take place until a water quality standard is set by the State. She received information from Gary Garske, Portage County Environmental Health Officer, indicating the DNR and DHS received a grant from the EPA to conduct random private residential well sampling across the State to include PFAS testing. She expects a couple of samples will be in Portage County. She noted major sources of PFAS are from firefighting foam, airports, and military bases.

5. COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

- a. Lakes Management District - Peterson
- b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) - Olson
- c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (NCLWCA) -
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership (CWWP) - B. Jacowski
- e. Portage County Drainage District - Splinter/Guth Alternate
- f. Mill Creek Watershed - Splinter
- g. Farmer Led Councils - Guth
- h. Central Sands Groundwater County Coalition - Weaver

- a. Lakes Management Districts - Peterson - Peterson attended the McDill Inland Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District (PRD) meeting on May 12. A financial update was provided. Weed harvesting and spring chemical treatment have been done. Lake Jacqueline PRD met on May 30. A financial update was provided. Discussions took place on weed control and aerator repair. Lake Helen PRD met on June 4. A financial update was provided. Topics discussed were blue green algae blooms, Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) control plan, zebra mussels, boat landing monitoring, Japanese knotweed control treatment plan, placing additional swimming buoys, installation of fish sticks practices, and reducing the limit of panfish.
- b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) - Olson - Olson was unable to attend.
- c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (NCLWCA) - Barry Jacowski was appointed as the representative. A report on the June 3 NCLWCA meeting will be given at the July LWCC meeting.
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership (CWWP) - B. Jacowski - Bradley reported one of the tractors needed extensive repairs.
- e. Portage County Drainage District - Splinter/Guth Alternate - Splinter toured the Isherwood lateral and then met with Commissioner Jake Prater. No meetings are scheduled.
- f. Mill Creek Watershed - Splinter - No report.
- g. Farmer Led Councils - Guth - Guth distributed the Farmers for Tomorrow newsletter.
- h. Central Sands Groundwater County Coalition - Weaver - Weaver attended a meeting on May 16 at the Hancock Agricultural Research Station. All counties are dealing with the same water issues.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

6. Discussion/Possible Action - REI Engineering Work Plan

McNelly referred to the materials in members' packets. Her memo explains the process, outlines the timeline to this point, and describes two types of monitoring wells. She suggested the LWCC have discussions in regard to the pros and cons of the two types of wells, in addition to prioritizing five or six well locations within the Village of Nelsonville to achieve the objectives in the work plan. She noted the contract with REI is complete. The next steps would be to accept the work plan and consider actions going forward. There was discussion on using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the monitoring wells. McNelly said a DNR representative indicated decisions on possible modifications for Gordon's permit could take until July or August. There was a request to have a DNR representative attend an LWCC meeting in July or August. A motion was made by Mike Splinter, seconded by Barry Jacowski, to postpone action on the REI work plan until at least the August meeting. The motion passed by the following vote:

4 Yes: Barry Jacowski, Catherine Guth, David Peterson, Mike Splinter

2 No: Mike A. Olson, Lionel Weaver

0 Abstain: None

Following the vote, Olson suggested starting the process of applying for ARPA funds for nine wells - six within the Village of Nelsonville and three for Gordon's farm.

7. 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.

Approval of attendance of special meetings - Special meeting attendance forms were approved for: Splinter meeting with a Drainage District resident and a Commissioner on May 19, and touring Kyle Gordon's farm on June 7; and Weaver's attendance at the Central Sands Groundwater County Coalition meeting on May 16

Special meeting attendance reports - Given under Committee Representative Reports.

8. Discussion/Possible Action - Appointment - Steve Bradley as Golden Sands RC&D Council Voting Delegate

A motion was made by Mike A. Olson, seconded by Barry Jacowski, to approve. Motion to approve carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

9. Discussion/Possible Action - Cost Share Agreements

Bradley summarized the projects. A motion was made by Barry Jacowski, seconded by Catherine Guth, to approve. Motion to approve carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

10. Discussion/Possible Action - Wetlands Conservation League Inc. Intent to Continue Participation in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Bradley explained the situation and stated that the Wetlands Conservation League intends to continue maintaining the conservation practices on the property. A motion was made by Mike Splinter, seconded by Barry Jacowski, to approve. Motion to approve carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

CORRESPONDENCE

Information on a seminar, "Addressing Groundwater Issues at the County Level: The Kewaunee County Experience", sponsored by the Wisconsin Counties Association, was distributed at the meeting.

11. April and May 2022 DATCP Reports

The June DATCP report was distributed at the meeting.

12. Citizen Correspondence

Copies of an email from Lisa Anderson were provided at the meeting. Color copies of photos that were copied in black and white in members' packets were distributed.

13. April and May Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Updates

The April and May activity updates were included in packets.

VOUCHERS

14. Review Vouchers, Purchases, and Procurement Card Charges

Vouchers, purchases, and procurement card charges were reviewed. It was decided a quarterly budget report will be provided to the Committee.

NEXT MEETING DATE

McNelly will ask a representative of the Groundwater Citizens Advisory Committee (GCAC) to attend a future LWCC meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for July 5 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Barry Jacowski, seconded by Catherine Guth, to adjourn. Motion to adjourn carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

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.