



PORTAGE COUNTY

MEETING MINUTES

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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

Tuesday, August 2, 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: 253 461 837 121, 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 County Board Chair Al Haga assisted in facilitating the meeting.

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

Others Attending: In-person - County Executive John Pavelski and Executive Assistant Robin Falk; Tarion O'Carroll, Jenny Larsen, Patrick Quigley, Ray Reser, Tor and Lisa Anderson, David Stuczynski, Kyle Gordon, Jim McKnight, Gerald Trzebiatowski, Cecile Stelzer Johnson, Pete Arntsen, Gerry Zastrow, Susan Tupper, Matt Repinski, Pat Shulfer, Josh Stolzenburg, Mark & Lois Brueggeman, Amberle Schwartz, Steve Trzebiatowski, Dave Mangin, John Bertelson Jr., Vinnie Miresse, Scott Soik, Bob Gifford
Attending Remotely - Suzanne Oehlke, Gina DeLisle, Katy & Bobby Bailey, Chris Mechenich, Joan Honl, Denise Worzalla-Rocha, Jeanne Dodge, George Kraft, Dave Ray, Christine Conachen, CMM, Kenny

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.

Chair Peterson announced three minutes are allowed per person per agenda item. Tarion O'Carroll, Ray Reser, Tor Anderson, Kyle Gordon, Jim McKnight, Pete Arntsen, Matt Repinski, Pat Shulfer, Josh Stolzenburg, Lisa Anderson, Mark Brueggeman, Amberle Schwartz, Steve Trzebiatowski, and Dave Mangin registered to speak.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of July 5, 2022 Minutes

A motion was made by Mike Splinter, seconded by Mike A. Olson, to approve and was withdrawn. Weaver requested to reflect in the minutes that two documents were included as part of the meeting packet. A motion was made by Lionel Weaver, seconded by Mike Splinter, to approve the minutes subject to amending to include references to the two documents that were part of the meeting packet for the last meeting. Motion to approve as amended carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

2. Discussion/Possible Action - Acceptance of REI Engineering Work Plan

A motion was made by Mike Splinter, seconded by Barry Jacowski, to bring to the floor. Motion to bring to the floor carried by voice vote, with no negative votes. McNelly provided background and explained the contract with REI is complete. The information in the work plan is intended to assist LWCC in discussions involving a monitoring plan within the Village of Nelsonville. A motion was made by Mike Splinter, seconded by Barry Jacowski, to approve acceptance of the REI Engineering Work Plan as a basis for staff to work with. A friendly amendment was offered by Lionel Weaver to acknowledge receipt of the work plan rather than approve acceptance, which was accepted by Mike Splinter and Barry Jacowski. Motion to acknowledge receipt of the REI Engineering Work Plan as a basis for staff to work with carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

3. Discussion/Possible Action - Nelsonville Groundwater Monitoring Proposal

A motion was made by Barry Jacowski, seconded by Mike Splinter, to accept the Groundwater Monitoring proposal. McNelly was asked by the LWCC to draft a plan and an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) application for monitoring wells within the Village of Nelsonville and potentially on the Gordon farm. She explained the proposal states the purpose and objectives of the wells, proposed locations and construction for seven monitoring wells at seven depths, the type of water quality sampling to be done and associated costs. A map of the proposed locations was included. McNelly pointed out possible funding sources for this project could be through the County, ARPA, or grants. Motion to accept the Groundwater Monitoring proposal carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

4. Discussion/Possible Action - Groundwater Citizens Advisory Committee (GCAC) List of Action Items

A motion was made by Mike A. Olson, seconded by Mike Splinter, to bring to the floor. Motion to bring to the floor carried by voice vote, with no negative votes. McNelly explained Corporation Counsel was consulted, who suggested having LWCC and staff prioritize the list of action items and bring back to Corporation Counsel to evaluate and determine which items can be accomplished statutorily. Bradley provided written comments on each of the action items to assist in prioritizing. A motion was made by Mike Splinter, seconded by Barry Jacowski, to keep analysis and recommendations on future meeting agendas and determine what can be done. The motion and second were withdrawn as the Chair sets the agenda and will direct staff to put on future meeting agendas. A motion was made by Mike Splinter, seconded by Barry Jacowski to have staff work with Corporation Counsel and GCAC to prioritize the list of action items and bring back to the LWCC. The motion to have staff work with Corporation Counsel and GCAC to prioritize the list of action items and bring back to the LWCC carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

5. Discussion/Possible Action - Resolution - Designation of Wild Cucumber (Echinocystis Lobata) as a Noxious Weed Within the County

A motion was made by Barry Jacowski, seconded by Mike Splinter, to approve designation of wild cucumber as a noxious weed within the county. Motion to approve designation of wild cucumber as a noxious weed within the county carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

6. Discussion/Possible Action - Letter of Support for the Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed Adopting the Paul J. Olson Wildlife Area

A motion was made by Mike Splinter, seconded by Barry Jacowski, to approve the letter of support. Motion to approve the letter of support carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

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 - Motion by Barry Jacowski, second by Mike Splinter to allow any member to attend the Professional Dairy Producers meeting in Dorchester. Motion to allow any member to attend the Professional Dairy Producers meeting in Dorchester, carried by voice vote with no negative votes.

Approval of attendance of special meetings - Splinter attended the WCA Seminar, "Addressing Groundwater Quality in Kewaunee County" on July 12 at the Holiday Inn, Stevens Point.

Special meeting attendance reports - Splinter will give a report of the WCA seminar at the next meeting.

REPORTS

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

Phillip Davis, Genesis Ag, gave a PowerPoint presentation on Improving Soil Health.

9. American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) Draft Application Update

McNelly referred to a draft application in the meeting packets for ARPA/State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) for seven monitoring wells within the Village of Nelsonville. After DNR determines whether monitoring wells are required on Gordon's farm, she can draft another application if necessary. Proposals are on hold at this time until the Finance Committee determines their evaluation process. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

10. COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

- a. Lakes Management District - Peterson
- b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) - Bradley
- c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (NCLWCA) - B. Jacowski
- 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 (CSGCC) - Weaver
- a. Lakes Management District - Peterson - No report.
- b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) - Bradley - Bradley reported discussions took place on the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) program and other counties using ARPA funds for reverse osmosis (RO) systems. They will be replacing Executive Director Hannah Butkiewicz as she has accepted a different position.
- c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (NCLWCA) - B. Jacowski - Benedict noted the Summer Tour will take place on Friday, August 12 in Florence County. Anyone wishing to attend should let Benedict know by August 4.
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership (CWWP) - B. Jacowski - No report.
- e. Portage County Drainage District - Splinter/Guth-Alternate - Commissioner interviews will begin in November.
- f. Mill creek Watershed - Splinter - No report.
- g. Farmer Led Councils - Guth - Guth reported discussions at a Farmers for Tomorrow meeting included a tar spot issue in the state and drone spraying taking place.
- h. Central sands Groundwater County Coalition (SCGCC) - Weaver - No report.

CORRESPONDENCE

Peterson made a clarification relating to an article that appeared in a local newspaper. He stated a well replacement on his farm was not done due to high nitrates.

11. Village of Nelsonville Resolution #2022-01

12. Portage County for Clean Water: Two Efforts for Groundwater Monitoring Around Nelsonville - They're Different

VOUCHERS

13. Review Vouchers, Purchases, and Procurement Card Charges

Vouchers, purchases, and procurement card charges were reviewed.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 6, at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Barry Jacowski, seconded by Mike Splinter, to adjourn. Motion to adjourn carried by voice vote, with no negative votes. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 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.