



PORTAGE COUNTY

MEETING MINUTES

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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

Tuesday, October 4, 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: 239 455 263 345, 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

1. NOTE: Should the County Board meeting run past 7:00 p.m., the Land and Water Conservation Committee meeting will begin following adjournment of the County Board meeting.

The Land and Water Conservation Committee meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m.

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: Steve Bradley, Jen McNelly, Patty Benedict

Others Attending: In-person - County Executive John Pavelski and Executive Assistant Robin Falk; John Bertelson Jr., Tarion O'Carroll, Ken Schroeder, Kirstie Heidenreich, Katrina Shankland, Kirk Langoss, Pete Arntsen, Ray Reser, Lisa and Tor Anderson, Amberle Schwartz (Others attending did not sign attendance sheet.)

Attending Remotely: Wyatt Puent, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Damage; Andrea Topper, Carolyn Pralle, HB, Clark Cortez

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.

Tor Anderson registered to speak.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Approval of September 6, 2022 Minutes

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

REPORTS

3. Presentation: Available Water Quality Programs - Assembly District 71 Representative Katrina Shankland

Representative Katrina Shankland presented a new program through DNR with options for repair, replacement, reconstruction, treatment, or abandonment of contaminated private wells, and mentioned additional resources: State Safe Drinking Water Loan Program, Portage County WATER Project (Well Owner Assistance for Treatment and Economic Recovery), 2021 Wisconsin Act 223, and State Well Compensation Grant Program.

4. Presentation: Central Wisconsin Nutrient Management Consortium - Kirstie Heidenreich and Kirk Langfoss, Marathon County Conservation, Planning & Zoning Department

Kirstie Heidenreich and Kirk Langfoss provided information on the basics of nutrient management and extended an invitation to join the five county Nutrient Management Farmer Education and Training Program (NMFET), which provides classroom instruction and assistance to farmers in developing a nutrient management plan. An action item will be on the November LWCC agenda.

5. Water Resources Report - Jen McNelly, Water Resource Specialist

A written report was provided in members' packets.

6. Quarterly Budget Report

Quarterly budget reports for Land & Water Conservation and the Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership (CWWP) were included in members' packets.

7. COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS
 - a. Lakes Management Districts - Peterson
 - b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development - 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

COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

- a. Lakes Management Districts-Peterson - No report.
- b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development-Bradley - Bradley reported the September 15 meeting included the introduction of the new Executive Director, Kendra Kunding. They announced RC&D's 50th anniversary celebration will take place on October 15 at District 1 Brewing Company. Two new employees, through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), have been hired. RC&D will continue to provide contracted services for the regional Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) program.
- c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (NCLWCA)-B. Jacowski - No report.
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership (CWWP)-B. Jacowski - A meeting will be scheduled in November.
- e. Portage County Drainage District-Splinter/Guth-Alternate -A meeting will take place in November.
- f. Mill Creek Watershed-Splinter - No report.
- g. Farmer Led Councils-Guth - No report.
- h. Central Sands Groundwater County Coalition (CSGCC)-Weaver - No report.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

8. Discussion/Possible Action - Wildlife Damage Program Crop Prices

Puent explained he took monthly crop prices over the year and used the average to arrive at the suggested prices. He works with growers to determine prices for the specialty crops. He recommended a harvest cut off date of December 1. A motion was made by Barry Jacowski, seconded by Mike A. Olson, to approve prices as submitted. Motion to approve prices as submitted carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

9. Discussion/Possible Action - 2023 Wildlife Damage Program Budget

Puent explained the County is reimbursed in full by the DNR for expenses and receives reimbursement up to \$1,500 for the County to administer the program. A motion was made by Barry Jacowski, seconded by Mike Splinter, to approve the budget as presented. Motion to approve the budget as presented carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

10. Discussion/Possible Action - Agreement to Participate in Wildlife Damage Venison Donation Program

A motion was made by Barry Jacowski, seconded by Catherine Guth, to approve participation in the Wildlife Damage Venison Donation Program. Motion to approve participation in the Wildlife Damage Venison Donation Program carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

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

A motion was made by Lionel Weaver, seconded by Mike Splinter, to bring to the floor. Motion to bring to the floor carried by voice vote, with no negative votes. Bradley referred to the memos in the meeting packets. The Groundwater Citizens Advisory Committee (GCAC) prioritized five items and added one item to the original list. McNelly stated GCAC requests prioritization of any action that will reduce nitrogen inputs. A motion was made by Lionel Weaver, seconded by Mike A. Olson, to request that GCAC designate a member

to participate in discussions at LWCC meetings. Motion to request that GCAC designate a member to participate in discussions at LWCC meetings carried by voice vote, with no negative votes. McNelly noted she extended an invitation at the last GCAC meeting but no one came forward. She will bring the request to GCAC again at their next meeting. A motion was made by Mike A. Olson, seconded by Barry Jacowski to postpone action on the list until the November meeting. Motion to postpone action on the list until the November meeting carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

12. Discussion/Possible Action - State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Grant Application for the Nelsonville Groundwater Monitoring Project

McNelly stated the application was submitted prior to the October 1 deadline. She reviewed the application, pointing out the LWCC can take action at this meeting and if any significant changes are necessary going through the approval process, it can be brought back to the Committee. Awards are expected January 1, 2023. A motion was made by Mike Splinter, seconded by Lionel Weaver, to approve. Motion to approve carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

13. Discussion/Possible Action - Water Testing Village of Nelsonville

There was discussion on completing another round of testing on the Village of Nelsonville wells that were tested in 2018. McNelly explained the process and data collected for the testing in 2018. A motion was made by Mike Splinter, seconded by Mike A. Olson, to instruct staff to bring back a cost and benefit proposal based on the 60 wells tested in 2018. The motion to instruct staff to bring back a cost and benefit proposal based on the 60 wells tested in 2018 passed by the following vote:

3 Yes: Barry Jacowski, Catherine Guth, David Peterson, Mike A. Olson, Mike Splinter

1 No: Lionel Weaver

0 Abstain: None

14. 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 - None.

Special meeting attendance reports - None.

CORRESPONDENCE

15. Poster Contest Promotional Flyer

The poster contest promotional flyer was included in the meeting packets. Benedict asked everyone to promote the conservation poster and speaking contests.

16. Grazing Article

The article was included in the meeting packets.

17. September Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Highlights

September AIS highlights were included in the meeting packets.

VOUCHERS

18. 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, November 1 at 7:00 p.m. A special meeting may be called if the water testing for the Village of Nelsonville item is time sensitive.

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 9:40 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.