



PORTAGE COUNTY

MEETING MINUTES

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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

Tuesday, December 6, 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: 276 354 460 915, 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: Barry Jacowski, Catherine Guth, Mike A. Olson, Lionel Weaver, David Peterson, Mike Splinter

Attending In-Person: All

Attending Online: None

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Attending in-person: Tim Reed, Steve Bradley, Jen McNelly, Gayle Stewart. Attending remotely: Patty Benedict

Others Attending: In-person - County Executive John Pavelski and Executive Assistant Robin Falk; Mildred Neville, Pete Arntsen, Taron O'Carroll, John Bertelson Jr, Ray Reser, Jim McKnight, Kyle Gordon, District 19 Supervisor Scott Soik

Attending Remotely: George Kraft, Jim Walker Maxwell, Jennifer Poyer, Sarah Ostrowski, Tor and Lisa Anderson, District 22 Supervisor Matt Jacowski

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of November 1, 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.

CORRESPONDENCE

2. DATCP November Report

The November DATCP report was included in packets. The December DATCP report was distributed at the meeting.

3. November Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Highlights

Included in packets.

4. George Kraft Memorandum

Discussion took place regarding the memorandum.

VOUCHERS

5. Review Vouchers, Purchases, and Procurement Card Charges

Vouchers, purchases, and procurement card charges were reviewed.

REPORTS

6. COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

- a. Lakes Management Districts-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 Districts-Peterson - Peterson relayed updates provided by Tracy Arnold. Lakes Helen and Jacqueline are updating their lake management plans, continuing with citizen-based water quality monitoring and entering data into the DNR database. There were blue green algae blooms this summer on Lake Helen. McDill Pond will meet on December 15. They are working on their 2023 weed harvesting and dredging plans. A Healthy Lakes and Rivers grant has been submitted for 2023. Four additional lake management plans are undergoing updates.
- b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)-Bradley - No report.
- c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (NCLWCA)-B. Jacowski - No report.
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership (CWWP)-B. Jacowski - B. Jacowski attended the November 3 meeting. The survival rate for plantings are good and the number of miles planted was up from 2021. Fees were increased for 2022 resulting in a profitable year.
- e. Portage County Drainage District-Splinter/Guth-Alternate - Guth reported the annual meeting took place in November. A new bridge was approved in the Town of Grant. The District prefers keeping one side of the ditches cleared. Landowners will be notified when the District plans to clear. They are attempting to get a grant from the DNR to remove dams on Ditch 8. A large amount of drain tile has been installed in the Town of Buena Vista resulting in too much water for the ditches to handle. The tax levy will remain at \$3.50 per acre. An agreement for a pilot trout habitat project in the Isherwood lateral was received. Guth requested a copy of the agreement and to be kept informed on the project. A new commissioner is to be appointed by the judge.
- f. Mill Creek Watershed-Splinter - Peterson attended a field day featuring nitrogen mitigation and erosion control efforts. The Farmers for Tomorrow will have a meeting in the spring.
- g. Farmer Led Councils-Guth - Guth reported the Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed Council and the Farmers for Tomorrow received grant funding.
- h. Central Sands Groundwater County Coalition (CSGCC)-Weaver - Weaver reported on the November 28 meeting. The State groundwater analysis is on track for a February release date. The CSGCC hopes to have the author of the report share the results at a meeting, possibly recording the meeting to allow access for anyone unable to attend.

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.

Mildred Neville, Pete Arntsen, Ray Reser, Jim McKnight and Kyle Gordon registered to speak.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION**7. Discussion/Possible Action - Village of Nelsonville Water Testing Proposal**

A motion was made by Lionel Weaver, seconded by Mike A. Olson, to bring to the floor for discussion. Motion to bring to the floor for discussion carried by voice vote, with no negative votes. A motion was made by Mike Splinter to proceed with the well testing proposal, whether or not it gets vetoed or not, and put it to a vote at this Committee now. Motion failed for lack of a second. A motion was made by Lionel Weaver, seconded by Mike A. Olson, to refer this matter to the Executive Operations Committee and Corporation Counsel's office to see if there has been a violation of the Open Meetings Laws.

The motion to refer this matter to the Executive Operations Committee and Corporation Counsel's office to see if there has been a violation of the Open Meetings Laws failed by the following vote:

3 Yes: Mike A. Olson, Lionel Weaver, Mike Splinter
3 No: Barry Jacowski, Catherine Guth, David Peterson
0 Abstain: None

8. Discussion/Possible Action - Village of Nelsonville Water Monitoring Project

A motion was made by Barry Jacowski, seconded by Splinter that this committee pass a resolution that the Nelsonville monitoring wells be funded from the Fiscal Recovery grants. Barry Jacowski distributed a sample resolution. Action is not possible on the resolution as supporting documentation was not provided at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. Barry Jacowski amended his motion to hold a special meeting to take action on the resolution, seconded by Splinter. It was pointed out the committee chair has the authority to call a special meeting; a motion is not necessary. Barry Jacowski withdrew his motion, Mike Splinter withdrew his second to the motion.

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

A motion was made by Mike A. Olson, seconded by Catherine Guth, to send the list of Action Items/Recommendations to the Planning and Zoning Committee to pursue consideration. Motion to send the list of Action Items/Recommendations to the Planning and Zoning Committee to pursue consideration carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

10. 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 - None

Approval of attendance of special meetings - None

Special meeting attendance reports - None

NEXT MEETING DATE

A special meeting was scheduled for Thursday, December 8 at 2:00 p.m.. The next regular LWCC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 3 at 5:00 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 8:49 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.