



# PORTAGE COUNTY

## MEETING MINUTES

### LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

PORTAGE COUNTY ANNEX  
CONFERENCE ROOMS 5  
1462 STRONGS AVENUE  
STEVENS POINT, WI 54481

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Tuesday, January 3, 2023

5:00 PM

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#### REMOTE ATTENDANCE & COMMENT

To attend this meeting by telephone : dial 1-872-242-7813 after dialing the number you will then be asked to enter in a meeting number. Use the following meeting number: 873 487 994, 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](mailto: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 5:09 p.m. by Vice Chair Barry Jacowski.

Members Present: Barry Jacowski, Mike A. Olson, Lionel Weaver, Mike Splinter, David Peterson arrived at 5:55 p.m.

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

Attending Online: Catherine Guth

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Attending: Tim Reed, Jen McNelly, Steve Bradley, Patty Benedict.

Others Attending: Josh Stozenburg, John Bertelson Jr., Christe Greening, Mildred Neville, George Kraft, Jim McKnight, Todd Stitley, Ray Reser, Pete Arntsen, Amberle Schwartz

Attending Remotely: Wyatt Puent, Jenny Larsen, Sally Prideaux, Jennifer Prideaux, Jim Walker, Joan Honl, Patrick Quigley, Paul Klein, Maxwell, Nola Knight, Mark Brueggeman, Al Haga, Jerry, Kim Krupka, Rick Wilke, Lynn Markham

#### CONSERVATION POSTER AND SPEAKING CONTESTS

##### 1. Announce Poster Contest Results

Benedict announced the winners of the poster contest: Elementary Division (Grades 2-3): 1st place - Madeline McNelly; 2nd place - Maycie Ostrowski. Middle Division (Grades 4-6): 1st place - Pearl Carriveau; 2nd place - Collin Lockman. Junior Division (Grades 7-9): 1st place - Johanna Polarek; 2nd place - Elsa Ferkett; 3rd place, Brenna Lockman. Senior Division (Grades 10-12) - 1st place - Kaelynn Kazda; 2nd place - Kjersten Kazda. First place winners advance to the Area Contest to be held on January 26 in Marathon County.

##### 2. Speaking Contest

Via video, Katelyn McNelly performed her speech, "Is Solar Power A Good Conservation Tool?". Katelyn took first place and will represent Portage County at the Area Speaking Contest on January 26, hosted by Marathon County.

#### 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.**

The following in-person attendees spoke: Josh Stolzenburg, Mildred Neville, George Kraft, Jim McKnight, Todd Stitley, Ray Reser, Pete Arntsen, Amberle Schwartz. The following remote attendees spoke: Sally Prideaux, Mark Brueggeman, Paul Klein, and an unidentified person. An item will be included on the next meeting agenda to identify who submits correspondence. A request was made to have George Kraft's comments regarding the Farm Bureau Newsletter article added to the meeting packet after the fact.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**3. Approval of December 6, 2022 Minutes**

A motion was made by Mike Splinter, seconded by Mike A. Olson, to approve. Lionel Weaver proposed a technical amendment and proposed to add specific supervisor statements. A motion was made by Mike Splinter, seconded by Mike A. Olson, to amend the minutes as proposed by Lionel Weaver. Vice Chair Barry Jacowski stated the motion to amend the minutes is out of line. No vote was taken. The motion to approve passed by the following vote:

3 Yes: Barry Jacowski, Catherine Guth, Mike Splinter

2 No: Mike A. Olson, Lionel Weaver

1 Abstain: David Peterson

**CORRESPONDENCE****4. Matt & Sara Hintz Letter of Participation Upper Fox-Wolf Demonstration Farm Network**

Bradley explained the project and distributed copies of the Fox-Wolf Demonstration Farm Network Annual Report. It was decided that Bradley will sign and send the letter to the Hintz's.

**5. Farm Bureau Newsletter**

Catherine Guth submitted the newsletter article, and was approved to be included in the packets by Chair David Peterson.

**6. Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association Annual Conference**

Benedict requested that LWCC members that want to attend the conference let her know. She will submit registrations and make reservations for lodging.

**VOUCHERS****7. Review Vouchers, Purchases, and Procurement Card Charges**

Vouchers, purchases and procurement card charges were reviewed.

**REPORTS****8. 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 - No report.

b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)-Bradley - Bradley reported the 2023 grant for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) has been funded.

c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (NCLWCA) - B. Jacowski - The poster and speaking contests and business meeting will take place on January 26.

d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership (CWWP) - B. Jacowski - No report.

e. Portage County Drainage District-Splinter/Guth-Alternate - Guth reported the judge has not appointed a commissioner yet.

f. Mill Creek Watershed-Splinter - Splinter attended the Friends of Mill Creek (FOMC) Watershed meeting on January 2. A quorum was not present, so elections could not take place. Chloride testing is taking place with the Izaak Walton League, FOMC, Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed Council (FMCWC), and county staff assisting going forward. The FMCWC did a presentation featuring their activities, including the Prairie Chicken Festival in April, youth education days, and adoption of the Paul J. Olson wildlife area.

g. Farmer Led Councils-Guth - Guth reported the Farmers for Tomorrow have a meeting scheduled for February 9.

h. Central Sands Groundwater County Coalition (CSGCC)-Weaver - No report.

**9. Quarterly Budget Reports - LWCD & CWWP**

The quarterly budget reports were included in packets.

**DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION****10. Discussion/Possible Action - Wildlife Damage Program Claims**

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

**11. Discussion/Possible Action - State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Grant Application - Nelsonville Water Quality Monitoring Well Project Increase**

A motion was made by Barry Jacowski, seconded by Mike Splinter, to approve with numbers corrected by staff. Motion to approve with numbers corrected by staff carried by voice vote, with no negative votes. McNelly and Reed explained this application addresses a shortage of funds due to increased labor and material costs as well as providing an additional two years of monitoring. The grant applications were submitted to meet the January 1 deadline. The amount being requested is \$118,116.

**12. Discussion/Possible Action - State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Grant Application - Nelsonville Water Quality Retesting Project**

A motion was made by Barry Jacowski, seconded by Mike Splinter, to approve. Motion to approve carried by voice vote, with no negative votes. McNelly explained the 2018 residential well testing would be replicated in the fall 2023, including source testing on 20 wells or more if needed. The project cost is \$15,000.

**13. Discussion/Possible Action - Evaluation and Prioritization of Land and Water Conservation Division Programs**

Reed explained the Finance Committee requested prioritization of all programs within the Department, noting land and water programs are mandated. County Executive Pavelski commented a breakdown of costs for each program and the amount of grant funding and levy used may be information that should be provided in the future as the process moves forward.

**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 - None.

Approval of attendance of special meetings - Special meeting attendance forms were submitted by: Lionel Weaver attending the Central Sands Groundwater County Coalition on November 28, 2022 (reported at December's LWCC meeting); Barry Jacowski attending the Village of Nelsonville Water Quality Committee meeting on December 20; Mike Splinter attending the Friends of Mill Creek Watershed annual meeting on January 2, 2023. A motion was made by Barry Jacowski, seconded by Mike A. Olson, to approve. Motion to approve carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

Special meeting attendance reports - Reports were given previously during the meeting.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 7, 2023 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 7:08 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.*