



PORTAGE COUNTY

MEETING MINUTES

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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

Tuesday, April 4, 2023

7:00 PM

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: 272 188 716 461, then press #

To attend this meeting by video: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

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: Barry Jacowski, Lionel Weaver, David Peterson, Mike Splinter

Attending Online: Catherine Guth, Mike A. Olson

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Attending In-person: Tim Reed, Steve Bradley, Patty Benedict. Remote: Dan O'Connell

Others Attending In-person: John Pavelski, County Executive; Pat Shulfer, Tarion O'Carroll, Pete Arntsen, Tor Anderson, Mildred Neville, Al Jastromski, John Eron, Mark Brueggeman, George Kraft, Ray Reser, John Bertelson Jr., Jim McKnight, Amberle Schwartz, Paul Cieslewicz, Kyle Gordon, Scott Soik

Attending Remotely: Jim, Kim, James Walker; Joining at 8:00 p.m. - Andrew Craig, Terry Kafka

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of March 7, 2023 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

Copies of the March Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Highlights from Golden Sands RC&D and the April DATCP report were distributed.

2. Central Sands Groundwater County Coalition Research Study Results Meeting Information

A flyer was included in meeting packets with information for a presentation on the research study results.

VOUCHERS

3. Review Vouchers, Purchases, and Procurement Card Charges

Vouchers, purchases, and procurement card charges were reviewed.

REPORTS

4. Quarterly Budget Reports

Quarterly budget reports were included in meeting packets.

5. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

District Conservationist Roy Diver was unable to attend. He plans to provide a report at the May meeting.

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. Farmer Led Councils-Guth
- h. Central Sands Groundwater County Coalition (SCGCC)-Weaver

a. Lakes Management Districts-Peterson - Peterson read a report provided by Tracy Arnold, Conservation Technician. Lake Helen and Lake Jacqueline - launching the resident survey for the lake management plan update, continuing with citizen-based water quality monitoring efforts, and multiple board members are attending the Lakes Convention through Extension Lakes. McDill Pond - The City of Stevens Point approved the lake management plan with a couple more approvals needed, continuing to plan for summer weed harvesting and dredging. The Lake and Rivers Convention will be held in Stevens Point April 19-21.

b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)-Bradley - Bradley reported a meeting took place on March 16. The 2023 budget was approved. The Forestry/Agriculture/Wildlife Committee is looking into partnering with the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Technical Assistance Project to approve financing for grazing plans. AIS Coordinators have been making outreach appearances at various events. Reimbursement for the 2022 AIS grant has been submitted to the DNR. Hiring is taking place for the Clean Boats/Clean Waters program. Golden Sands and Lumberjack RC&Ds approved contracting with Grassworks to hire a part-time regenerative agricultural specialist.

c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (NCLWCA)-B. Jacowski -Benedict reported Portage County will host the Spring virtual meeting in May.

d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership (CWWP)-B. Jacowski - The next meeting is April 6 at 9:00 a.m. at the Hancock Agricultural Research Station.

e. Portage County Drainage District-Splinter/Guth-Alternate - No report.

f. Farmer Led Councils-Guth - Guth reported the Farmers for Tomorrow held a clinic at Guth Farms on March 31, with approximately 35 people attending. John Eron reported the Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed Council (FMCWC) has partnered with Clean Green Action to host the Central Wisconsin Prairie Chicken Festival on Sunday, April 16 at Eron's Event Barn. The event is open to the public. Breakfast will be served from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Eron stated the FMCWC has adopted the Paul J. Olson Wildlife Area and will work on controlling the wild parsnip infestation. He provided an update on the Mill Creek chloride situation.

h. Central Sands Groundwater County Coalition (CSGCC)-Weaver - Weaver reported the nitrate study presentation is Thursday, April 6.

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 spoke on agenda items: Pat Shulfer, Pete Arntsen, Tor Anderson, Mildred Neville, Al Jastromski, John Eron, Mark Brueggeman, George Kraft, Ray Reser, Jim McKnight, Amberle Schwartz, Paul Cieslewicz, Kyle Gordon

DISCUSSION

7. Village of Nelsonville Well Locations

A memo was provided in meeting packets with the most recent proposed well locations. Reed said updates will be provided to the LWCC as needed at future meetings. He reported the contract with the well driller has been signed. Staff will meet with the well driller to determine whether the proposed locations are accessible. Well installations are anticipated for the beginning of May.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

8. Discussion/Possible Action - Nelsonville 9 Key Element Plan

Andrew Craig, DNR Nonpoint Source Watershed Planning Coordinator, provided information on a 9 Key Element watershed based plan focusing on groundwater restoration for the Nelsonville area. A map was included in meeting packets with the approximate area. He explained the timeframe for the plan is between 10 and 20 years. Monitoring is one of the nine elements, which aligns with the monitoring wells to be installed. Having a 9 Key Element plan allows the opportunity to apply for Federal or State grants to implement practices to improve water quality. A motion was made by Mike A. Olson, seconded initially by Mike Splinter, who withdrew his second and was subsequently seconded by Lionel Weaver, to postpone until January 2024 and focus on getting the monitoring wells installed. The motion to postpone until January 2024 and focus on getting the monitoring wells installed 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

Reed explained the LWCC is being asked to allow staff to develop a 9 Key Element Plan over an approximate 12 month period. A motion was made by Mike Splinter, seconded by Lionel Weaver, to postpone until the May LWCC meeting for more staff input. Motion

to postpone until the May LWCC meeting for more staff input carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

9. Discuss/Possible Action – Adopting and Enacting Portage County Ordinance Section 7.12, Weed Commissioner and Noxious Weeds

A motion was made by Barry Jacowski, seconded by Mike Splinter, to adopt with an amendment under Enforcement and Penalties (a), replacing Portage County Planning and Zoning Director with Portage County Land and Water Conservation Committee. The motion to adopt with an amendment under Enforcement and Penalties (a), replacing Portage County Planning and Zoning Director with Portage County Land and Water Conservation Committee 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

The resolution and ordinance will go before the County Board in May.

10. Discussion/Possible Action - Soil and Water Resource Management Grant Application

An explanation of the grant application was provided by Bradley. A motion was made by Barry Jacowski, seconded by Catherine Guth, to approve. Motion to approve carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

11. Discussion/Possible Action - Cost-Share Projects

Bradley explained the cost-share projects. A motion was made by Barry Jacowski, seconded by Mike Splinter, to approve. Motion to approve carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

12. Discussion and 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 - B. Jacowski requested to attend the Central Sands Groundwater County Coalition research study results presentation in Marquette County on April 6.

Approval of attendance of special meetings - None.

Special meeting attendance reports - Peterson and B. Jacowski reported on the sessions they attended at the WI Land+Water Conservation Association annual conference March 1-3.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 2 at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Rooms 1 and 2, County Annex.

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. The meeting adjourned at 9:07 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.