



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (LCC) MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026**

A. Call to Order

Convene:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Farrey at 9:02am

Present:

- **LCC Members:** Bruce Bohn (on MS Teams, not voting), Chuck Farrey, Kristl Laux, Timothy Macho, Doug Nelson, Dan Stokes & Doug Zellmer
- **LWCD Staff:** Chad Casper, Jody Bezio
- **Other(s) present:** Levi Schultz, NRCS, Trevor Pike, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services
- **Absent:** None

B. Approval of Minutes

1. January 5, 2026, Meeting Minutes

*A **STOKES / ZELLMER motion** to approve the minutes passed 6-0*

C. Public Comments on Agenda Items

None

D. Agency Reports

Levi Schultz, NRCS, shared an FAQ document on the new Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP). States will set aside 25 percent of EQIP and CSP financial assistance funding for the program, which reallocates existing funds rather than providing new funding. The program is structured similarly to the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). RPP is a multi-year program that includes soil testing at the beginning and end to evaluate soil health outcomes. Some of the eligible practices include cover crops, prescribed grazing, nutrient management, no-till and strip-till practices, etc.

E. Director's Report

1. WI Land+Water Annual Conference

Director Casper reminded the LCC that the Annual Wisconsin Land + Water Conference will be held March 4–6 in Wisconsin Dells. The conference is hosted by the state organization and brings together both Land Conservation Committee (LCC) members and Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) staff.

2. Advancing Markets for Producers Grant

Director Casper provided an update on the former Climate Smart Grant, which was terminated by the federal government last year and has since been rebranded as the Advancing Markets for Producers (AMP) Grant. The grant award for the region is approximately \$3–3.5 million, although the contract has not yet been finalized. The Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance (FWWA) will receive and fully administer the grant, including program

enrollment, contracts, cost-share payments, and overall fund management. County staff will provide outreach and design services. Counties may bill farmers for engineering and technical services, which can be 100 percent reimbursed to the farmer by FWWA through the grant. Funding across multiple counties in the region will be allocated by FWWA on a first-come, first-served basis and is expected to be expended quickly. Director Casper briefly discussed potential projects in which Winnebago County might be interested in seeking funding.

3. Muddy Bottom Farmers

Director Casper informed the committee that the Muddy Bottom Farmers (MBF) Producer-Led Group, with assistance from LWCD staff, applied for and received a 2026 grant award of \$11,000 from DATCP. This is the third year of grant funding received by the MBF. Currently, MBF operations are focused on the northern portion of the county, and the group is working with DATCP to obtain approval to expand their activities countywide.

4. Farmer Roundtable

Director Casper reminded the committee of the upcoming Farmer Roundtable. The Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance leads the event, and Winnebago County LWCD is one of the planning partners. The Oshkosh session will be held at Brighton Acres on Thursday, February 5.

5. Poster Contest

Director Casper announced the results of the regional Conservation Poster Contest. Winnebago County submitted four entries across four age categories, with two posters advancing to the state contest in March. Both advancing students are from the Winneconne School District, in the Grades 2–3 and Grades 7–9 categories.

F. Committee Chair's Report

None.

G. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. Review and Approve 2025 Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP) Participant Claims

Trevor Pike, USDA Wildlife Services, reviewed three claims submitted for 2025 wildlife damage. Following a brief discussion of program requirements for participating farmers and the USDA's recommendations regarding claim approval, the committee presented the following motions.

- A **ZELLMER/NELSON motion to approve the claim from Ronald Bahn (Town of Nepeuskun) for \$5,205.74 passed 6-0.**
- A **STOKES/NELSON motion to approve the claim from Robert Walter (Town of Oshkosh) for \$3,835.53 passed 6-0.**
- A **NELSON/ZELLMER motion to deny the claim from James Fischer (Town of Wolf River) for \$2,489.88 passed 6-0.**

2. Review and Approve NR 151/ATCP 50 Implementation/Compliance Notification Letters

Director Casper reviewed two NR 151 Agricultural Performance Standards compliance letters for projects funded through the Multi-Discharger Variance (MDV) Program. The projects include a grassed waterway and wetland restoration for Marohn Farms, and two waterways and stream crossings for Gary Coll. Director Casper explained that, pursuant to state law, the projects are now in compliance and the letters inform the landowner that they must remain in compliance. A **LAUX/STOKES motion to approve the letters passed 6-0.**

3. Report on the Butte des Morts Conservation Club Offshore Breakwall Project
Director Casper updated the LCC on the Samer's Bay Breakwall Project, including a review of a site map, completed breakwalls, and planned winter installations. The site is adjacent to Terrell's Island, and Director Casper provided a brief overview of the history of that location and its existing breakwall. Casper also reviewed project funding, including a \$440,000 grant that expires at the end of March; at least this portion of the project must be completed this winter to retain the grant. Construction requires 18–21 inches of ice, which conditions are currently approaching, and work could begin as early as next week.
4. Action Item - LWCD Spirit Fund Program Cost-Share Agreements (CSAs) – SFP-BMP-26-02, Butte des Morts Conservation Club Inc. Streambank and Shoreline Protection Project & SFP-BMP-26-03, Kathryn Fingal & William Woolcott Well Abandonment Project
Following a review of the CSAs and a brief discussion regarding well abandonment funding, the following motions were presented by the committee:
 - A **NELSON/ZELLMER motion** to approve CSA SFP-BMP-26-02 Butte des Morts Conservation Club Inc, Streambank and Shoreline Protection Project **passed 6-0.**
 - A **ZELLMER/NELSON motion** to approve CSA SFP-BMP-26-03 Kathryn Fingal & William Woolcott Well Abandonment **passed 6-0.**
5. Review Land & Water Conservation Department Project Lists
The LCC reviewed and acknowledged the new projects on the lists.

H. Adjourn

*A **STOKES / LAUX motion** made to adjourn the meeting at 9:50am passed 6-0.*

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