



Winnebago County
The Wave of the Future

**LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (LCC) MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 4, 2026**

A. Call to Order

Chairman Macho called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Members Present: 7 - Chairman Tim Macho, Supervisor Andy Buck, Supervisor Tanya Keech, Supervisor Devin Moonin, Supervisor Doug Nelson, Citizen Member Bruce Bohn, Citizen Member Dan Stokes. Excused: None

Also Present at the Meeting:

Chad Casper, LWCD Director, Jody Bezio, LWCD Administrative Associate, Levi Schultz, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Tea Jay Hobbs, Oshkosh Resident

via TEAMS:

Supervisor Kristl Laux

Michael

Joe Smith

B. Approval of Minutes

*A **STOKES / BUCK** motion to approve the minutes **passed 4-0**. Abstain: Keech, Moonin, Nelson*

1. April 6, 2026, Meeting Minutes

C. Public Comments on Agenda Items

Tea Jay Hobbs, an Oshkosh resident, addressed the committee and requested that Winnebago County consider implementing a moratorium on AI data centers.

D. Agency Reports

Levi Schultz, of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), introduced himself to new members and provided a brief background of the agency and its purpose. Schulz reported that there were no program updates at this time.

E. Director's Report

Director Casper updated the committee on the following items.

1. Lake Winnebago Land & Water Conservation Association Meeting
Director Casper shared information and invitations for the June 5th statewide training for Land Conservation Committee members to be held at the Coughlin Center in Oshkosh. The training is hosted by the state association, Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WI Land+Water). This is a joint meeting with Lake Winnebago Land and Water Conservation Association (LWLWCA) and the Lake Michigan Area Association.
2. Fox-Wolf Summit

Director Casper announced that the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance (FWWA) will host a first-time summit on May 14th to showcase regional conservation efforts to business executives, government officials, and other stakeholders, and invited Land Conservation Committee members to attend.

3. Multi-Discharger Variance

Director Casper informed the committee that the final report for the department's last MDV projects was submitted to the DNR, and he is awaiting confirmation of its approval.

4. Flood Damage Assessments

Director Casper reported that several LWCD staff are assisting the Emergency Management Department with flood damage assessments in the Wolf River area. He also noted that, as floodwaters recede, the LWCD is receiving increased calls regarding erosion damage. The committee briefly discussed flood damage and conservation practices that could improve future flood resilience.

F. Committee Chair's Report

Chairman Macho shared that he had received several communications expressing concerns about AI data centers and noted that some counties have enacted moratoriums while developing regulations, referencing recent action in Manitowoc County. Director Casper stated that the LWCD/LCC does not have zoning authority over data centers and that regulatory oversight would likely fall under Planning and Zoning or local town governments, though environmental concerns could involve the committee.

Committee discussion included potential impacts on water use, utilities, noise, economic development, jobs, farmland, and facility life expectancy. Supervisor Buck shared observations from his professional experience with large data centers in southern Wisconsin, noting that facilities vary significantly in design and impact and are often subject to misinformation regarding their operation and effects.

G. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. Welcome New LCC Members, Review LCC Information and LWCD Programs and Responsibilities

Director Casper welcomed new and returning members to the committee and provided an overview of the Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) and Land Conservation Committee (LCC), including statistics of the water in Winnebago County, impaired water status on the DNR's 303(d) list, and the structure of the LWCD and LCC under Wisconsin Chapter 92 (Soil and Water Conservation Law). Casper shared a WI Land+Water training video introducing LCC members to Chapter 92 and reviewed additional available training resources. He also reviewed the County's Land & Water Resource Management Plan (2021–2030), the regional Winnebago Waterways Lake Management Plan, and cost-share programs administered by the LCC, and briefly discussed conservation practices utilized by the LWCD, including structural best management practices, soil health practices, and agricultural performance standards.

Supervisor Nelson shared concerns regarding wake boats on the Winnebago Lake System, including potential impacts related to legacy phosphorus and the lack of state regulations addressing the issue.

2. Discussion on the Advancing Markets for Producers Grant and Conservation Services Fee
Director Casper reviewed the history of the Advancing Markets for Producers (AMP) grant, noting the program provides 100% cost-share to farmers but no administrative reimbursement to the department, prompting consideration of a technical services fee to cover engineering and administrative costs. Following discussion, the committee supported continued development of the proposal and requested Director Casper return in June with a formal recommendation.
3. Winnebago County Water Quality Improvement Program Cost-Share Agreements (CSAs) – 26-01, Bryan & Elizabeth Stephans, Waterway System Project, 26-02, Daniel & Jane Rieckmann, Riparian Buffer Project & 26-03, Mark Lemke Living Trust Rain Garden Project,
*Following a review of the CSAs, a **BUCK / STOKES motion** to approve CSAs: 26-01, Bryan & Elizabeth Stephans, Waterway System Project, 26-02, Daniel & Jane Rieckmann, Riparian Buffer Project, and 26-03, Mark Lemke Living Trust Rain Garden Project **passed 7-0.***
4. Winnebago County Land & Water Conservation Department Spirit Fund Program Cost-Share Agreements (CSAs) – SFP-SH-26-01, Dan Rieckmann Cover Crops and No-till Practices, SFP-CB-26-01, Daniel & Jane Rieckmann Riparian Buffer Project
*Following a review of the CSAs, a **NELSON / BOHN motion** to approve CSAs: SFP-SH-26-01, Dan Rieckmann Cover Crops & No-till Practices, and SFP-CB-26-01, Daniel & Jane Rieckmann Riparian Buffer Project **passed 7-0.***
5. Review Land & Water Conservation Department Project Lists
The LCC reviewed and acknowledged the new projects on the lists.

H. Adjourn

*A **NELSON / BUCK motion** made to adjourn the meeting at 4:31 p.m. **passed 7-0.***

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