



**LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (LCC) MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2026**

A. Call to Order

Chairman Macho called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Members Present (6): Bruce Bohn, Andy Buck, Tanya Keech, Timothy Macho, Doug Nelson, Dan Stokes
Absent (1): Devin Moonin

Also Present at the Meeting: Chad Casper, LWCD Director, Jody Bezio, LWCD Administrative Associate, Katie Woodrow, Watershed Recovery Director Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance (FWWA), Spencer Stokes, Citizen, FOX11 News

via TEAMS: Supervisor Kristl Laux, Supervisor Frank Frassetto, Michael Miller

B. Confirm meeting/agenda has been properly public noticed in accordance with County policy.

Chairman Macho confirmed with Director Casper that the meeting had been properly public noticed.

C. Approval of Minutes

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

1. May 4, 2026 Meeting Minutes

D. Public Comments on Agenda Items

Restricted to Items on the Agenda with a Limit of Two Minutes per Person

None

E. Agency Reports

None.

F. Director's Report

1. Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant

Director Casper reported on ongoing efforts to secure funding for the Lake Poygan breakwall and wetland restoration project, including an \$875,000 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant application in partnership with the DNR. Casper noted that cost-sharing funds from the County and Spirit Fund Programs are being used as matching funds to leverage additional grant funding that would not otherwise be available.

Director Casper reviewed a map of the project and informed the LCC that construction of breakwall segments 4 and 5 is anticipated in summer 2027, contingent upon funding.

2. North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grant

Director Casper reported on ongoing efforts to secure funding for the Lake Poygan breakwall and wetland restoration project, including a \$250,000 North American Wetlands Conservation

Act (NAWCA) grant application through Ducks Unlimited. Casper noted that cost-sharing funds from the County and Spirit Fund Programs are being used as matching funds to leverage additional grant funding that would not otherwise be available.

Director Casper reviewed a map of the project and informed the LCC that construction of breakwall segments 4 and 5 is anticipated in summer 2027, contingent upon funding.

3. Winnebago Waterways Executive Committee

Director Casper informed the LCC of ongoing discussions regarding a proposed change to the governance structure of the Winnebago Waterways Executive Committee, which was established through an intergovernmental agreement among Winnebago, Fond du Lac, Calumet, and Waushara counties. Casper reported that Calumet County has proposed dismantling the Executive Committee and transitioning oversight of the program to the Steering Committee, which is comprised of LWCD staff. The Executive Committee is currently comprised of the County Executives/Administrators, County Board Chairs, and LCC Chairs from each participating county. Casper noted that Executive Hintz plans to meet with the other county administrators and executives to discuss the proposal before any further action is taken.

4. GPS Survey Equipment

Director Casper informed the LCC that the department's two GPS survey units, purchased in 2018, are experiencing performance issues due to age and outdated technology. Casper indicated that approximately \$20,000 will be included in the 2027 budget to replace the units and noted that the department anticipates receiving approximately \$20,000 in one-time grant revenue in 2027.

G. Committee Chair's Report

1. Ongoing Discussion on Data Centers Impact on our Land and Water

Chairman Macho opened the floor for public and committee comment regarding data centers. Attendees shared concerns related to energy demands, renewable and alternative energy sources, employment opportunities, taxpayer burden, and potential economic and environmental impacts.

Director Casper informed the committee that he spoke with Executive Hintz and the County has also started initial conversations with Planning & Zoning and Corporation Counsel regarding data centers. Casper also reminded the LCC that Winnebago County only has zoning authority in four townships, with the remaining twelve governed by their own local zoning.

Chairman Macho emphasized the importance of the County remaining proactive and the need to continue gathering information to inform County discussions on this topic, including supporting and informing other municipalities.

H. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. Report on the Winnebago Waterways Program by Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance

Katie Woodrow, Watershed Recovery Director with the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance (FWWA), provided a presentation on the organization and the Winnebago Waterways program. Topics included an overview of what constitutes a watershed, the makeup of the Fox-Wolf Basin and how water moves through the basin, watershed partnerships, and the importance of water quality to our local area. Woodrow highlighted sediment and phosphorus as primary water quality concerns and discussed contributing sources, including stormwater, wastewater, and agricultural runoff, as well as related actions and funding efforts. Woodrow

presented the FWWA 2026 Impact Report and reviewed key data from the Winnebago Waterways system.

Director Casper reported that Winnebago County contributes \$20,000 annually to the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance (FWWA) to support regional watershed initiatives, including the Winnebago Waterways program. He noted that this local investment helps leverage additional grant funding, with the LWCD securing hundreds of thousands of dollars in additional grant revenue through the partnership.

2. Review and Approve the Land & Water Conservation Department Fee Schedule
Director Casper explained proposed updates to the department fee schedule to add a \$60 per hour "Technical Services Fee" related to Advancing Markets for Producers (AMP) grant projects, allowing the County to invoice producers for eligible engineering and technical assistance services. Producers are eligible for 100 percent reimbursement of these costs through the grant.

*Following a brief discussion, a **NELSON / BUCK motion** to approve the fee schedule as presented **passed 6-0**.*

Director Casper reported that he has drafted an agreement that is currently under review by Corporation Counsel. He noted that, once approved, the LWCD will be able to work with producers to submit grant applications.

3. Winnebago County Water Quality Improvement Program Cost-Share Agreements (CSAs) – 26-04, Kristin Halverson, Shoreline Habitat Restoration for Developed Areas and Rain Garden Projects
*Following a review of the CSAs, a **BUCK / STOKES motion** to approve CSA 26-04, Kristin Halverson, Shoreline Habitat Restoration for Developed Areas and Rain Garden Projects **passed 6-0**.*

4. Winnebago County Land & Water Conservation Department Spirit Fund Program Cost-Share Agreements (CSAs) – SFP-BMP-26-06, Kristin Halverson, Shoreline Habitat Restoration for Developed Areas and Rain Garden Projects
*Following a review of the CSAs, a **BUCK / STOKES motion** to approve CSA SFP-BMP-26-06, Kristin Halverson, Shoreline Habitat Restoration for Developed Areas and Rain Garden Projects **passed 6-0**.*

5. Review Land & Water Conservation Department Project Lists
The LCC reviewed and acknowledged the new projects on the lists.

I. Adjourn

*A **NELSON / BUCK motion** made to adjourn the meeting at 4:15 p.m. **passed 6-0**.*

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