



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (LCC) MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2025**

A. Call to Order

Convene:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Farrey at 9:01am

Present:

- **LCC Members:** Bruce Bohn (Teams), Chuck Farrey, Kristl Laux, Doug Nelson, Dan Stokes & Doug Zellmer
- **LWCD Staff:** Chad Casper, Jody Bezio
- **Other(s) present:** None
- **Absent:** Timothy Macho

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

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

C. Approval of Minutes

1. March 3, 2025, Meeting Minutes

*A **ZELLMER / STOKES** motion to approve the minutes passed 5-0*

D. Public Comments on Agenda Items

None.

E. Agency Reports

None.

F. Director's Report

1. Items for update:

- Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit
- Little Lake Butte des Morts Comprehensive Planning
- 2024 LWCD Annual Report

- **Director Casper provided an update on the County's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit.** Casper stated that moving forward the Highway Department will be hiring an outside consultant to handle the County's MS4 permit, but the process has been moving slowly, so the LWCD completed the required 2024 MS4 annual report and submitted it to the DNR.
- **Director Casper provided an update on the Little Lake Butte des Morts (LLBDM) Comprehensive Plan** which is a collaborative project initiated to address the

overgrowth of aquatic plants in LLBDM, a 1,234-acre body of water bordered by the Village of Fox Crossing, City of Menasha and City of Neenah in Winnebago County. Casper reported that after collecting a lot of public input, a comprehensive plan has been developed and submitted to the DNR for review.

- **Director Casper shared a draft of the LWCD's 2024 Annual Report.** Casper reminded the committee that the LWCD develops this report each year to showcase the conservation work completed. Casper stated that the final report will be available later in the week for the committee members to share publicly.

G. Committee Chair's Report

Chairman Farrey updated the committee on the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) Steering Committee meeting held on March 20 in Wisconsin Rapids. Farrey reported the agenda included an action item to address the lack of administrative rule specific to federal guidelines that have exemptions for ag practices. The committee unanimously approved the WCA to move forward on conversations with the DNR requesting Administrative Rules codify the Federal Code 33CFR 323 etc, which is the normal farming exemption. This gives the WCA approval to talk directly with DNR during this budget season.

H. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. Discuss and Approve the Land Conservation Committee monthly meeting time
*A **LAUX/FARREY** motion to change the monthly meeting time 9:00am to 10:00am was defeated due to lack of a unanimous vote.*
2. Discuss the support for increasing base funding for County Conservation Staffing Grants in the 2025-2027 State Biennial Budget
Chairman Farrey asked the committee members to contact their legislators to express their concerns in regard to base funding for county conservation staff in the state budget and make a request for additional funding in the next budget. Director Casper explained that historically conservation staffing has been underfunded by the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP). State statute recommends that the 1st position be funded at 100%, the 2nd position at 70%, the 3rd at 50% and every position after that at 50%, the state is currently meeting 46% of that goal right now. Casper reported that the WI Land+Water Association and the Counties Association are advocating for \$20.2 million of base funding in the proposed budget to fully fund conservation positions per the state statute guidelines. Director Casper's position is to support the state association and the Counties Association and ask for the \$20.2 million as the starting point for negotiations. Chairman Farrey reported that he has already contacted his legislator, Nate Gustafson who does not believe the legislature will take up the \$20 million request, and he recommends supporting what the Governor has asked for, which is \$15 million (which is a \$6 million increase from the current budget).
3. Review and Discuss the Winnebago County Land & Water Resource Management Plan Five-Year Review
Director Casper explained to the committee that Wisconsin law requires each county to have a land and water resource management plan that has been approved by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). The Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) reviews plans and recommends action to DATCP. Plans are reviewed by the LWCB in the fifth year, which is this year for Winnebago County. Director Casper shared the 2024 and 2025 Annual Work Plans and Winnebago's LWRM 5-Year Review with the committee. Casper reported that the next step is to present to the LWCB in June.

Following a review of the documents, a **NELSON/ZELLMER** motion to approve passed 5-0.

4. Action Item - LWCD Spirit Fund Program Cost-Share Agreements (CSAs) – SFP-BMP-25-06, Brian & Jennifer Leichtfuss, Well Abandonment
*Following a review of the CSAs, a **NELSON / STOKES** motion to approve CSA SFP-BMP-25-06, Brian & Jennifer Leichtfuss, Well Abandonment, passed 5-0.*
5. Review Land & Water Conservation Department Project Lists
The LCC reviewed and acknowledged the new projects on the lists.

I. Adjourn

*A **STOKES / NELSON** motion made to adjourn the meeting at 9:54am passed 5-0.*

[MIN_FOOT]