



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (LCC) MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2025**

A. Call to Order

Convene:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Farrey at 9:00am

Present:

- **LCC Members:** Bruce Bohn, Chuck Farrey, Kristl Laux, Timothy Macho, Doug Nelson, & Doug Zellmer
- **LWCD Staff:** Chad Casper, Jody Bezio
- **Other(s) present:** Levi Schultz, NRCS, Andy Berndt, NRCS, Erin Tomasik, Dairy Business Association (DBA)
- **Absent:** Dan Stokes

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. May 5, 2025, Meeting Minutes

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

D. Public Comments on Agenda Items

None.

E. Agency Reports

Levi Schultz, NRCS introduced Andy Berndt who is temporarily assigned as the District Conservationist for Outagamie and Winnebago counties (replacing Lynn Szulczewski, retired). Levi informed the LCC that there are Forest Service staff working out of the Winnebago County USDA office as part of the Federal Government's "return to office" initiative. Levi reported that the EQIP program is currently doing field-checks for no-till practices and completing random compliance checks as part of the Security Act. These checks are completed annually after planting is finished.

F. Director's Report

1. Land & Water Conservation Board, Land & Water Resource Management Plan 5-Year Review

Director Casper reported that he will be presenting to the State Land & Water Conservation Board in Madison tomorrow (June 3) as part of the five-year review of Winnebago County's Land and Water Resource Management Plan (LWRMP). Chairman Farrey will be attending the meeting virtually. Casper reminded the LCC that the LWRMP is a 10-year plan that is tied to the staffing and cost-sharing money allocated from the state to the LWCD.

2. Off-shore Breakwall Project updates

Director Casper updated the LCC on three ongoing breakwall projects and answered multiple questions about the design of the breakwalls as well as the permitting and construction process.

1. **Poygan Breakwall:** *Three segments of the breakwall have been completed (each around 1,000-1,200 feet long), with eight segments left to install. Director Casper reported that the DNR, Lake Poygan Sportsmen's Club, Ducks Unlimited and the LWCD are looking to secure funding to potentially complete the next phase of the project with construction of 1-2 segments planned for the summer of 2026. Director Casper explained that a portion of the funds have already been secured with a DNR grant and matching funds from the Poygan Sportsman's Club. Director Casper also informed the LCC that the project is still in the process of securing a permit with the DNR.*
2. **Terrell's Island/Samer's Bay Project:** *Director Casper informed the LCC that this is another large breakwall project that has been partially completed. Director Casper reported that approximately 1,400 feet of the breakwall was removed two winters ago to address water quality concerns. Casper explained that at the same time construction started on the Samer's Bay segments. However, unfavorable weather conditions have halted construction since then. The last 2,500 feet of construction is scheduled for this winter. Casper reported that the original permit has expired and he will be meeting with the DNR to discuss the permitting process to complete this project.*
3. **Van Dyke Breakwall:** *Director Casper reminded the LCC that this is the most recent breakwall designed and construction has not yet started. Casper informed the LCC that the Conservation Easement is currently being reviewed by Winnebago County's outside legal counsel. Director Casper also reported that the portion of the funding secured through NRDA from a mitigation grant is under federal review right now and could potentially not be awarded; at which point Casper will look for additional funding.*

G. Committee Chair's Report

None.

H. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. Discussion on Chapter 13 Livestock Waste Management, Idle Livestock Waste Storage Facilities

Director Casper informed the LCC that the LWCD is aware of 17 idle manure pits in the county and will begin reaching out to farmers to discuss their options according to the County's Livestock Waste Management Ordinance which requires that pits that have been idle for 24 months or more be emptied and deemed "safe and sanitary" by the LWCD or be abandoned. Casper explained that once the LWCD confirms that a manure pit is idle, the farmer has one year to empty or abandon the pit. Casper shared that the LWCD's outreach to farmers will be focused on ways the department can assist, including cost-sharing assistance (up to 90%) for abandoning manure pits. Director Casper also informed the LCC that depending on the number of requests, the LWCD could also apply for a Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) grant from the DNR for additional cost-sharing assistance to farmers.

Andy Berndt, NRCS informed the LCC that the EQIP program also provides cost-sharing to farmers for pit abandonment. Director Casper will coordinate potential projects with Berndt.

2. Discuss and Approve Amendments to the Land & Water Conservation Department Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP)

*After a brief discussion, a **ZELLMER/BOHN** motion to approve the amendments to the Land & Water Conservation Department Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP) **passed 6-0.***

3. Action Item - LWCD Spirit Fund Program Cost-Share Agreements (CSAs) – SFP-BMP-25-09, Douglas & Ann Knol Well Abandonment Project, SFP-BMP-25-10, Wendy Stabler Rain Garden Project, SFP-BMP-25-11, Lydell Pethke (Ledgerock Dairy) Manure Storage System Closure Project & SFP-SH-25-02 Kafer Farms Holdings, LLC Cover Crop & Strip-till Practices
Following a review of the CSAs, a ZELLMER / NELSON motion to approve the LWCD Spirit Fund Program Cost-Share Agreements (CSAs) – SFP-BMP-25-09, Douglas & Ann Knol Well Abandonment Project, SFP-BMP-25-10, Wendy Stabler Rain Garden Project, SFP-BMP-25-11, Lydell Pethke (Ledgerock Dairy) Manure Storage System Closure Project & SFP-SH-25-02 Kafer Farms Holdings, LLC Cover Crop & Strip-till Practices) **passed 6-0.**
4. Action Item - Winnebago County Water Quality Improvement Program (CSAs) – 25-07, Eric & Karen Larson, Well Abandonment Project
Following a review of the CSAs, a NELSON / ZELLMER motion to approve the Winnebago County Water Quality Improvement Program (CSAs) – 25-07, Eric & Karen Larson, Well Abandonment Project) **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 **LAUX / BOHN** motion made to adjourn the meeting at 9:43am **passed 6-0.***

[MIN FOOT]