



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (LCC) MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2025**

A. Call to Order

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, Dan Stokes & Doug Zellmer
- **LWCD Staff:** Chad Casper, Jody Bezio, Isaac Whiting
- **Other(s) present:** None
- **Absent:** None

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. October 6, 2025, Meeting Minutes

*A **STOKES / BOHN motion** to approve the minutes passed 7-0.*

D. Public Comments on Agenda Items

None

E. Agency Reports

None

F. Director's Report

1. Idle Manure Storage Facilities

*Director Casper provided an update on idle manure storage facilities in the county. He reported that storage pits unused for **24 months or more** are classified as **idle** and, in accordance with the County ordinance, must be emptied and determined to be **safe and sanitary** or **abandoned (removed)**.*

The County currently offers 90% cost-sharing for abandonment projects. Outreach efforts have identified approximately 15 idle facilities, with letters sent to about half of the owners. Of these, three are scheduled for abandonment, several have been deemed safe and sanitary, and a few have not yet responded.

2. Livestock Waste Management Ordinance Violation

Director Casper reported on a site with a Livestock Waste Management Ordinance (LWMO) violation. The site was originally cited by the DNR in 2012 for filling a portion of a wetland. Since then, the landowner has expanded the fill area and constructed animal lots, resulting in additional violations.

The County is working with the DNR on enforcement actions. The DNR will first address the wetland fill issue and complete wetland delineation determinations, after which the LWCD will assess livestock lot setbacks and permitting requirements under Winnebago County's LWMO. The landowner is expected to challenge the violations, and the matter will likely proceed to court.

Director Casper noted that this update was provided for committee awareness only. No action is required at this time, and additional information will be shared as the process progresses.

3. Breakwall Project Updates

Director Casper provided updates on several breakwall projects:

- **Lake Poygan Breakwall** – Three of the eleven segments of this large-scale breakwall have been completed. The next two sections are planned, with permits in hand and efforts underway to secure \$1 million in grants.
- **Samers Bay – Terrell's Island** – Work is ongoing on the next project phase, which is currently out for proposals, with a site showing scheduled for Wednesday. Grants totaling \$1 million are set to expire, so the project aims for completion in 2026. Permitting is in progress. The DNR and Butte des Morts Conservation Clubs hold easements, so the County is taking a supporting role.
- **Lake Winneconne Breakwall** – Director Casper provided construction updates, noting that the County does not release payment until work is certified as meeting specifications, including proper placement of rock and fabric. Casper reviewed the construction plan and aerial photos of the construction currently in progress.

4. 2026 Winnebago County Plat Book

Director Casper informed the LCC that the 2026 Plat Book is now available for purchase.

5. WI Land+Water Conservation Association Poster Contest

Director Casper shared information about this year's Conservation Awareness Poster Contest. Deadline for entries is December 19 and the poster judging will happen in conjunction with the January 5 LCC meeting.

G. Committee Chair's Report

Chairman Farrey had no report. Supervisor Laux provided an update on the presence of round gobies in Lake Winnebago. Laux reported meeting with a representative from the DNR, who indicated that the agency will not pursue mitigation efforts, as the goby presence is already too widespread.

H. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. Progress report/update on the Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program (GLSNRP) and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Grants

Director Casper introduced Isaac Whiting, LWCD Watershed Specialist, who reported on the completion of two three-year grant programs: the Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient

Reduction Program (GLSNRP) and the Back Forty Program through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). Both programs, conducted in partnership with FWWA, supported soil health practices in the Rat River Watershed.

*Five farmers participated, implementing no-till, cover crops, and one instance of low-disturbance manure application. Reported pollutant reductions included **185 lbs phosphorus and 3 tons sediment (NFWF)** and **665 lbs phosphorus and 47.5 tons sediment (GLSNRP)**.*

*As one of the grant deliverables, **a video produced by Fox Wolf Watershed was shared with the group**. Whiting noted that these efforts have encouraged continued collaboration among farmers and supported the formation of the Muddy Bottom Farmers Producer-Led Watershed Group.*

2. Action Item - LWCD Spirit Fund Program Cost-Share Agreements (CSAs) – SFP-BMP-25-21 - Suong Le & Dong V. Nguyen Well Abandonment Project
*Following a review of the CSAs, a **ZELLMER / BOHN motion** to approve CSA SFP-BMP-25-21 Suong le & Dong V. Nguyen Well Abandonment **passed 7-0**.*
3. Review Land & Water Conservation Department Project Lists
The LCC reviewed and acknowledged the new projects on the lists.

I. Adjourn

*A **BOHN / ZELLMER motion** made to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 am **passed 7-0**.*

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