



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (LCC) MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2025**

A. Call to Order

Convene:

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

Present:

- **LCC Members:** Bruce Bohn, Chuck Farrey, Kristl Laux, Timothy Macho, Doug Nelson, Dan Stokes & Doug Zellmer
- **LWCD Staff:** Chad Casper, Jody Bezio
- **Other(s) present:** Gordon Hintz, County Executive, Paul Kaiser, Finance Director, Trevor Pike USDA APHIS Wildlife Services
- **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. August 4, 2025, Meeting Minutes

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

D. Public Comments on Agenda Items

None.

E. Agency Reports

None.

F. Director's Report

1. Lake Winneconne Breakwall Project

Director Casper provided an update on the Lake Winneconne Breakwall Project. Casper reminded LCC members that the project was originally planned for winter construction, utilizing the ice for access. However, the contractor contacted the Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) to propose completing the installation this fall via barge, at no additional cost. Director Casper reviewed a project map and shared a couple construction photos with the committee. The breakwall will be made up of 8 sections with breaks in-between to allow for water exchange. The project also includes installation of 6 tree drops or "fish sticks" behind the breakwall for aquatic habitat.

2. Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit

Director Casper informed the committee that management of the county's MS4 permit will be contracted to an outside engineering firm moving forward. He noted that the Land and Water

Conservation Department (LWCD) completed the required illicit discharge monitoring this fall. Ongoing management of the permit will now be transitioned to R.A. Smith, the engineering firm hired for the project.

3. County Website

Director Casper informed the committee that the new county website is now live to the public and shared that the Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) will be adding online purchasing capabilities for items such as the upcoming 2026 Plat Book.

4. Lifetime Impact Award

Director Casper announced that Chairman Farrey was recently honored with a Lifetime Impact Award from the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance (FWWA) for his 23 years of conservation work as part of the LCC. The awards ceremony took place last Thursday. Director Casper also shared a video produced by FWWA highlighting Chairman Farrey's achievements and contributions.

G. Committee Chair's Report

Kristl Laux updated the committee on the presence of Round Gobies, an invasive species, recently found near the Bowen Street pier on Lake Winnebago.

H. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. Review and Approve the 2025 USDA Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program (WDACP) Crop Prices to be used to reimburse the program participants for their Crop Damage and set the 90% Harvest Cut-Off Date

Trevor Pike of the USDA APHIS Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program presented the Wildlife Services' proposed crop prices for 2025 claims.

*A **NELSON/ZELLMER** motion to approve the crop prices as presented — Alfalfa: **\$136.25/ton**, Alfalfa/Grass Mix: **\$92.83/ton**, Field Corn: **\$4.18/bushel**, Oats: **\$3.55/bushel**, Soybeans: **\$10.01/bushel**, and Wheat: **\$4.76/bushel** — **passed 7-0**.*

*A **BOHN/STOKES** motion to set the **90% harvest crop cut-off date at December 1, 2025** also **passed 7-0**.*

2. Review and Approve the 2026 Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program (WDACP) Budget

*Following a brief review of the proposed 2026 Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program (WDACP) budget by Trevor Pike, a **NELSON/STOKES** motion to approve the budget as presented **passed 7-0**.*

3. Action Item - Review and Approve the Cooperative Agreement to Satisfy Eligibility for Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance (FWWA) Calendar Year (2026)

Chairman Farrey and Director Casper provided a brief overview of the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) position and programming conducted under the cooperative agreement with the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance. Casper also highlighted key program accomplishments from the past year.

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

4. 2026 Land & Water Conservation Department Budget Presentation
Director Casper provided a brief overview of the proposed 2026 budget for the Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD), explaining any significant changes in line items compared to previous years.
5. Discussion and Possible Action on Amendments to the Budget the Committee may recommend to the County Board

Executive Hintz expressed his support for the Land and Water Conservation Department budget. LCC members briefly discussed current projects being supported under the budget.

Chairman Farrey raised a concern regarding the use of the word “transition” in the final item related to the Winnebago Waterways Program on the Strategic Impact Document.

A **NELSON/ZELLMER** motion recommending that the word “**transition**” be **eliminated and replaced with “and”** **passed 7-0**.

6. Action Item - Winnebago County Water Quality Improvement Program (CSAs) – 25-09, Daniel Hickey, Shoreline Protection Project
*Following a review of the CSAs, a **BOHN/STOKES** motion to approve CSA 25-09, Daniel Hickey, Shoreline Protection Project **passed 7-0**.*

7. Action Item - LWCD Spirit Fund Program Cost-Share Agreements (CSAs) – SFP-BMP-25--16, Raji & Ravi Subbarayan Rain Garden Project, SFP-BMP-25--17, Jeramy & Rachel Lukasavage Well Abandonment Project, SFP-BMP-25--18, Daniel Hickey Shoreline Protection Project, SFP-BMP-25--19, Richard & Norleen Woldt Well Abandonment Project, SFP-BMP-25--20, Bohn Farms, Inc. Wetland Restoration Project, SFP-SH-25-03, Lisa Schram Schuster Cover Crops & No-till Practices, SFP-SH-25-04, Schuster Dairy LLC Cover Crops & No-till Practices, SFP-SH-25-05 and Schuster Dairy LLC Cover Crops & No-till Practices
*Following a review of the CSAs, a **STOKES/NELSON** motion to approve CSAs SFP-BMP-25--16, Raji & Ravi Subbarayan Rain Garden Project, SFP-BMP-25--17, Jeramy & Rachel Lukasavage Well Abandonment Project, SFP-BMP-25--18, Daniel Hickey Shoreline Protection Project, SFP-BMP-25--19, Richard & Norleen Woldt Well Abandonment Project, SFP-BMP-25--20, Bohn Farms, Inc. Wetland Restoration Project, SFP-SH-25-03, Lisa Schram Schuster Cover Crops & No-till Practices, SFP-SH-25-04, Schuster Dairy LLC Cover Crops & No-till Practices, SFP-SH-25-05 and Schuster Dairy LLC Cover Crops & No-till Practices **passed 7-0**.*

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

I. **Adjourn**

A **BOHN/MACHO** motion made to adjourn the meeting at 10:27am **passed 7-0**.

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