



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (LCC) MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2026**

A. Call to Order

Convene:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Farrey at 9:02am

Present:

- **LCC Members:** Bruce Bohn (on MS Teams, not voting), Chuck Farrey, Kristl Laux, Timothy Macho, Doug Nelson, Dan Stokes & Doug Zellmer
- **LWCD Staff:** Chad Casper, Jody Bezio
- **Other(s) present:** Levi Schultz, NRCS
- **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. December 1, 2025, Meeting Minutes

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

D. Public Comments on Agenda Items

None.

E. Agency Reports

Levi Schultz, NRCS, informed the LCC that the USDA has announced a new Regenerative Agriculture Pilot Program, which will commit \$700 million nationwide through existing NRCS programs, including EQIP and CSP. The pilot program is intended to replace fragmented, practice-by-practice conservation efforts with a unified, whole-farm evaluation process. Schultz noted that the program was recently announced and that local offices do not yet have full details; additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

F. Director's Report

1. Lake Winnebago Land & Water Conservation Association Meeting

Director Casper informed the LCC that the Lake Winnebago Land and Water Conservation Association 2026 Planning Meeting will be held at the James P. Coughlin Center (JPCC) on Friday, January 16. The meeting will include a presentation from Upland Invasive Species and another presentation on controlling water hemp while using soil health practices. LCC members were invited to attend, and registration is due by Friday, January 9.

2. Samer's Bay Breakwall Project

Director Casper provided an update on the Samer's Bay Breakwall Project at the Terrell's Island site. The next phase will complete the project; installing approximately 2,500 feet of breakwall, restoring an estimated 90 acres and addressing shoreline erosion occurring at a rate of approximately 8 feet per year. The project, estimated at \$1 million, involves multiple funding sources, including a grant of approximately \$450,000 set to expire on March 31, 2026, requiring completion of approximately half of the project by that date. Casper further reported that a draft DNR permit initially included a construction restriction during the sturgeon spearing season; following multiple, lengthy discussions with the DNR, this restriction was removed to accommodate historical construction timing. Construction on the ice requires a minimum of approximately 18 inches of ice, with work typically occurring in February, subject to favorable weather conditions.

3. DATCP Extension Request

Director Casper informed the committee that every year the department has funds from the state that are available to carryover to the next year. This year we requested \$13,600 of bond funds for structural practices and about \$33,000 of SEG funds for nutrient management & cover crop contracts to be spent by the end of 2026.

G. Committee Chair's Report

None.

H. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

Chairman Farrey requested that the agenda order be modified to consider Agenda Item No. 3 prior to Agenda Item No. 2. The LCC agreed.

1. Annual Report and Discussion on the Land & Water Conservation Department Spirit Fund Program

Director Casper presented the annual report on the utilization of Spirit Fund Program funds for 2025. The report provided an overview of the Spirit Fund Program structure, examples of installed practices, discussion of additional grant funding leveraged through the use of Spirit Fund resources, and departmental outreach efforts within the community. Director Casper also reviewed the Spirit Fund dashboard developed by the department to track expenditures by year, expenditures by practice category, the quantity and general location of practices installed, and associated phosphorus and sediment reductions.

2. Review and Approve Amendments to the Land & Water Conservation Department Spirit Fund Program (SFP) Policy Plan

*Following a brief discussion a **LAUX / MACHO motion** to approve the amendments to the Spirit Fund Program (SFP) as proposed was **passed 5-1**.*

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

*Following a brief discussion a **ZELLMER / NELSON motion** to approve the amendments to the Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP) as proposed was **passed 6-0**.*

4. Action Item - Winnebago County Water Quality Improvement Program (CSAs) – 25-11, Larry L. & Diane D. Plamann Waterway System & Stream Crossing Project & 25-12, Luedtke Brothers of Zittau Inc. Manure Storage System Closure Project

*Following a review of the CSAs, a **LAUX / ZELLMER motion** to approve CSA 25-11 Larry L. & Diane D Plamann Waterway System & Stream Crossing Project & CSA 25-12 Luedtke Brothers of Zittau Inc. Manure Storage System Closure Project **passed 6-0**.*

5. Action Item - LWCD Spirit Fund Program Cost-Share Agreements (CSAs) – SFP-BMP-26-01, Lake Poygan Sportsman Club Inc. Streambank and Shoreline Protection Project

*Following a review of the CSAs, a **ZELLMER / NELSON motion** to approve CSA SFP-BMP-26-01 Lake Poygan Sportsman Club Inc. Streambank and Shoreline Protection Project **passed 6-0**.*

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

I. **Adjourn**

A **LAUX / NELSON motion** made to adjourn the meeting at 10:23am **passed 6-0.**

1. Judge the 2026 WI Land+Water Poster Contest posters

[MIN FOOT]