



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (LCC) MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2024**

A. Call to Order

Convene:

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

Present:

- **LCC Members:** Bruce Bohn, Chuck Farrey, Kristl Laux, Timothy Macho, Doug Nelson, & Dan Stokes
- **LWCD Staff:** Chad Casper, Jody Bezio
- **Other(s) present:** Levi Schultz, NRCS, Ethan Hollenberger Winnebago County Executive Office
- **Excused:** Doug Zellmer

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. September 5, 2024 Meeting Minutes
A Nelson/Bohn motion to approve the minutes passed 6-0

D. Public Comments on Agenda Items

None

E. Agency Reports

Levi Schulz, NRCS informed the committee that the deadline to enroll in EQIP is November 1.

F. Director's Report

1. 2025 Conservation Poster Contest
Director Casper distributed an informational flyer about the annual poster contest and asked the LCC to spread the word about the contest. Entry deadline is December 3 and the LCC is invited to assist with judging on December 5.
2. WDNR Tree and Shrub Orders
Director Casper informed the committee that the DNR's annual tree sale ordering begins October 4. Paper order forms are available at the LWCD office and the DNR, online ordering is also available at the DNR website. Trees will be available for pick-up in April date TBD.

G. Committee Chair's Report

- *Chairman Farrey informed the committee that member Doug Zellmer is excused for today's meeting.*
- *Chairman Farrey informed the committee that the Public Hearing on the Livestock Waste Management Ordinance that was tentatively scheduled for today was delayed and will be rescheduled to give Corporation Counsel time to review proposed updates to LWMO.*
- *Chairman Farrey attended the Winnebago Waterways Executive Committee Meeting on Wednesday, October 2 and said that he expressed concerns regarding the DNR and the TMDL requirements.*

H. 2025 County Executive Budget Proposal

1. 2025 Budget Overview by the Office of the County Executive
On behalf of the County Executive's Office, Ethan Hollenberger presented an overview of the Priority Based Budgeting (PBB) process being used this year to develop the proposed county budget. Hollenberger also reviewed significant changes to the budget structure, including pay increases, health insurance premium increases and the new Technology Interfund.
2. 2025 Programs and Budget Request Presentation by the Land and Water Conservation Director
Director Casper reviewed the 2025 LWCD budget with the LCC including the 21 different programs of the LWCD that Casper identified as part of the priority-based budgeting process. Casper discussed the significant changes in the budget.
3. Discussion with the Committee on the 2025 Budget Requests
Director Casper shared a chart comparing revenue and expenses for each of the programs identified for the LWCD. Director Casper pointed out that under the line-item budget for operations some categories look like they increased significantly including advertising, educating/training, food, etc. These increases are for the Producer-led Group which is combined into the LWCD budget, but will be reimbursed by the grant. Hollenberger discussed how the County Executives Office uses this information to look at operational goals including project timelines, staffing needs and opportunities to generate revenue. In regards to the new Technology Interfund, Hollenberger explained that although the Technology Interfund increased expenses in the Department Budgets, the County Board will see a decrease in the expenses in the Information Technology Department budget. Moving these expenses to individual departments will allow departments to include these expenses in grant applications or other expense reimbursement requests to be brought in as additional revenue.

I. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. Review the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program with Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance
Director Casper informed the committee that Winnebago County will again be designating Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance (FWWA) as its agent for AIS prevention and education within Winnebago County and neighboring counties (Brown, Calumet, Fond du Lac and Outagamie). An agreement between Winnebago County and FWWA will allocate the WDNR Lake Monitoring & Protection Network funds directly to FWWA. FWWA continues to be AIS agent for the counties in the region and has been successful in managing the Regional AIS Program, highlights of what they have accomplished this year are included in this month's meeting packet. Chris Acy is the Regional AIS Coordinator and could be invited to a future LCC meeting to give more details on the program.

2. Authorize Winnebago County to enter into a Intergovernmental Government Agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for the purposes of managing an off-shore breakwall project on Lake Winneconne
Chairman Farrey informed the committee that the Intergovernmental Agreement has not been completed yet therefore the LCC will not be taking action on this today. Director Casper updated the committee on progress: The county brought in outside legal counsel to meet with the DNR attorney and they are working together to develop the intergovernmental agreement to spell out responsibilities for the Van Dyke breakwall on Lake Winneconne to include a conservation easement to allow monitoring and inspection of the breakwall by the county. The county does not want to own or maintain the breakwall, but does need the ability to inspect and monitor the breakwall. This is the first time the county has been required by the DNR to have a conservation easement and intergovernmental agreement for a breakwall. These requirements will be part of the approval process moving forward, but otherwise will not functionally change our process for installing and monitoring breakwalls. Ethan Hollenberger (County Executive's Office) reported that he has been assisting with this process and informed the committee that the permit for the breakwall can move forward without the Intergovernmental Agreement in place. Director Casper informed the committee we are assuming that the landowner will be the applicant for the permit and the LWCD will be the consultant, but this will have to be confirmed. The landowner will be responsible for ongoing maintenance of the breakwall and the county will provide ongoing consultation and support.

3. Action Item - LWCD Spirit Fund Program Cost-Share Agreements (CSAs) – SFP-BMP-24-11, Michael Arthur Well Abandonment Project for \$682.50, SFP-BMP-24-12, Matthew Ten Haken Well Abandonment Project for \$320.25, SFP-BMP-24-13, Conrad Dennis Well Abandonment Project for \$307.50, SFP-BMP-24-14, Shari & Jamie Musselman Rain Garden Project for \$1,000.00, SFP-BMP-24-15, Steven & Susan Klobucarich Shoreline Habitat Restoration for Developed Areas (SHRUB) Project for \$5,400.00, SFP-SH-24-14, Dan Stokes for Cover Crop Practices for \$21,600.00 & SFP-SH-24-15, Spencer Stokes for Cover Crop Practices for \$15,690.24
Following a review of the CSAs, a Bohn/Nelson motion to approve LWCD Spirit Fund Program Cost-Share Agreements (CSAs) – SFP-BMP-24-11, Michael Arthur Well Abandonment Project for \$682.50, SFP-BMP-24-12, Matthew Ten Haken Well Abandonment Project for \$320.25, SFP-BMP-24-13, Conrad Dennis Well Abandonment Project for \$307.50, SFP-BMP-24-14, Shari & Jamie Musselman Rain Garden Project for \$1,000.00, SFP-BMP-24-15, Steven & Susan Klobucarich Shoreline Habitat Restoration for Developed Areas (SHRUB) Project for \$5,400.00, SFP-SH-24-14, Dan Stokes for Cover Crop Practices for \$21,600.00 & SFP-SH-24-15, Spencer Stokes for Cover Crop Practices for \$15,690.24 passed 5-0 (Abstain: Stokes, Excused: Zellmer).

4. Action Item - Winnebago County Water Quality Improvement Program (CSAs) – 24-08, Dan Stokes Soil Health Challenge Program for \$11,400.00
Following a review of the CSAs, a Bohn/Macho motion to approve Winnebago County Water Quality Improvement Program (CSAs) – 24-08, Dan Stokes Soil Health Challenge Program for \$11,400.00 passed 5-0 (Abstain: Stokes, Excused: Zellmer).

5. Review LWCD Project Lists
The LCC reviewed and acknowledged the new projects on the lists.

J. Adjourn

A Nelson / Stokes motion made to adjourn the meeting at 10:48 am passed 6-0.