

Land and Water Conservation

**CALUMET COUNTY
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
May 5, 2022
THESE MINUTES HAVE BEEN APPROVED**

1. Meeting Announcement and Posting

The meeting was properly announced and posted. Reali called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Hofberger, Voight, Kesler, Pagel-Holzschuh, Gentz, Hansen

Staff Members Present for All or Part of the Meeting: Reali, Piper, Santry

Others Present for All or Part of the Meeting; Alice Connors (County Board Chair), Elizabeth Asendorf (Glacierland RC & D), Joe Smedberg (NRCS), Todd Romenesko (County Administrator)

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

4. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Gentz nominated Hofberger for Chair. There were no other nominations. Motion by Gentz and second by Kesler to cast a unanimous ballot for Hofberger for Chair. Motion carried unanimously.

Kesler nominated Gentz for Vice Chair. There were no other nominations. Motion by Hofberger and second by Voight to cast a unanimous ballot for Gentz for Vice-Chair. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Kesler and second by Pagel-Holzschuh to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Approval of Minutes from March 10, 2022 Committee Meeting

Motion by Voight and second by Kesler to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2022 Committee Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Public Participation (if requested by Committee Chair)

None

8. Agency and Association Reports

a) NRCS Report; if in attendance

Smedberg spoke about the NRCS office and gave updates on the different programs that NRCS administers.

b) FSA Report; if in attendance

Hansen gave an overview of what types of programs that FSA administers.

c) UW Extension; if in attendance

None

d) Glacierland RC&D

Asendorf was in attendance and gave updates on her activities.

- e) **Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Board**
Hofberger was in attendance and gave updates on board activities.

9. Communications

- a) **Matt Krueger: Executive Director; WI Land and Water; LCC Member Resources**
Reali discussed that WI Land & Water is Land & Water Conservation's state organization. Reali went over the Member Resource handout and pointed out links in the handout to a number of virtual presentations and other information for the Land and Water Committee members.
- b) **DATCP Report; April 2022**
Reali discussed April the report which was in the Committee packets that was handed out. Reali indicated that the monthly report comes out and is emailed to all committee members directly from DATCP. Reali talked a bit on the May report which was handed out to the Committee.

10. Items for Action or Discussion

- a) **Chris Acy; Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator Updates; Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance**
Chris Acy from the Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance presented on the Aquatic Invasive Species Program. The Fox/Wolf Watershed Alliance is a nonprofit organization based out of Appleton. The program consists of outreach, education, and prevention tips that are given to the public. Acy indicated that the goal of the program is to prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species.
- b) **2021 Land & Water Conservation Annual Report**
Reali reported on conservation numbers from both 2020 and 2021, which were include in the department newsletter. Reali discussed the different grants that are utilized and talked about the Demonstration Farm Network among other current programs.
- c) **2022 Land & Water Conservation Annual Work Plan**
Reali discussed the Annual Work Plan which is required to be submitted to DATCP by April 15 of each year. The plan outlines projects that the staff will be working on throughout the year as well as other activities that the department takes part in.
- d) **Glacierland RC&D Memorandum of Understanding**
Hofberger discussed with the Committee that this was a federally funded program that had lost funding. He indicated if you want to be a member of Glacierland that you need to sign a Memorandum of Understanding. Reali went into more detail of the Memorandum of Understanding pointing out that the MOU establishes a working relationship between the County Land & Water Conservation Department and Glacierland RC & D. Glacierland assists in applying for grants and carries out a number of other activities. Motion by Hansen to have Tony Reali to sign and move forward the Memorandum of Understanding, seconded by Voight. Motion carried unanimously.
- e) **Discussion on Agricultural Educator Job Description**
Reali gave some history on the Agricultural Educator position. Previously, the position was under UW Extension and the decision was made to move that position to the county and house it in the Land & Water Conservation Department. The position was put in the budget for 2022 and was approved by the County Board through the budget process. Reali has developed the job description which should be approved soon as well as the job classification. Reali also indicated that there are other counties that have moved the position to the County rather than UW Extension. He is looking to advertise the position soon and he would like to have the employee start after July 4, 2022. A suggestion was made by Hofberger and Hansen for the job title being an Agricultural Resource Specialist instead of an Educator.
- f) **Appointment to Residents Commission of the Palisades Pond Lake District**
Reali described the district which is in Sherwood. The district was established due to a failing dam which needed replacement in order to maintain the water levels in the pond. A group of residents with homes around the pond formed the district to ensure that the pond would be maintained. The dam has been repaired so the bulk of the work of the district has been completed. It is required that the County appoints

someone to the commission. Kesler indicated that he would be interested. Motion by Voight to nominate Kesler to be appointed to the Commission by the County Board and second by Pagel-Holzschuh. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Report of Department

a) Staff Reports

Reali gave updates on his staff. Santry, who also was in attendance, gave her update on what she is currently working on.

2:30 p.m. - Voight left meeting

12. Report of Committee Members

None

13. Upcoming/Past Events

a) Group Well Testing; May 9; Chilton, Rantoul, New Holstein

The Group Well Testing event will be on May 9. Staff are currently in the process of distributing bottles.

b) Lake Winnebago Land & Water Conservation Association; May 13; Fond du lac

Reali described the purpose of the meeting. Voight indicated that she planned on attending the meeting. Motion by Hansen and second by Kesler to approve attendance at the meeting for Committee members. Motion carried unanimously.

14. Next Meeting Date - Thursday, June 2, 2022; 1:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, June 2, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

15. Adjourn

Hofberger adjourned the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Paula Piper, Recording Secretary