

MANITOWOC COUNTY  
LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2023  
County Office Complex

LCC Chair, Catherine Wagner called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Catherine Wagner, Ryan Phipps, Tim Jadowski, Lee Engelbrecht and Biff Hansen were present. Ted Hoffman and W. Michael Slattery were excused.

**Also, in attendance were:** David Wetenkamp, Soil & Water Conservation Department, Brian Maedke, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services and Vicky Mueller, USDA-FSA.

**Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda was made by Ryan Phipps and seconded by Biff Hansen. Motion carried unanimously.

**Minutes:** Motion was made by Lee Engelbrecht and seconded by Ryan Phipps to approve the March 16, 2023 and April 20, 2023 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment:** None

**Budget Review:** Reviewed SWCD 2022 budget ending December 31, 2022 and SWCD budget ending April 30, 2023. Comments by Ryan Phipps that insurance costs and premiums will continue to rise.

**LCC Presentation:** Brian Maedke - USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services, presented to the LCC an overview of the program, fieldwork duties and wildlife species eligible for damage claims. Details and issues were also shared about other nuisance wildlife the agency helps in removal and management of with landowners, farmers and communities. A power point with visual details and unique issues with Manitowoc County problems and locations were presented. Lee Engelbrecht and Biff Hansen shared examples of deer damage issues in the County and City of Manitowoc. Vicky Mueller shared issues with sandhill cranes emerging as populations increase from a bird that was once rarely seen decades ago.

**SWCD Department Activities – Discussion only**

1. **LCC Meeting Presentation July 2023** – Manitowoc County Lakes Association will present information on the organization and lakes data. The SWCD will share with the LCC the SWCD 2022 Accomplishment Report.
2. **Program Assistant Interviews** – Lindsey Hawig, previous Program Assistant has resigned. Jerilynn Zutz has accepted position and will start 6/5/23.
3. **LMALWCA** – Lake Michigan Area Land & Water Conservation Association meeting is scheduled on May 19, 2023 at Door County Maritime Museum. Soil & Water Director extended invite to LCC Supervisors to attend if available for meeting.
4. **AB-131 LCC FSA Representative** – Information on the background and history leading to Assembly Bill (AB-131) & Senate Bill (SB-147) was shared with the LCC. Documents of proceedings from the State Assembly and Senate Committee recommendations, Statute 92 changes and votes were shared for review. Wisconsin Land & Water was instrumental in getting the changes to be heard and taken up by the Legislature to address USDA-FSA concerns regarding an FSA representative being required on County LCC Committees statewide. The statute change has been unanimously supported under AB-131 and is awaiting passage by the Senate under SB-147. Many counties have already made changes to their informational pages. Motion by Biff Hansen and seconded by Lee Engelbrecht that; “LCC approves the title change in official county directory from FSA Representative to Agricultural Representative on recommendation and approval by Corp Counsel.” Motion carried unanimously.

5. **MDV Budget 2023** – Soil & Water Director shared information on the Multi-Discharger Variance Program with LCC. This program is directed by the WDNR to allow point source dischargers of phosphorus to commit funds to Manitowoc County SWCD to help offset/reduce phosphorus by using agricultural bmp's in strategic locations. Currently Manitowoc County has received \$34,540.67 for 2023.
6. **AWO Complaints** – Since April 2023 (2) complaints have been addressed.
7. **DATCP Annual Work Plan & SWRM Grant** – Soil & Water Director shared with the LCC the annual work plan details required by DATCP to be developed in order to stay eligible for state staffing and cost-sharing grants. The funds for 2022 and 2023 were discussed. The annual report has been submitted and allocations set for 2023.
8. **Upcoming SWCD Events** – The SWCD has been coordinating with USDA, BTL Farm Demo, UW-Extension, Manitowoc County Lakes Association and community groups on CREP & Harvestable Buffer Pop-Up events, Cover Crop Poker Run, Breakfast-on-the Farm - June 11 (Twin Cities Vue Dairy, LLC), and events for Pollinator Week (June 18-24) and the Farmers Market on June 24. Biff Hansen shared the farmers market is a great place to learn and share information as well.

**USDA Cost Share Contracts/Amendments/Agreements:** (1) CRP contract signed by LCC Chair, Catherine Wagner. Discussion ensued regarding the LCC's future involvement in signing CRP contracts. Due to sensitive and time related issues with USDA/NRCS sign-up dates, FSA/NRCS has requested a change in how contracts are presented and approved by the LCC. Vicky Mueller, Manitowoc County FSA, shared (3) options for the committee to consider. (1) Refuse to sign contracts annually by motion, (2) Designate SWCD Director by motion to sign and report to LCC on contracts signed during scheduled meetings, or (3) Keep status-quo and require all CRP contracts to be reviewed and approved by LCC at scheduled meetings or mutually agreed upon times by LCC. LCC members discussed options. Ryan Phipps appreciates continued cooperation and review of contracts and is concerned of SWCD Director signing contracts. Biff Hansen agrees it is good for the LCC to see and review contracts that affect Manitowoc County. Lee Engelbrecht states willingness to allow SWCD Director to sign contracts if shared with LCC and approved by Corp Counsel. Vicky Mueller stated the FSA can move ahead with contracts without LCC signature. Motion by Lee Engelbrecht and seconded by Ryan Phipps that; "LCC tables its decision to change USDA/NRCS contract approval procedure until all information can be reviewed and confirmed by Corp Counsel." Motion carried unanimously.

**SWCD Cost Share Contracts/Amendments/Agreements:** SWCD submitted (2) contracts for inter-seeding cover crops for review and approval with signature from LCC Chair, Catherine Wagner. Motion by Biff Hansen and seconded by Lee Engelbrecht to approve contracts. Motion carried unanimously.

**Livestock Facility Licensing & AWO Update:** SWCD has processed and approved 1 Livestock Facility License, 3 Livestock Facility License Modifications and has approved 4 Animal Waste Storage Permits.

**Next Meeting Date & Time:** July 20, 2023 at 4:45 p.m.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn was made by Ryan Phipps and seconded by Biff Hansen at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Wetenkamp  
Department Director

Minutes recorded: David Wetenkamp