

MANITOWOC COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2023
County Office Complex

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

Roll Call: Catherine Wagner, Ryan Phipps, Biff Hansen, and Michael Slattery were present. Ted Hoffman arrived shortly after roll call. Tim Jadowski and Lee Engelbrecht were excused.

Also, in attendance were: David Wetenkamp, Soil & Water Conservation Department, Joe Smedberg and Vicky Mueller from USDA-FSA, and Jerry Corfman from Manitowoc County Lakes Association (MCLA).

Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda was made by Ryan Phipps and seconded by Michael Slattery. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes: Motion was made by Biff Hansen and seconded by Ryan Phipps to approve the May 18, 2023 LCC minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: None

USDA Cost-Share Contracts/Amendments/Agreements & FSA/NRCS Contracts LCC Motion:

SWCD director requests agenda items #8 & #9 be moved up in agenda so FSA/NRCS staff could meet other time obligations. Request was agreed to by LCC Chair and committee members. SWCD director shared with the committee that LCC Chair, Catherine Wagner had been scheduled to sign (5) various CRP & CREP contracts prior to this meeting to complete time sensitive deadlines for landowners. Joe Smedberg shared and submitted (2) more contracts for review and approval. Catherine Wagner requested details on the contracts. Seven contracts were up for approval. On May 18, 2023, a motion was made 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 approved by Corp Counsel". This motion passed unanimously. The (3) options for the contract procedure was shared with Corp Counsel and LCC Committee. After review of the NRCS Manual, Corp Council advised to consider allowing the SWCD director to sign contracts and share details with the LCC committee at regular scheduled meetings. Supervisor Phipps asked the SWCD director if he was comfortable with this option, David Wetenkamp agreed. **Motion** by Supervisor Ryan Phipps and seconded by Supervisor Biff Hansen to; "Authorize the Soil & Water Director or his or her designee to sign CRP/CREP contracts on behalf of the LCC and report such authorizations to the committee at its next scheduled meeting". Motion passed unanimously.

Budget Review(s): Reviewed SWCD 2023 budgets ending May 31, 2023 and June 30, 2023. Comments by Biff Hansen that in order to keep printing costs down that LCC agenda items be sent digitally. Question by Michael Slattery if budgets are on a fiscal year or calendar year organization. SWCD director confirmed budgets are by calendar year.

LCC Presentation: Jerry Corfman from Manitowoc County Lakes Association (MCLA), presented to the LCC an overview of the MCLA and its main functions. Jerry gave a brief history of past MCLA presidents and his lake property being a demonstration site for landowners view and to promote natural shorelines and erosion prevention. Natural shoreline plantings also reduce fertilizer and herbicide use around lakes and creates beneficial habitat lacking when lawns are manicured right up to the lakeshore. Natural shorelines are also less attractive to Canada geese and prevent nuisance issues compared to manicured lawns. The MCLA works with many agencies, the SWCD, community groups, LNRP and Glacierland RC&D to name a few. MCLA collaborates on various projects from water monitoring/testing, sediment basins, wetland projects, weed control, shoreline habitat, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), and new technologies in progress for phosphorus reduction. Michael Slattery had a comment on Carstens Lake phosphorus project and the high levels of phosphorus in recent years. Ted Hoffman commented that phosphorus remains in the water and sediments for many years, and record rain levels in 2019 & 2020

have had an effect on runoff. Supervisor Hansen questioned if all the projects and progress within the watershed are making beneficial impacts. SWCD director stated that the projects are making a difference, soil health practices are only just catching on in the watershed and will take years to see the results given how long phosphorus can remain in lakes before natural processes can stabilize. The last three years levels have been declining. Please see Manitowoc County Lakes Association webpage for more information on the organization.

SWCD Department Activities – Discussions

1. **2022 SWCD Accomplishment Report** – The soil & water director shared with the LCC committee a copy of the 2022 SWCD Annual Update and discussed the changes that have occurred in staffing. Discussion highlighted the staff's accomplishments in relation to the 10 Year Land & Water Resource Management Plan. The department is fully staffed, 2023 got off to a good start and many projects are installed, with many more in progress. Supervisor Biff Hansen requested the annual update report be shared with the County Board of Supervisors.
2. **SWCD vehicle replacement** – Current 2007 van is in poor condition, needs repairs, has safety concerns due to structural rust and reliability for staff is an issue. Department director looked into costs to replace vehicle with 2024 crew cab truck. Ordering will delay delivery until summer of 2024 and costs are more than buying a 2023 in-stock model. Funds are currently in budget for purchase and are approved by finance director with correspondence with county executive. **Motion** by Supervisor Ryan Phipps and seconded by Ted Hoffman to approve of vehicle purchase to replace van. Motion carried unanimously.
3. **September LCC Presentation** – A meet and greet gathering of existing local WDNR liaisons has been scheduled for the September 21, 2023 LCC meeting. Currently 6 WDNR staff have agreed to attend sharing their faces, job duties and how they work within Manitowoc County.
4. **LMALWCA** – Lake Michigan Area Land & Water Conservation Association meeting minutes for May 19, 2023 were shared with the committee. The meeting took place at the Door County Museum.
5. **State County Conservation meeting** – No discussion
6. **SWCD Events** – Soil & water director shared information on the various local field days and community events listed in the agenda. Events were well attended given weather on a few days and comments from attendees were positive. Comment by agricultural representative Michael Slattery that more events need to be scheduled, with new initiatives and find methods to help promote and gain new interested landowners. Supervisor Hansen commented that the pollinator events and plantings around the county and in urban areas have been appreciated and visually beneficial.
7. **Upcoming SWCD Events** – Local events that the SWCD will be attending to provide education and outreach activities was shared.

Agenda item #8 & #9 moved up in agenda schedule: See above.

AB-131/SB-147 FSA Representative LCC Motion: On May 18, 2023 a motion was made by Biff Hansen and seconded by Lee Engelbrecht that; "LCC approves the title change in Manitowoc County official directory from FSA Representative to Agricultural Representative on recommendation and approval by Corp Counsel". Motion passed unanimously. Information on Statute 92 was reviewed by Corp Counsel. Corp Counsel shared with the SWCD director that he authorizes the change in our official directory, however, Manitowoc County Code sec. 2.04(7) provides makeup of the LCC by ordinance. Due to this we will have to do an ordinance amendment to the County Code to address the Statute 92 change when it is officially passed by the Senate and signed by the Governor. Then it will be official.

SWCD Cost Share Contracts/Amendments/Agreements: SWCD director submitted a detailed document list explaining all (23) contracts for various bmp's for review and approval with signature from LCC Chair, Catherine Wagner. Motion by Supervisor Biff Hansen and seconded by Supervisor Ryan Phipps to approve contracts. Motion carried unanimously.

Animal Waste Ordinance (AWO): SWCD has processed and approved (3) AWO Permits.

Livestock Facility Licensing (LFL): SWCD has received (1) new LFL modification request. (1) LFL modification was approved.

Next Meeting Date(s) & Time: Motion by Ryan Phipps and seconded by Biff Hansen to schedule next LCC meetings on August 17, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. & September 21, 2023 at 4:45 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Ryan Phipps and seconded by Biff Hansen at 6:15 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
David Wetenkamp
Department Director

Minutes recorded: David Wetenkamp