

MANITOWOC COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2024
County Office Complex, Rm 300

LCC Chair, Catherine Wagner called the meeting to order at 4:47 p.m.

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

Also, in attendance: David Wetenkamp (SWCD), Dave Terrall (APHIS) and Bob Ziegelbauer (County Executive).

Agenda: Motion to approve the March 21, 2024 agenda was made by Lee Engelbrecht and seconded by Michael Slattery. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes: Motion was made by Ted Hoffman and seconded by Ryan Phipps to approve the January 18, 2024 LCC minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Review Minutes December 21, 2023 & Amend: Next meeting date was documented incorrectly in the minutes as January 18, 2023, to be corrected to January 18, 2024. **Motion** was made by Ryan Phipps and seconded by Lee Engelbrecht to approve and amend the December 21, 2023 LCC minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: None.

Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program: Dave Terrall, (APHIS) Assistant District Supervisor was present to update committee on current Manitowoc County wildlife damage program claims, contracts and names of participants. Michael Slattery asked about sandhill cranes and crop damages. Dave Terrall explained only wildlife species that have hunting seasons and are not protected are eligible for claims. Lee Engelbrecht asked for clarification and detail on the 5 claims totaling \$20,369.04. All funds are reimbursed by the WDNR through hunting license funds. **Motion** made by Ryan Phipps was seconded by Lee Engelbrecht to approve the contracts for the claims as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

Budget Review: March 21, 2024 SWCD printed budget report. Soil & Water Director explained various line items, percent of budget spent and recent purchases and costs incurred. No Comments.

2024 SWCD Department Projects Update:

- A. **Land & Water Resource Management Plan (LWRMP):** SWCD Director shared backgrounds, names and expertise of those who have agreed to participate on the advisory committee. About (24) community and agency members were asked to participate. The department director wanted at least a dozen members, (16) are confirmed and (1) more is pending. Lee Engelbrecht and other LCC members agreed they are satisfied with the list of members. First meeting is tentative for early May.
- B. **Community Well Water Testing Update:** Manitowoc County SWCD observed groundwater week and conducted a free well water testing drive March 11th-15th and, also visited Mishicot and Reedsville communities with our mobile nitrate testing equipment. The SWCD has been monitoring nitrates in wells for over 20 years and conducted another 104 tests so far this year. Data is showing about 9% of the wells tested this year are above the 10mg/l action limit. Owners of wells exceeding or trending above the action limit were given information on remedies to lower nitrate levels with certain filters, treatment and options for further testing. The SWCD will target our efforts in these locations to conduct further inspections and work with landowners to embrace conservation efforts in these areas.

- C. **Manitowoc County Lakes Data Update:** Manitowoc County SWCD along with Manitowoc County Lakes Association, UW-Green Bay-Manitowoc Campus, WDNR and water action volunteers have been testing various Manitowoc County lakes for water quality parameters and phosphorus levels since 2012. Data is showing lake phosphorus levels have been on the decline (getting better) the past 5 years. Improvement to water quality is still needed and is a major goal of the department and landowners in the county. Lake data from 2012-2023 was shared with the LCC.
- D. **Animal Waste Ordinance Update:** The SWCD has processed/approved (2) animal waste storage abandonment permits and (2) new animal waste storage permits. Several new waste storage permit applications and reviews are in progress.
- E. **Livestock Facility Licensing Update:** SWCD Director updated LCC on current modifications and projects being reviewed under this ordinance. (2) Livestock Facility License modifications were reviewed and approved, (2) new modification applications are in progress.
- F. **Land & Water Conference:** SWCD Director updated LCC on department staff attendance at the annual Land & Water Conference. Staff use the annual professional improvement conference to network, share information and technology. This allows staff to see conservation strategies being implemented statewide and bring home new ideas and practices to be used in Manitowoc County. The LCC was thanked on approving budgets and funds for staff to attend. Michael Slattery attended and shared with committee members his appreciation of UW staff projects, data and research shared in the breakout sessions. Information on carbon markets and neonicotinoids was discussed. Neonicotinoids are pesticides primarily used on agricultural seed coatings to prevent insect damage to seeds before and after germination in the soil. These chemicals have been showing up and bioaccumulating in soils and being detected in surface and groundwater. These have detrimental effects on beneficial insects, such as pollinator species. Human and animal effects are being studied.

County Board Resolution (2024-SW-4A2 Res Authorizing Manure Grant): A grant from the North American Manure Expo Board was awarded to Manitowoc County for \$2500 to develop and pilot a county wide GIS/GPS live hazards map for animal waste spreading improvements. When finalized it will be available on-line on the SWCD website for use on any IOS device. **Motion** to approve was made by Lee Engelbrecht and was seconded by Ted Hoffman. Motion carried unanimously.

County Board Resolution (2024-SW-7A2 Res Authorizing North Central Region Sustainable Research and Education Grant): The SWCD Department has applied for and is eligible to accept a \$6000 2024 North Central Youth Educator Grant from federal funds for Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Projects. These funds will be used to develop a mobile learning lab to bring to schools and community functions. **Motion** to approve was made by Ryan Phipps and was seconded by Michael Slattery. Motion carried unanimously.

SWCD Cost Share Contracts/Amendments/Agreements: (3) contracts totaling \$4320 for nutrient management plans were submitted to the LCC for review and approval. **Motion** to approve was made by Ryan Phipps and was seconded by Ted Hoffman. Motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting Date(s) & Time: May 16, 2024, 4:45 p.m.

Adjournment: **Motion** to adjourn was made by Lee Engelbrecht and seconded by Michael Slattery at 5:37 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
David Wetenkamp
Department Director

Minutes recorded: David Wetenkamp