

MANITOWOC COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2024
County Office Complex, Rm 300

LCC Chairman, Ryan Phipps called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m.

Roll Call: Ryan Phipps, Lee Engelbrecht, Tim Jadowski, Larry Bonde, Scott Schiesl were present. Ted Hoffman Michael Slattery were excused.

Also, in attendance: David Wetenkamp (SWCD), Brian Maedke (USDA-APHIS).

Agenda: Motion to approve the May 16, 2024 agenda was made by Lee Engelbrecht and was seconded by Tim Jadowski. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes: Minutes from March 21, 2024 & April 18, 2024 were reviewed. **Motion** to approve minutes by Lee Engelbrecht was seconded by Scott Schiesl. Motion carried unanimously.

Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program/USDA-APHIS (Brian Maedke): Mr. Brian Maedke introduced himself to the new committee members, provided a handout and shared a brief overview of his background and the wildlife damage program in Manitowoc County. Discussion among the supervisors covered several wildlife species and future concerns on the status of certain wildlife populations and the effects of less hunters and licenses being sold in Wisconsin. The consensus was that the demographics of society are changing, available land for hunting is a challenge and our young people are finding other ways to occupy their time with sports, cell phones and in-door activities, not hunting and fishing. These changes will lead to increases in certain populations of wildlife, which will need more control efforts and mitigation efforts to abate issues with crop damage and nuisance problems. Mr. Maedke explained methods of goose, cormorant, pigeon and starling control. Tim Jadowski asked about the status of sandhill cranes emerging as a nuisance animal in parks. The topic of information on local salmon stocking efforts in Manitowoc County was asked, no information was available.

Lake Michigan Area Land & Water Conservation Association (LMALWCA): Background was shared to new LCC members about the Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) and its (8) county represented standing committee abbreviated LMALWCA. Manitowoc County has (2) designated voting representatives to hold positions on the Board of Directors (BOD). Every two years these positions change with the alignment of county supervisor elections. (1) SWCD staff and (1) Land Conservation Committee member is to be appointed by the LCC. Positions were discussed and a **Motion** was made by Lee Engelbrecht to nominate David Wetenkamp as staff representative and Supervisor Ryan Phipps as LCC representative to the LMALWCA BOD. Motion was seconded by Tim Jadowski. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: None.

2024 Soil & Water Conservation Department Activities:

- A. **2023 Annual Update:** SWCD Director shared a slide presentation developed by Tara Wachowski (Grants & Education Coordinator) that showcased the accomplishments of the departments staff in 2023. The accomplishments mirror the goals, objectives and conservation issues of the county according to the land and water resource management plan. Supervisors thanked the staff for their efforts and shared encouragement to keep up the good work.
- B. **2026-2035 Land & Water Resource Management Plan:** First Local Advisory Committee meeting will be June 6, 2024.
- C. **Manure Expo Mini Grant:** The first version of the Manitowoc County GIS Mobile Spreading Map is scheduled to be operational for testing June 1, 2024.

- D. **Breakfast-on-the-Farm:** Will be held on June 9, 2024 – Libertyland Farms, Inc. 11431 Newton Rd. Valders, WI. Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to attend. Cost is \$10 per adult, \$5 per child and children under 4 are free. Tours and activities are planned.
- E. **Education & Outreach:** Past efforts were shared in the annual update presentation and the SWCD will have educational activities and a booth set up for breakfast on the farm.

2024-SW-8A2 Res Authorizing Runoff Management Grant: SWCD Director shared with the LCC the final resolution version edited by Corp Counsel. Details on the NOD grant was discussed with supervisors along with the draft NOD/NOI grant application to be reviewed by the WDNR. Chairman Phipps asked questions on the cost-estimate, reimbursement process and if the county could be liable for expenditures if the state funds are not released. Director shared that these funds are from the WDNR Notice of Discharge pool that is managed just for site specific runoff problems. The county will sign a contract with the landowner and the state before the county agrees to release any payments. All funds spent are to be reimbursed back to the county in full per resolution. Director asked the LCC Supervisors and Chairman Phipps to please present the resolution to the County Board for consideration.

SWCD Cost Share Contracts/Amendments/Agreements: (2) SWCD contracts totaling \$3000 for wetland habitat projects were submitted to the LCC for review and approval. SWCD director shared with the LCC that (4) contracts were signed by the director for CRP contracts according to our FSA/NRCS agreements. **Motion** to approve the contracts was made by Larry Bonde and was seconded by Ryan Phipps. Motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting Date(s) & Time: July 18, 2024, 4:45 p.m.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Tim Jadowski was seconded by Lee Engelbrecht at 6:02 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
David Wetenkamp
Department Director

Minutes recorded: David Wetenkamp