

MANITOWOC COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes

August 15, 2024
County Office Complex, Rm 300

LCC Chairman, Ryan Phipps called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

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

Also, in attendance: David Wetenkamp (SWCD).

Agenda: Motion to approve the August 15, 2024 agenda made by Lee Engelbrecht was seconded by Scott Schiesl. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Minutes: Minutes from July 18, 2024 LCC meeting were reviewed. **Motion** to approve minutes by Scott Schiesl was seconded by Lee Engelbrecht. **Motion carried unanimously.**

SWCD 2025 Budget: SWCD Director shared a copy of the SWCD Department budget planning spreadsheet and discussed details on the various department budget accounts and grants. Discussion revolved on working to keep the 2025 budget conservative and not increase county levy except as required to meet cost of living adjustments for staffing as approved by County Board. Expenditures and outlay will be kept to meet minimum operating costs. Michael Slattery asked for clarification on the DATCP staffing grant revenue account and the expense account associated with contracted services/data processing-internal costs. Comment was made on the approximate 30% increase in this expense in the department. Director explained this cost is a chargeback to the department for internal costs as determined by the administration. Director will share the 2025 budget process with LCC as developed at next meeting prior to budget adoption.

Public Comment: None.

2024 Soil & Water Conservation Department Activities:

- A. **LMALWCA Summer Tour:** All members of the LCC and County Board were invited to attend the LMALWCA Summer. Over 30 participants enjoyed the tour provided by John Durbrow at the Van Der Brohe Arboretum, by Sue Crowley at Woodland Dunes and at the Carstens Lake Phos-Flow Wetland site and English Lake sediment basin/tile project. Supervisor Scott Schiesl and Michael Slattery also attended. Supervisor Schiesl shared he was impressed with all the work, thought and interconnectedness of the species used in the habitat projects. Attendees learned about the obvious negatives and some positives with the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) killing ash trees, like opening the canopy, opportunities for new plantings and benefits to the flora and fauna like early successional growth. Some birds benefit from more standing dead trees providing insects and nesting cavities, while amphibians like salamanders benefit from more dead trees falling providing cover on the ground for their life cycle. Michael Slattery shared attendees were interested in learning about the Phos-Flow project as explained by Stantec's Sarah Majerus and LNRP's Amy Lentz and also about the collaborative work done by Jerry Halverson to improve English Lake's water quality by installing a tile and sediment basin project in 2022.

SWCD Cost Share Contracts/Amendments/Agreements: (12) SWCD contracts totaling \$22,916.25 for cover crop contracts were submitted to the LCC for review and approval. Michael Slattery inquired if the cover crop contracts were for one year and this was confirmed, yes. Due to cover crop contracts and planting dates being time sensitive and not aligning well with the next LCC meeting dates, Supervisor Scott Schiesl made a **Motion**, "to approve the contracts and allow the LCC Chair to sign the remaining contracts at a later date when all signatures can be obtained." Motion was seconded by Lee Engelbrecht. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Next Meeting Date(s) & Time: September 19, 2024, 4:45 p.m.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Scott Schiesl was seconded by Larry Bonde at 4:52 p.m. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
David Wetenkamp
Department Director

Minutes recorded: David Wetenkamp