

MANITOWOC COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes

September 19, 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, Scott Schiesl, Larry Bonde, Michael Slattery and Ted Hoffman were present.

Also, in attendance: David Wetenkamp (SWCD) and Brian Maedke (APHIS/USDA)

Agenda: Motion to approve the September 19, 2024 agenda made by Lee Engelbrecht was seconded by Scott Schiesl. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Minutes: Minutes from the August 15, 2024 LCC meeting were reviewed. **Motion** to approve minutes by Larry Bonde was seconded by Scott Schiesl. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Public Comment: None.

Wildlife Damage Abatement & Control Program (WDACP):

- A. **2025 WDACP Proposed Budget:** Brian Maedke presented the worksheet breakdown for details on the proposed 2025 budget. Mr. Maedke and the SWCD Director shared the background history on the administrative and cooperative agreement for the program and how all funds charged and paid to APHIS for work and claims in Manitowoc County are reimbursed to the county annually from WDNR with no levy impact. The proposed WDACP 2025 budget is an increase of 12.6% from 2024. **Motion** to approve the WDACP 2025 budget by Larry Bonde was seconded by Lee Engelbrecht. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- B. **Review & approval of amended 2023 fence contract:** Information on this contract was not available for review. **Motion** to table fence contract agenda item until next meeting made by Scott Schiesl was seconded by Ted Hoffman. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- C. **Proposed WDACP 2024 Crop Prices:** Brian Maedke shared a handout showing the proposed 2024 crop prices for claims and the breakdown of prices approved for damage claims used in the program since 2020. Michael Slattery asked for clarification on how prices were determined and stated they looked low compared to local area prices. Mr. Maedke stated his office staff call co-ops and use average commodity crop prices as determined using statewide cooperative data. Lee Engelbrecht shared he has checked the local farm reports and the 2024 prices suggested in the WDACP proposal were similar. **Motion** to approve prices as presented was made by Ted Hoffman and seconded by Larry Bonde. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- D. **Update of current WDACP enrollees:** Mr. Maedke presented a list of all current Manitowoc County participants in the Wildlife Damage Program including: Information on landowner, location, animal damage type, shooting permits and hunter access. This information is all available on the WDNR's website for public viewing.

SWCD Current Budget: Soil & Water Director presented documents showing the current 2024 budget and financial status. Time was taken to explain each account and how they will be discussed in the proposed 2025 budget worksheets.

2025 SWCD Budget Proposal: SWCD Director shared a copy of the 2025 SWCD Department budget planning spreadsheet and discussed details on the various department budget accounts and grants. The worksheets listed all of the internal and external revenue sources, associated expenses and use of the funds. This year the proposed budget expenses have increased 8.3% from last year and are attributed to internal contracted services, insurance and increases in employee compensation. Chairman Phipps asked for clarification on insurance and internal cost breakdowns. Details in the worksheets were discussed and will be up for discussion and approval by the County Board. Supervisors appreciated the budget being presented.

2024 Soil & Water Conservation Department Activities:

- A. **County Fair Activities:** Thanks to all the participants who visited the SWCD booth for well water testing and children's activities. Over 140 water samples were tested and results shared. Special thanks to our local Wisconsin Association for Home & Community Education volunteers for all their help making the well testing process go smoothly. The SWCD was awarded first place for best booth design and display.
- B. **Seven Rivers Soil Cooperative (SRSC):** A copy of the SRSC Forum newsletter was shared documenting the groups activities, members and articles. Michael Slattery discussed the main objectives of the group and fielded questions on the SRSC. Chairman Phipps asked Mr. Slattery to share the positives and any negatives realized by the group's activities so far. Positives were 17 new members, increased pledged acres and the general trend of many young farmers joining and wanting to be part of the mentorship and environmental advocacy. Negatives are there is still work to be done and more participation needed to be able to make a greater impact on improving soil and water quality in the county. Mr. Slattery also shared his attendance and presentation he gave at a local Trout Unlimited meeting in Sheboygan County that represents the lakeshore trout group.
- C. **Community Survey:** SWCD Director shared that the community survey has been well received and will be ending shortly. Results will be used by the Local Advisory Committee to address county residents' environmental concerns during development of the County Land & Water Resource Management Plan. At this time 209 participants have responded.
- D. **Land & Water Conservation Board Elections (LWCB):** Documents distributed described the policy and process involved with the (1) vote each county gets to nominate and elect one candidate to the State's LWCB. This is done working through our Area Association, the Lake Michigan Area Land & Water Conservation Association (LWALWCA). Director will share links to nominee's presentations when available in October and ask for input on a county vote by November 29, 2024.
- E. **Education & Outreach:** SWCD staff provided a booth, materials and attendance at the Two Rivers Paddle Palooza outing to promote environmental activities and stewardship.

DATCP 2025 PLG Grant and MOU: Grant documents, budget details and memorandum of understanding (MOU) agreement between the SWCD and SRSC was presented. The MOU was reviewed and approved to form by Corp Counsel. The \$40K grant will be placed in the 2025 budget for County Board consideration. \$30K of the grant is designated for cost-sharing bmp's. **Motion** to support the PLG Grant and MOU as presented was made by Ted Hoffman and seconded by Larry Bonde. **Motion carried unanimously.**

TNC 2025 Conservation Innovation Challenge Grant: The TNC Grant proposal documents were presented for review. This grant is a supporting grant that can be used to supplement the PLG Grant. The \$10K grant will be presented to the County Board as a resolution if awarded. All \$10K of the grant will be designated for cost-sharing bmp's if awarded. **Motion** to support the TNC Grant as presented was made by Larry Bonde and seconded by Scott Schiesl. **Motion carried unanimously.**

FSA/NRCS Contracts: Under direction and approval of the LCC, the SWCD Director shared the names and details of the (1) CREP & (3) CRP contracts signed in cooperation with the FSA & NRCS.

SWCD Cost Share Contracts/Amendments/Agreements: (5) SWCD contracts totaling \$7,722.00 for cover crop contracts were submitted to the LCC for review and approval. **Motion** to approve the contracts made by Michael Slattery was seconded by Scott Schiesl. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Livestock Facility Licensing & Animal Waste Ordinance: 2024 has been a busy year with Livestock Facility License (LFL) applications, reviews and Animal Waste Ordinance (AWO) permits. Currently (5) AWO permits have been approved and (5) are in-progress. Currently (6) LFL modifications have been approved and (8) are in-progress.

Next Meeting Date(s) & Time: October 17, 2024, 4:45 p.m.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Scott Schiesl was seconded by Michael Slattery at 6:34 p.m. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
David Wetenkamp
Department Director

Minutes recorded: David Wetenkamp