

MANITOWOC COUNTY  
LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2024

Manitowoc County Office Complex, Rm 300

LCC Chairman, Ryan Phipps called the meeting to order at 4:44 p.m.

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

**Also, in attendance:** David Wetenkamp (SWCD).

**Agenda: Motion** to approve the November 21, 2024 agenda made by Scott Schiesl was seconded by Lee Engelbrecht. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Minutes:** Minutes from the October 17, 2024 LCC meeting were reviewed. **Motion** to approve minutes by Lee Engelbrecht was seconded by Larry Bonde. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program:** Brian Maedke was not present, David Wetenkamp presented the notes and materials supplied by Brian Maedke to the LCC.

- A. **WDACP 90% harvest cut-off date** – David Wetenkamp presented the notes to the LCC and recommendation by Brian Maedke to consider using December 1, 2024 as the crop harvest cut-off date for use in claims. **Motion** by Larry Bonde to accept and approve December 1, 2024 as the 90% harvest cut-off date was seconded by Michael Slattery. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- B. **2025 Deer Donation Program** – Currently Manitowoc County does not have any licensed deer processors available to provide this service, but to remain eligible for the program in the future the county must sign an annual agreement to allow any new processors the ability to participate. Larry Bonde shared this is a good program but, there are a lack of vendors willing to provide the service and regardless the county should still make the program available as it is no cost. **Motion** by Larry Bonde to sign agreement to participate in the 2025 Deer Donation Program was seconded by Lee Engelbrecht. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- C. **WDACP permanent fence contract** – Permanent fence contract with a 75% cost-share rate totaling \$12.712 was discussed. Funds for the fence are provided by the Wildlife Damage Program through the WDNR and are not county levy funds. Location of fence was shared. Michael Slattery asked if the program has any caps or cost containment on these types of practices. Soil & Water Director will follow-up with Brian Maedke and provide the details on costs to the LCC. **Motion** to approve the fencing contract made by Lee Engelbrecht was seconded by Scott Schiesl. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Current SWCD Budget:** Soil & Water Director went through the operating budget for the department and discussed the corrections made to the contracted services account and the status of the educational supplies account. Michael Slattery noticed a few accounts were nearly used up, but a few months remain in the budget cycle. Soil & Water Director explained many of these line items in the accounts were set for particular items and purchases that are completed for the year with no additional costs expected above budget. In September 2024 the LCC approved the process to apply for a DATCP Producer Led Group grant and supplemental grant from The Nature Conservancy. The DATCP PLG grant was approved for 32K and the TNC supplement grant of 10K was awarded to the Seven Rivers Soil Cooperative (SRSC) and will be administered through the SWCD and SRSC MOU. Funds were also approved by County Board in the 2025 annual budget process. Chairman Phipps thanked the director for the transparency of sharing budget details.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Land & Water Conservation Board Candidates & Election:** Election materials and documents were provided to the LCC members a week prior to the meeting. Director shared the documents again and explained the process. The LCC members elected to watch the LWCB video interviews again in person during the meeting, discuss the candidates and vote. LCC members shared thoughts and consensus was that all candidates had the experience to be good LWCB members. Each LCC member voted for (3) candidates each and the top (3) vote getters were chosen. Top (2) were unanimous and there was a tie for the third spot. The SWCD Director made the tie-breaker vote on the third selection. **Motion** by Scott Schiesl to secure votes for candidates 1, 3 & 5 was seconded by Michael Slattery. **Motion carried unanimously.** Ballot was submitted via a secured website and the SWCD Director conducted the vote on 11-26-24 for candidates 1, 3 & 5.

**2026-2035 LWRMP Local Advisory Committee (LAC):** Minutes from the 11/16/24 LAC were shared and discussed. There were (22) participants in the meeting. A presentation with data on the Quarterly Well Water Monitoring Group was shared and discussed. The Community Survey results were shared and discussed. Attendees submitted goals and action items they perceived to be important for making the next ten-year land & water resource management plan implementation a success. Agency briefings from WDNR staff regarding forestry, wildlife, fisheries, water resources and non-point coordination were presented. Agency briefings from Manitowoc County Planning & Zoning and Health Department were also conducted. Next LAC meeting will be in January of 2025.

**NWQI Grant & Assessment Plan Resolution:** The LCC approved the NWQI grant application process in July 2024. The 50K grant was awarded to Manitowoc County from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that will provide funds to use for software, materials and staffing used in development of the assessment plan. Draft of the proposed National Water Quality Initiative Grant resolution was shared as sent to Corp Counsel and Finance Director for final editing. Details on line item break-downs of the grant are still in process and will be shared with the LCC and County Board. **Motion** to approve the draft resolution pending edits approved by Corp Counsel made by Larry Bonde was seconded by Scott Schiesl. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**NE TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Pilot Project:** The WDNR approached the SWCD in 2023 about a potential pilot project developed for the NE Lakeshore TMDL through EPA. If approved the funds will be used to stack best management practices like cover crops, low disturbance manure injection, grass waterways, field borders and filterstrips. The pilot was approved by the EPA and WDNR will provide up to 135K in cost-share funds over the next (3) years in (2) subbasins in Manitowoc County, if accepted. Final documents and resolution for the pilot project will be developed with no levy impact to budget. **Motion** to approve efforts to pursue these funds made by Larry Bonde was seconded by Scott Schiesl. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**SWCD Cost Share Contracts/Amendments/Agreements:** (6) SWCD contracts totaling \$436,427.20 for cover crops, grass waterway, harvestable buffers and waste storage and runoff project were submitted to the LCC for review and approval. Michael Slattery asked if USDA EQIP funds were considered for the waste storage project. SWCD Director explained the cost-share funds were part of the NOD Grant process approved by the County Board and the landowners involved did not have a CNMP in place to qualify for the program. **Motion** to approve the contracts made by Lee Engelbrecht was seconded by Larry Bonde. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Next Meeting Date(s) & Time:** January 16, 2025 at 4:45 p.m.

**Adjournment:** **Motion** to adjourn by Lee Engelbrecht was seconded by Tim Jadowski at 6:05 p.m. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
David Wetenkamp  
Department Director

Minutes recorded: David Wetenkamp