

MANITOWOC COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2025

Manitowoc County Office Complex, Rm 300

LCC Vice Chairman, Lee Engelbrecht called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m.

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

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

Agenda: Motion to approve the January 16, 2025 agenda made by Larry Bonde was seconded by Scott Schiesl.
Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes: Minutes from the November 21, 2024 LCC meeting were reviewed. **Motion** to approve minutes by Larry Bonde was seconded by Scott Schiesl. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program: Brian Maedke was present and presented the notes and materials for the 2024 claims. Mr. Maedke shared claims documents from 2023 and 2024 for comparison and explained the various landowners who received damage payments, what species they were for and what actions they took to help reduce the wildlife populations affecting their crops. Payments for claims in 2023 were \$20,369.04 and \$16,531.10 in 2024. Claims and participants vary year-to-year but, are comparable to other years tracked from 2010-2024. **Motion** by Scott Schiesl to "accept and approve the Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program 2024 Claims as presented," was seconded by Larry Bonde. **Motion carried unanimously.**

SWCD Budget: Soil & Water Director discussed year end 2024 operating budget for the department and status of the education budget line item. The 2024 budget is in the process of final adjustments by the finance department and when final 2024 numbers are available the document will be shared at the next LCC meeting.

Public Comment: None.

Land & Water Conservation Board Candidates & Election: Election materials and documents were provided to the LCC members for the LWCB and election speeches were watched and discussed by the LCC members during the November 21, 2024 LCC Meeting. Votes were approved for (3) LWCB candidates. Soil & Water Director shared that the (3) candidates elected to the LWCB were; Monte Osterman (Racine Co.), Rebecca Clarke (Sheboygan Co.) and Mike Hofberger (Calumet Co.).

2026-2035 LWRMP Local Advisory Committee (LAC): Minutes from the 01/13/2025 LAC meeting were shared and discussed. Christina Anderson, Associate Director & Jenny Pethan, Climate Specialist from the Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association (WLWCA), presented to the group the general scope, topics and issues counties will face in the future regarding weather change and how other counties have been addressing infrastructure and practices in land & water plans to remain viable and be eligible for providing citizens and businesses funding opportunities surrounding efforts in the future. Eric Oppermann, resource conservationist from the SWCD, gave a brief presentation on PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) in Manitowoc County. Presentation included describing PFAS, its sources and general health effects. Information was shared on current sites in Manitowoc County where PFAS have been detected and some results on community wells tested. Briefings from conservation advocacy representatives included; Manitowoc County Lakes Association (Jerry Corfman), Manitowoc County Fish & Game (Roger Vanderlogt), Friends of the Manitowoc River (Laurie Paulin), Glacierland RC&D (Valerie O'Connor), Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (Amy Lentz), Seven Rivers Soil Cooperative (Michael Slattery), and UW-Sea Grant (Titus Seilheimer). Next LAC meeting will be in February of 2025.

NWQI Grant & Assessment Plan Resolution: Soil & Water Director updated the LCC members that the draft National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) grant documents have been signed and submitted to the NRCS for review and approval. The LCC was thanked for supporting the grant process and presenting resolution No. 2024/2025-66 authorizing the NWQI grant to the County Board that was approved on November 17, 2024.

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. The pilot was approved by EPA and WDNR and will provide up to 135K in cost-share funds over the next 3-4 years for sub-basins S51 & S52 located in Manitowoc County. Participants will be contracted to do practices for at least 3 years and then progress will be monitored with water quality monitoring and satellite imagery technology to determine watershed improvements in soil disturbance and vegetative cover. Landowners and farm operators will be encouraged with cost-share incentives to sign-up and stack multiple bmp's on the acres enrolled.

Lake Michigan Area Land & Water Conservation Association (LMALWCA): The LMALWCA held its winter meeting on 01/10/25 at the Brown County STEM building located on the UW-GB Campus in Green Bay. David Wetenkamp, SWCD director and Michael Slattery, LCC member attended the meeting. Representatives from USGS and Brown County Land & Water Conservation Department gave presentations on edge-of-field monitoring station data and on the new technology involving Phosphorus Removal Structures (PRS) recently installed at 2 locations in Brown County. USGS edge-of-field monitoring data is showing mixed results on soil erosion and phosphorus runoff concentrations from farm fields with various cropping practices. PRS system data will be shared when available. Discussions on structure types, filter media, media disposal, costs and longevity of the systems were topics. Michael Slattery brought up concerns with PFAS (per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances) and Neonicotinoids (insecticidal seed coatings) used in agriculture that are showing up in soils, food, animal tissues and groundwater. Marinette County LCC member shared information and actions they have been dealing with regarding PFAS. Manitowoc County SWCD was chosen to receive the 2025 LMALWCA Conservation Award of \$200.

Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association Poster Contest: This is an annual statewide conservation and educational effort to engage school teachers and students with conservation minded art projects. This instills the conservation message with students through effective visual creativity. The contest starts with schools participating in each county and ends at the national level. The students theme this year was "Home is where the Habitat is". The SWCD received about 25 posters from various schools and age groups. The top 3 posters from each age group were presented to the LCC and they voted and chose the top poster from each age group to be forwarded to the Area Contest. Supervisor Tim Jadowski, who is an area art teacher, shared his appreciation for this contest and hopes more students can be engaged next year.

SWCD Cost Share Contracts/Amendments/Agreements: No Contracts were presented.

Livestock Facility License & AWO Reviews & Permits: Soil & Water Director shared an updated list of the 16 livestock facility license and 10 animal waste ordinance applications and permits that were reviewed and/or approved in 2024.

Next Meeting Date(s) & Time: March 20, 2025 at 4:45 p.m.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Scott Schiesl was seconded by Tim Jadowski at 5:32 p.m. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
David Wetenkamp
Department Director

Minutes recorded: David Wetenkamp