

MANITOWOC COUNTY  
LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2025

Manitowoc 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, Scott Schiesl, Larry Bonde, and Ted Hoffman were present. Michael Slattery and Tim Jadowski were excused.

**Also, in attendance:** David Wetenkamp (SWCD), Bob Ziegelbauer (County Executive), Tyler Martell (County Board Chairman) and Brian Maedke (USDA/APHIS) were present. Meeting was also attended by Steve Orth, Matt Salm and Dan Siemers.

**Agenda: Motion** to approve agenda by Lee Engelbrecht was seconded by Larry Bonde. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Minutes:** Minutes from the September 18, 2025 LCC meeting were reviewed. **Motion** to approve minutes by Scott Schiesl was seconded by Lee Engelbrecht. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Public Comment:** Chairman Phipps opened the meeting to allow for public comment. Steve Orth thanked the LCC for efforts and shared suggested revisions to the 5-yr manure agreement form. Dan Siemers agreed with suggested revisions to the form, but shared his disagreement of the 5-yr manure agreement process as not needed at the county level. Matt Salm shared Fitz-Pine Dairy was issued a citation for violating County Ordinances Chapter 26 & 28. Mr. Salm stated the farm followed all rules and submitted everything needed for a feed pad expansion and waste transfer system, and that the county stalled the project approvals. Chairman Phipps closed the meeting to public comment.

**Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program:** Brian Maedke (USDA/APHIS) provided copies and explained the documents for the proposed 2026 WDACP Budget, 2025 Crop Prices and 2026 Deer Donation Program participation. **Motion** to approve the proposed 2026 WDACP budget for \$26,472.27 by Larry Bonde was seconded by Lee Engelbrecht. **Motion carried unanimously.** **Motion** to approve the proposed 2025 average crop prices for wildlife damage claims prior to December 1, 2025 by Larry Bonde was seconded by Ted Hoffman. **Motion carried unanimously.** **Motion** to approve participation in 2026 deer donation program by Larry Bonde was seconded by Lee Engelbrecht. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Updated 5-Year Manure Agreement Form Approval & Policy: (Discussion on public comment and manure agreements are as follows)** Ted Hoffman questioned the definition of feed leachate as animal waste in current ordinances, and that the farm that was cited did not notify and submit information on the project to the county. The SWCD Director shared that feed storage leachate is defined as animal waste in Chapter 26 and waste transfer systems carrying leachate require an approved permit prior to construction. Feed storage structures are livestock structures per Chapter 28 and ATP 51, requiring written approval prior to construction. Ted Hoffman believed the 5-yr agreement form changes suggested by Steve Orth should be considered. Larry Bonde stated he disagrees with the form and process as not needed. Scott Schiesl shared he disagreed with the County Executive's veto of the LCC's vote to remove the 5-yr agreement process and this issue should have been resolved. Ryan Phipps stated he would like to see and possibly facilitate a meeting in future with more participation attended by farmers to discuss the 5-yr agreement form and process. SWCD Director stated he received communications from several farmers and citizens sharing positions seeing merit in the current process and also some in disagreement with the process. The SWCD Director shared the updated 5-yr agreement form prior to the LCC meeting with the County Board, the Local Advisory Committee and emailed most of the farmers and citizens who had attended previous meetings. SWCD Director stressed the ability to have local oversight, community input and renter agreements with long-term manure

management as being an essential proactive waste management strategy as farms continue to expand. After discussion and limited attendance to this meeting, **Motion** by Larry Bonde to, "table the 5-yr agreement form decision" was seconded by Scott Schiesl. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Livestock Facility Licensing & AWO Reviews Status:** SWCD Director gave a brief update on the status of 10 current permits, applications and approvals.

**Glacierland RC&D LOS for Surface Water Grant:** SWCD Director previous to the LCC meeting shared a request and background materials from Glacierland RC&D for the LCC and SWCD Director to consider supporting a Surface Water Education Grant with a letter-of-support to the WDNR. The LOS has no levy impact to the county and is additionally supportive of the existing Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) activities in the county. A draft LOS was shared with the LCC to consider. **Motion** to approve the Glacierland RC&D Surface Water Education LOS by Lee Engelbrecht was seconded by Larry Bonde. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**SWCD Current & Proposed Budget Discussion:** SWCD Director presented current 2025 budget status and thanked the county board for passing the 2026 budget and proposed activities and funds for conservation initiatives including the Between-the-Lakes Demo Farms new producer, office media upgrades and mobile learning lab project.

**Lake Michigan Area Land & Water Conservation Association (LMALWCA) Fall Tour:** Lee Engelbrecht and Cheyenne Behnke attended the fall tour being hosted by Kewaunee County. Lee Engelbrecht shared the tour highlights of a farm using the new Rain 360 waste application system and gave tour details of a farm expansion project incorporating a rotary parlor system. Also, the Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association's Poster & Speaking contest has started and any schools and teachers willing to participate can contact our office for details. This is a great opportunity to instill conservation thoughts, ethic and farm friendly activities in our schools.

**SWCD Cost Share Contracts/Amendments/Agreements:** 11 contracts for cover crop soil health practices, reduced tillage and 3 grass waterways totaling \$33,234.84 were reviewed for approval. **Motion** to approve by Lee Engelbrecht was seconded by Larry Bonde. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Next Meeting Date(s) & Time:** January 15, 2026 at 4:45 p.m.

**Adjournment:** **Motion** to adjourn by Larry Bonde was seconded by Scott Schiesl at 6:11 p.m. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
David Wetenkamp  
Department Director

Minutes recorded: David Wetenkamp