

MANITOWOC COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2026

Manitowoc County Office Complex, Rm 300

LCC Chairman, Larry Bonde called the meeting to order at 4:46 p.m.

Roll Call: Larry Bonde, Scott Schiesl, Jill Pope, Greg Riederer, Gregg Wolf and Ted Hoffman were present. Justin Otto was excused.

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

Agenda: Motion to approve agenda by Greg Riederer was seconded by Jill Pope. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Minutes: Minutes from the May 21, 2026 LCC meeting were reviewed. **Motion** to approve minutes by Scott Schiesl was seconded by Greg Riederer. **Motion carried unanimously.**

2026-2028 LCC New Member Introductions & Welcome: SWCD Director welcomed all new members. Each attendee gave a brief introduction about their background, expertise, interests and LCC members shared why they chose to serve on the committee.

Public Comment: No Public Comment.

Farm Services Agency County Executive Director - Vicky Mueller: Vicky gave a briefing on her general role as executive director for 3 area counties and provided handouts detailing how to apply for or make nominations to serve on the Manitowoc County FSA Committee. Flyers on details on how to establish a farm record, apply for farm loans, sign-up procedure for doing business with NRCS & FSA and information on CRP and CREP programs were provided and discussed.

Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program - Brian Maedke: Brian is a wildlife specialist and shared his roles and responsibilities involved with the WDACP program, which species are eligible for the program and discussed wildlife management and control measures involving other nuisance animal populations like sand hill cranes, gulls, bears, starlings and cormorants. A flyer was shared about the program, eligibility criteria and standards.

2026-2028 LMALWCA - SWCD & LCC Representative Appointments: Supervisor Pope and SWCD Director attended the June 5th Lake Michigan & Lake Winnebago joint area conservation association and LCC training meeting in Oshkosh. Director shared information on the agenda topics including the training session, presentations and county panel discussions. Supervisor Pope enjoyed the opportunity to attend and explained details on what she learned and observed on area issues and the collaboration and cooperation focus. The LMALWCA conducted their area meeting and members voted to elect Scott Frank, Shawano County LCD and Claire Morkin, Door County LCC to be WLWCA Board of Directors representatives for the area association. The association also elected officers for 2026-2028 as follows: President -Tyler Betry, Sheboygan County; Vice President - Claire Morkin, Door County; Coordinator - Ken Dolata, Oconto County and Secretary/Treasurer - McKenzie Pawlak, Oconto County. Scott Frank gave update on BOD meetings and committee activities and issues. Wave Boat regulations, PFAS settlements and data centers were discussed. Area summer tour agenda and invite was shared and will be hosted by Shawano County.

SWCD Current 2026 Budget Review: Director shared current printed budget sheets for department and went through each of the 11 accounts managed. The 2027 budget process has started. Supervisors will be able to review and make suggestions at future LCC meetings and discuss changes to departments and county budget at the county board level prior to adoption which typically occurs in November.

Resource Conservationist Geology & Groundwater Position (Joe Henson): Joe gave a brief description of his position and duties in the department including his background experience and education. A power point presentation provided visual information on practices he has installed/designed, county ground water well testing program and initiatives, nitrate data and trends, mapping and future efforts were explained and discussed.

Livestock Facility Licensing & AWO Permit Reviews Status: The SWCD has reviewed and/or approved 7 AWO permits, 11 LFL applications and 4 waste storage abandonment permits to date. Director shared details. More are in progress.

SWCD Cost-Share Contracts/Amendments/Agreements: Director gave brief discussion on the various cost-share practices included in the agreements. The current procedure is to share the cost-share agreements to the LCC for approval at scheduled meetings to allow for oversight of financials. 26 contracts totaling \$141,547.48 in cost-sharing consisting of nutrient management, cover crops, wetland restoration, and rock lined channel was presented to the LCC. **Motion** by Greg Riederer to approve the cost-share contracts was seconded by Scott Schiesl. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Next Meeting Date(s) & Time: September 17, 2026 at 4:45 p.m.

Adjournment: **Motion** to adjourn by Jill Pope was seconded by Ted Hoffman at 6:38 p.m. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
David Wetenkamp
Department Director

Minutes recorded: David Wetenkamp