

RACINE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION
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RACINE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Also Known as a Subcommittee of
THE RACINE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE PLANNING COMMITTEE
Ives Grove Office Complex Auditorium – 14200 Washington Avenue
Monday, 5:15 p.m., May 21, 2018

SUMMARY MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee Members Present: D. Cooke, T. Pringle, K. Buske, M. Osterman, R. Grove
T. Greil

Committee Members Excused: T. Hincz, T. Roanhouse

Youth in Governance Present: H. Stoltenberg

Youth in Governance Excused: E. Schlicht

Staff Present: C. Sampson

Supervisor D. Cooke called the May 21, 2018 Racine County Land Conservation Committee meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

1. A motion by T. Pringle/M. Osterman to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2018 meeting. R. Grove had one correction regarding his attendance not listed on the minutes and asked to amend the minutes to show he was present. This was noted and the motion was approved with the correction (6-0).
2. Review, discussion, and possible approval of the fiscal administration of an additional \$40,000 of the Producer-Led grant for the Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County (WPCR) from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WI DATCP). C. Sampson stated that the Governor gave \$500,000 in additional funding to Producer-Led watershed groups around the State. The WPCR managed to receive the initial request of \$40,000. M. Osterman asked how the additional monies would be spent. C. Sampson stated the two conservation practices of cover crops and grassed buffers. T. Greil continued to state to promote soils health cover crops and no-till are a difficult sell to many farmers in which tillage is engrained in the mindset. The WPCR is using field days, mailings and direct contact to farmers to relay information. A motion by M. Osterman, seconded by R. Grove to approve fiscal administration of the increased Producer Led Watershed grant. Motion approved (6-0).
3. Information only: The WPCR is holding the next field day on September 6, 2018 to show cover crops and no-till. More details will be made available by mid-summer.

4. Information only: C. Sampson stated that the Racine County Tree Program ended on April 26th with the final total sales of 37,200 trees to 260 customers. Overall, the program went well.
5. Information only: C. Sampson said the next Southeast Area Land and Water Conservation Association's next meeting is on Thursday, June 14th from 9 a.m. until noon at the Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission in Waukesha. One of the top items on the agenda will be electing regional representatives to our state organization, WI Land and Water.
6. Information only: C. Sampson stated that Monte Osterman was elected to the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board at the WI Land and Water annual meeting. There were six candidates being voted for with the top three being elected. Chairman Cooke and the Committee congratulated Monte on his election. Monte stated that he is not only working at the local and State levels, but also the national level with the Conservation Districts and the NACD to not only push agricultural/rural conservation, but also push for urban conservation initiatives. M. Osterman also stated that this is the first time in a long time that the Southeast Area had some representation on this board, and he will try to provide a different view or angle on some of the regulation as well as initiatives.
7. Information only: C. Sampson talked about the Racine County Riparian Buffer Program being in its final year. There are 32 acres of grassed buffers that have been established or will be established very soon, with about one acre of buffers remaining to be negotiated. The grant money comes from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation's, "Fund for Lake Michigan" program. Participants enter into a 15-year agreement with Racine County to establish and maintain the grassed buffers.
8. USDA Reports: The Farm Service Agency report was distributed. The main item in the report relating to conservation was the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program continues to accept acres. The new Farm Bill is scheduled to come out on October 1st. T. Greil continued to state that the legislative focus seems to be shifting toward conservation and away from the subsidy programs. T. Greil mentioned that the soil health initiative is making some movement at the Federal level as well as the State level. R. Grove stated that the House version of the Farm Bill did not pass, so it was back to the drawing board.
9. Other Business: T. Greil asked the Committee to look at the photographs of the Wind Lake Canal. The high water levels are causing much bank erosion along the canal. The soils in this area aren't able to withstand the fluctuation in water levels and the canal is getting wider. One potential solution is lowering the water level at the Rochester Dam. This would help the canal banks stabilize themselves with grass and therefore not erode. Chairman Cooke asked about the regulations regarding the dam. C. Sampson stated the elevations of the water level are regulated by the DNR, but kept in check by Racine County. T. Greil asked about potential assessments for impervious surfaces to help pay for the erosion problems and other canal issues. He asked if Racine County or other communities would consider assessments. R. Grove stated that Caledonia has done impervious assessments for a few years. After further discussion, it was decided that the Committee will get another update on the Rochester Dam and its impacts on the Wind Lake Canal and other properties.

10. A motion by T. Pringle, seconded by M. Osterman to adjourn at 5:44 p.m. Motion approved (6-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Roanhouse, Secretary
Land Conservation Committee

Chad Sampson, Recorder