

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., September 16, 2019

SUMMARY MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Committee Members Excused: T. Greil

Youth in Governance Present: V. Pulice, J. Janes

Staff Present: C. Sampson

Supervisor D. Cooke called the September 16, 2019 Racine County Land Conservation Committee meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

1. A motion by T. Pringle/K. Buske to approve the minutes for the June 17, 2019 meeting. The motion was approved (2-0) by Youth in Governance and (7-0) by the Committee.
2. Item was removed from the agenda.
3. Information only: C. Sampson stated the spring 2020 Racine County Tree Sale is open for orders. T. Roanhouse realized the program is well received and asked how the word gets out regarding the program. C. Sampson stated last year's sale had approximately 250 orders totaling 35,000 trees. C. Sampson continued to say a mailing list from USDA's Farm Service Agency contains over 5,000 names and addresses agricultural landowners/producers from Racine, Kenosha and Milwaukee Counties. The order form is distributed with a newsletter each year to this list. T. Hincz asked a couple questions regarding the swamp white oak and which trees are fast growing. C. Sampson said the swamp white oak is a variation of the white oak but is tolerant in hydric soils. C. Sampson continued to say the fastest growing tree outside of the pines is the hybrid poplar. V. Pulice asked about prairie seed mix. C. Sampson answered the mix is native to the area is what existed prior to intensive agriculture. T. Pringle asked to receive and file, seconded by T. Roanhouse. Approved (2-0) by Youth in Governance and (7-0) by the Committee.
4. Information only: An update from the September 11, 2019 Summer Field Day hosted by the Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County at Anthony Beck's farm in Waterford. C. Sampson stated 70 people showed up for the event, including about 50 farmers. C. Sampson said the participants were divided into three stations. First, a soil pit demonstration by Jamie Patton from the University of Wisconsin Extension. Second, a cover crop station led by Adam Lasch and Ross Bishop. Finally, a station showing the corn planter used in no-till and looking at the no-till stand of corn. This station was led by Anthony Beck. D. Cooke asked if we are tracking

the success promoted through the field days. C. Sampson said this year there were over 1000 acres newly planted to cover crops. M. Osterman stated that soil health, which includes the no-till and cover crop practice are being promoted nationwide. He continued to mention a success story from North Dakota where large weather events are being minimized due to the widespread use of soil health practices. M. Osterman said the soil pit had 12 inches of topsoil that has been built up over the years. M. Osterman also stated the healthy soil versus non-healthy soil in the beaker test clearly shows the benefits from a runoff standpoint. D. Cooke asked Supervisor Grove if he is participating in soil health practices. R. Grove stated he has had limited participation for the reason that Lake Michigan is near his farm and he feels he's already 4 to 5 days behind on planting due to location compared to the Waterford area. R. Grove also said there can be added weed pressure with all the rain that has occurred this year. T. Pringle motioned to receive and file, seconded by M. Osterman. Approved (2-0) by Youth in Governance and (7-0) by the Committee.

5. Update on Racine County projects installed in 2019. C. Sampson provided a handout with locations, project names and photos. C. Sampson gave a short summary of the projects as well as nutrient management acres, cover crop acres and CREP re-enrolls. A motion by T. Pringle to receive and file, seconded by M. Osterman. Approved (2-0) by the Youth in Governance and (7-0) by the Committee.
6. USDA Reports for Information only: C. Sampson discussed the County assisting the USDA NRCS with EQIP projects with the NRCS being very short staffed. The Farm Service Agency report states the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and Continuous Conservation Program are up and running. T. Pringle motioned to receive and file, seconded by M. Osterman. Approved (2-0) by the Youth in Governance and (7-0) by the Committee.
7. Other Business: None.
8. A motion by T. Pringle, seconded by M. Osterman to adjourn at 5:38 p.m. Approved (2-0) by the Youth in Governance and (7-0) by the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Grove, Secretary
Land Conservation Committee

Chad Sampson, Recorder