

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., March 18, 2019

SUMMARY MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Committee Members Absent: D. Cooke

Youth in Governance Absent: H. Stoltenberg, E. Schlicht

Staff Present: C. Sampson

Supervisor T. Roanhouse called the March 18, 2019 Racine County Land Conservation Committee meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

1. A motion by T. Pringle/R. Grove to approve the amended minutes with Robert Grove as Secretary for the October 15, 2018 meeting. The motion was approved (7-0) by the Committee.
2. Review, discussion, and possible approval of Racine County participation in the Multi-Discharge Variance program. C. Sampson gave a brief overview of the program. T. Hincz asked about what areas can participate. C. Sampson stated that all areas within the treatment plant that need to update their permit can participate. M. Osterman asked if the MDV pays for the entire cost of a project or partial costs with other programs. C. Sampson said the money can be used on a partial basis or full amount can be used. M. Osterman questioned the ranking or prioritization of projects. C. Sampson stated the project list is a document that is ever changing based on many conditions. Staff try to prioritize based on money, timing, contractor availability, weather and other factors. T. Hincz asked how the projects come about. C. Sampson stated that the landowner's typically approach the County and then we assist them. A motion to M. Osterman/T. Pringle to approve participation in the Multi-Discharge Variance program. Approved (7-0) by the Committee.
3. Information only: The Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County had a brochure developed by Briar Rose Design and Marketing to try to obtain annual sponsors for their organization. The sponsors will receive recognition as well as show how much conservation is being put on the ground as part of their contribution. The WPCR received a \$40,000 grant from WI DATCP in 2019. This grant is being used for cover crops, grassed buffers, and farmer education. Tom Greil stated more producer led groups are applying for the grant, so the amount distributed will be smaller in the future which leads to the need for sponsors. Tom Greil explained it is engrained into the farming community that we need to use tillage, but ultimately we need to work with the balance in the ecosystem with no-till and cover crops to promote a healthy, living soil. C. Sampson stated Cody Nelson, Soil Rx, is going to be giving a presentation at the Fox

River Summit on March 22nd at the Veteran's Terrace in Burlington. Cody is going to discuss what the farming community is doing in the name of soil health and water quality. M. Osterman said he proposed to utilize some Southeast Area dues money toward grants available to the Producer Led groups. Tom Greil reiterated the goal to obtain sponsors will take place this year. T. Roanhouse asked how this was going to be done. C. Sampson said the farmers will take the brochures to private businesses and explain how their sponsor funds will be used. R. Grove asked if the group had formed into an official organization. C. Sampson said they received their non-profit 501c(3) status less than a month ago. T. Pringle noted to have the brochure received and filed.

4. Tree program for information only: C. Sampson discussed the tree program. There are 218 orders with a total of 38,000 trees sold. The tree distribution date is Tuesday afternoon, April 23rd and all day on Wednesday, April 24th at the Racine County Fairgrounds in Union Grove. T. Pringle noted to have the tree information received and filed.
5. USDA Reports for Information only: C. Sampson discussed bullet point #3 on the Farm Service Agency report regarding the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Guidance documents have not been delivered from the federal government, so the CREP program along with other conservation programs are currently on hold.
6. Other Business: M. Osterman provided information regarding a proposed resolution on the EDLUP agenda to make Racine County the fiscal agent for an urban non-point source and storm water program planning grant on behalf of the Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network. Monte explained the grant will allow for Root Pike WIN to bring money to the area for conservation projects. Racine County will receive over \$17,000 to cover staffing costs.

M. Osterman promoted attendance to the Wisconsin Land and Water Annual Conference. He stated the topics are unique and the conversations are interesting. The Conference will be in Green Bay the next two years and Wisconsin Dells the following two years.

7. A motion by T. Pringle, seconded by R. Grove to adjourn at 5:51 p.m. Motion approved (7-0) by the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Grove, Secretary
Land Conservation Committee

Chad Sampson, Recorder