

(approved by committee August 16, 2021)

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, 5:00 p.m., June 21, 2021

SUMMARY MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee Members Present: M. Osterman, T. Hincz, R. Grove, M. Dawson, T. Greil

Committee Members Excused: J. Eckman, K. Kruse, B. Nielsen

Youth in Governance Present: E. Anschutz, C. Dieck

Staff Present: C. Sampson

Chairman M. Osterman took roll call and called the June 21, 2021 Racine County Land Conservation Committee meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. A motion by R. Grove, seconded by M. Dawson to approve the minutes from February 15, 2021 and April 19, 2021. The motion was approved (2-0) by Youth in Governance and (5-0) by the Committee.
2. M. Osterman spoke about the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board and its responsibilities to approve Land and Water Resource Management Plans (LWRMP). M. Osterman asked the Committee to fill out the yellow survey sheets to help guide the planning process. C. Sampson said chapters to explain the planning process and identify the existing natural resource base are being drafted. Informal invitations have been made to the Citizen's Advisory Committee and the formal invitations will go out in July. M. Osterman asked the LCC members to feel free to join the Citizen's Advisory Committee.

R. Grove asked about expanding the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) to the entire County as a plan recommendation. R. Grove stated there is a lot of cropland on the eastern portion of the County that is not eligible for CREP. C. Sampson stated the recommendation can be included in the plan.
3. C. Sampson gave a short presentation about Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUC's).
4. Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County update was given by T. Greil and Jim Stute. T. Greil said the Summer Field Day was planned at Case Eagle Park on Thursday, September 9th. T. Greil continued to say there will be a soil pit with Jamie Patton as the speaker.

Jim Stute introduced himself as a newer member of the Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County. Jim has a background as an agricultural scientist. Jim thanked the County Board for approving the WPCR lease for Case Eagle Park.

Jim continued to say he just completed the certified nutrient management plan for the crop land at Case Eagle Park and was submitted today. Jim said Snap Plus was used to develop the plan. Jim said the phosphorus runoff load can be reduced by 65% and the sediment runoff load can be reduced by 75% by utilizing regenerative agriculture.

Jim said the highlights at Case Eagle will be comparisons of regenerative agriculture versus conventional agriculture. Jim said the one field the soil tests for phosphorus were really low on some fields and the other fields were really high. The WPCR is going to demonstrate that regenerative practices are leaving phosphorus in the system and not allowing it to runoff into the Fox River.

Jim distributed a map as part of the planning process. There are areas shown on the map that will act as buffers and pollinator areas. Jim said they will not farm the marginal ground.

M. Osterman asked how many acres are being farmed. Jim Stute said just over 50 acres. C. Sampson said 51 acres are on the nutrient management plan checklist. M. Osterman asked if pollinators are being included as part of the nutrient management plan. J. Stute said it is not part of the nutrient management plan, but it is part of the comprehensive plan.

C. Sampson said there will be signs for the public explaining pollinator strips, regenerative farming and other conservation practices being utilized at Case Eagle.

5. C. Sampson gave an overview of constructed conservation projects completed thus far this year. M. Osterman asked how many projects were in the queue. C. Sampson stated they are hoping to have another 8 to 12 constructed this year.
6. The Farm Service Agency report was distributed. C. Sampson said the Conservation Reserve Program sign-up dates were listed. C. Sampson also stated the rental rates for the program had increased.
7. Other business: None.
8. A motion by T. Hincz / R. Grove to adjourn at 5:41 p.m. The motion was approved (2-0) by Youth in Governance and (5-0) by the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Monte Osterman, Chairman
Land Conservation Committee

Chad Sampson, Recorder