

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., August 16, 2021

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

Committee Members Excused: B. Nielsen, K. Kruse (Supervisor Kruse dialed in many times, but could not connect. Staff will work with K. Kruse to resolve the issue.)

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

Staff Present: C. Sampson

Chairman M. Osterman took roll call and called the August 16, 2021 Racine County Land Conservation Committee meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. A motion by R. Grove, seconded by T. Hincz to approve the minutes from June 21, 2021. The motion was approved (2-0) by Youth in Governance and (6-0) by the Committee.
2. M. Osterman said the first meeting for the Land and Water Resource Management Plan update is on Wednesday at 10 a.m. M. Osterman invited the Committee to attend the meeting and be part of the planning process.

C. Sampson asked the Supervisors to turn in the survey with environmental concerns. C. Sampson stated the highest concerns were cropland erosion, sediment/invasives species existing in the waterway and the Lake Michigan bluff erosion.

C. Sampson continued to state what was going to happen at the first Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting on Wednesday. C. Sampson described the timeline, plan outline, and planning process with public and agency input.

T. Hincz asked if the Waterford Waterway Management District (WWMD) was going to be part of the planning process. M. Osterman stated that Greg Horeth, Chairman of WWMD is on the Committee.

M. Osterman said the WI Land and Water Board has become more technical and more demanding of solid plans meeting the requirements. M. Osterman said the current plan is on the County website and comparative plans are on the WI DATCP website.

3. Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County update was given by T. Greil. T. Greil said the Summer Field Day was planned at Case Eagle Park on Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup> and thanked

Racine County again for the four-year farm lease at the park. T. Greil continued to say all elected officials in Racine County received an invite. He said the FFA students were invited too.

Jim Stute from the Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County received a grant from The Nature Conservancy to set up Case Eagle Park to demonstration plots, take soil tests, collect base line data and anything else needed to set up the cropland for future Field Days and demonstrations. C. Sampson stated that he will be attending the Finance and Human Resource Committee meeting on Wednesday to ask the Committee approve the grant and move with a resolution to the County Board.

J. Eckman asked about the cropland and what land was owned by the county and what is the plan. C. Sampson pointed out the map on the brochure and showed the field where the demonstration plots will be developed.

R. Grove asked how many demonstration plots were installed this year. T. Greil said the field needed some work to get ready for future demonstration plots. A baseline of yield, soil tests and other items are being addressed to set up plots this fall for next year. T. Greil continued to say they did plant a pollinator buffer strip along the eastern part of field one.

J. Eckman asked if they were looking for uniform areas of yield. T. Greil stated that uniform areas will be the side-by-side plot comparisons. R. Grove stated that field may have some hills and slopes that would provide less yield, making some plots not as comparable.

T. Greil stated the Field Days will be held at Case Eagle in the future.

4. C. Sampson gave an overview of constructed conservation projects completed thus far this year. After the overview,

M. Osterman asked if the LCC was going to request transfers from other counties to help complete projects, but C. Sampson stated that hasn't been done yet. He continued to say he was trying to see how the dollar figures look as the year continues.

R. Grove asked if the Land Conservation booth at the County Fair creates any new projects. C. Sampson stated this year there are two potential projects just by talking to folks at the fair.

5. The Farm Service Agency report was distributed. C. Sampson said the Conservation Reserve Program deadlines were listed.
6. Other business: T. Hincz asked if any of the Covid funds came to the Land Conservation office. C. Sampson stated that some of those funds may be used in the County Grant application process. So, if the Waterford Waterway Management District or another environmental organization received those funds, then this office may help in providing technical assistance for such projects.

C. Sampson said the tree program is available online to order seedling trees. R. Grove asked about the increase in participation. This was due to social media advertising at the County level.

M. Osterman asked if the Committee had seen the Journal Times article about the NACD tour of conservation projects in Racine County. M. Osterman said the Regenerative Stormwater

Conveyance System was one of the highlights of the tour. The visit brought national attention to Racine County.

M. Osterman said the STAR Program (Saving Tomorrow's Agricultural Resources) exists in a few states. The program is designed to rate each farm operation by looking at the conservation practices and assess each level of resource management.

7. A motion by R. Grove / M. Dawson to adjourn at 5:43 p.m. The motion was approved (2-0) by Youth in Governance and (6-0) by the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

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Monte Osterman, Chairman  
Land Conservation Committee

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Chad Sampson, Recorder