

RACINE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION *(approved by committee on 2/21/22)*
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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., December 20, 2021

SUMMARY MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee Members Present: M. Osterman, T. Hincz, R. Grove, M. Dawson, K. Kruse (dialed in).
T. Greil, J. Eckman

Committee Members Excused: B. Nielsen

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

Staff Present: C. Sampson

Chairman M. Osterman took roll call and called the December 20, 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 October 18, 2021. The motion was approved (2-0) by Youth in Governance and (7-0) by the Committee.
2. M. Osterman explained some of the responsibilities regarding being on the WI Land and Water Conservation Board. He explained any LCC member is allowed to run for the position and three LCC members are on this State Board. M. Osterman asked if any members on the Racine LCC are interested. R. Grove nominated M. Osterman to continue to represent on the WI Land and Water Conservation Board, seconded by T. Hincz. M. Osterman accepted the nomination. The motion was approved (2-0) by the Youth in Governance and (7-0) by the Committee.
3. M. Osterman asked C. Sampson to discuss two contracts carrying over 2021 funds to 2022. C. Sampson stated both projects are going to be completed, but they will not start until next year. M. Osterman asked how much money was being carried over. C. Sampson said approximately \$8,000 is being carried over. M. Dawson made a motion to carry over the funds to 2022, seconded by J. Eckman. The motion was approved (2-0) by Youth in Governance and (7-0) by the Committee.
4. M. Osterman said there have been a few meetings by the Citizen's Advisory Committee on the draft chapters. M. Osterman asked C. Sampson the status of the plan. C. Sampson stated the edits and revisions are still being made to Chapter's 2 and 3, and the final draft version of Chapter 4 will be completed soon. T. Hincz asked when the completion date will be and will the LCC be approving the plan. C. Sampson stated the completed draft version will be sent to WI DNR and WI DATCP for comments in the spring. Those final comments will be incorporated into the plan. The Committee will have a copy of that final plan around June and will vote on the plan in August. C. Sampson continued to say the plan will also go to the County Board for approval.

M. Osterman said he is encouraged by the assistance we are getting from the Citizen's Advisory Committee. He said the plan will be carefully examined and questioned by the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board.

5. M. Osterman said the poster contest is led by the State Association. This year's theme is "Healthy Soil, Healthy Life." C. Sampson said this is the first time in a few years that Racine County has reached out to all schools in the County to participate. Thus far two schools have showed interest. R. Grove suggested the Youth in Governance students to spread the word and encouraged them to participate or inform others of this opportunity.
6. C. Sampson spoke briefly about the Tree Program. The order form is available online or by hard copy. As of today, the County had received 110 tree orders that have ordered approximately 10,500 trees. C. Sampson said last year there were almost 40,000 trees sold to 370 customers.
7. T. Greil spoke about the Winter Workshop to be held on February 11th. The keynote speaker is Gabe Brown. Mr. Brown spoke at a conference at Silicon Valley in front of 8000 people. You won't want to miss this event.

T. Greil said the field in use at Case Eagle Park is still in pretty rough shape, so no-till hasn't begun yet. Although, the research plots have been staked out.

T. Greil said last year they put together seed packets to distribute and this was successful. They are deciding if they want to do the seeds again or try a different project. T. Greil said maybe they could let some pheasants go at Case Eagle. It could be an educational opportunity. R. Grove stated to not release any pheasants until the tillage is done at Case Eagle. Then, T. Greil continued to say they could work with schools on canoeing events or other conservation projects along the river, but the group is partnering with local FFA's.

M. Osterman suggested working with the Youth in Governance to get involved with some schools.

T. Hincz said this might be an opportunity to get the WI DNR involved. They could provide some insight and make an educational opportunity.

T. Greil said this is his last meeting as a member of the Farm Service Agency Representative and currently there is not another representative. After some discussion, it was decided that the Farm Service Agency will select a representative for the LCC. M. Osterman said additional non-elected representatives can be appointed to the LCC.

8. C. Sampson gave an update on the construction projects shown on the handouts.
9. M. Osterman stated he suggested a video for the educational portion of the meeting. An NRCS video was played, "Building a Waterway with a Grade Stabilization Structure."
10. The Farm Service Agency report was distributed. T. Greil said the Conservation Reserve Program is available for sign up. C. Sampson said there were 26 EQIP applications for 2022 in Racine County.

11. Other business: M. Osterman said the NACD informed him that the infrastructure bill will have \$30 million dollars will be available and distributed each State for conservation projects. Lake Michigan bluff erosion was not an eligible practice.

There is a regional NACD meeting in Columbus, Ohio in January. There are scholarships available for those who have not attended to help pay for the trip.

M. Osterman said the WI Land and Water Annual Conference is on March 2 – 4 in WI Dells.

12. A motion by R. Grove / M. Dawson to adjourn at 5:53 p.m. The motion was approved (2-0) by Youth in Governance and (7-0) by the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Monte Osterman, Chairman
Land Conservation Committee

Chad Sampson, Recorder