

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., February 21, 2022

SUMMARY MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Committee Members Excused: B. Nielsen, K. Kruse, R. Grove

Youth in Governance Present: C. Dieck

Youth in Governance Excused: E. Anschutz

Staff Present: C. Sampson

1. Chairman M. Osterman took roll call and called the February 21, 2022 Racine County Land Conservation Committee meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.
2. A motion by M. Dawson, seconded by T. Hincz to approve the minutes from December 19, 2021. The motion was approved (1-0) by Youth in Governance and (5-0) by the Committee.
3. M. Osterman gave the WI Land and Water update. The annual meeting is going to be held virtually on March 2 – 4. Most of the speakers are still going to be presenting and it will still be a good conference. The Annual Business meeting may not complete as much as usual due to the meeting being virtual and certain procedures cannot take place virtually.

M. Osterman continued with the annual NACD meeting that was held in person. The Executive Committee and Full Board approved a work plan which was 2 years in the making. The \$918 million dollar infrastructure bill is available for conservation projects and there is one billion coming through the NRCS for watershed projects. The NRCS plans on hiring 3000 new staff over the next year and a half to put more staff out in the field.

4. M. Osterman led the discussion on the three members to be voted to the Land and Water Conservation Board. T. Hincz shared his selections. M. Dawson and J. Eckman agreed with the selections. M. Osterman and the Committee shared the consensus to vote for Monte Osterman, Rebecca Clarke and Russell Rindsig.
5. C. Sampson gave a presentation regarding the Multi-Discharge Phosphorus Variance. The presentation showcased the options available for treatment facilities and show cased a grassed waterway project completed by the Land Conservation office using MDV funds. J. Eckman asked if the 45 tons of soil being saved each year was for multiple projects or just the show cased project. C. Sampson said it was just for the shown project. C. Sampson stated that one ton of soil

spread over one acre is the thickness of a dime. In this case, the gully was about two feet wide by almost a foot deep. T. Hincz asked where the water testing is being conducted to determine the phosphorus levels. C. Sampson stated that in the case of Adaptive Management, the surface water sites were determined as part of the plan and the sites are not at the treatment plant. J. Eckman asked why the wastewater treatment plants are not able to get the phosphorus out using treatment themselves. C. Sampson stated that it is very difficult and expensive with the technology available to have those last few percentages of phosphorus removed to meet the permit requirements. In the case of the City of Burlington, C. Sampson recalled Public Works mentioning a 12 million dollar upgrade and Adaptive Management was a more reasonable option to give them time to meet the permit requirements. J. Eckman motioned, seconded by M. Dawson, to approve Racine County Land Conservation's participation in the MDV Program.

6. T. Greil gave an update on the Winter Workshop help on February 11th. The event featured Gabe Brown and was held at the Cotton Exchange in Waterford. There were 117 people in attendance, which is the highest of any event the WPCR has held.

T. Greil thanked the Committee and County Board for the lease at Case Eagle Park. He said research and demonstration plots were set up. He asked if the Parks Department or whoever could clean up some of the tree lines, especially the areas where the Summer Field Days would take place. C. Sampson said he would discuss this with Roley Behm.

M. Osterman stated that he would bring NACD to Case Eagle Park in the future to view the research and demonstration plots.

7. C. Sampson spoke briefly about the Tree Program. As of today, the County had received well over 200 tree orders that have ordered approximately 20,000 trees. C. Sampson said last year there were almost 40,000 trees sold to 370 customers. The tree pick-up is on April 19th in the afternoon and all day on April 20th. C. Sampson invited any or all of the supervisors to stop by the Racine County Fairgrounds to assist with the program or just come to check it out.
8. C. Sampson said he is finalizing the final draft of the plan. The only chapter that needs to be completed is Chapter 2. C. Sampson is adding more information on climate change and some additional information on dams. The final draft will be sent to WI DATCP and WI DNR sometime in March and they will return comments that will be implemented into the plan. The LCC should have a copy of the plan once the comments are included.
9. The FSA submitted a report for the Committee to read. C. Sampson stated the CRP program was very popular and continuous CRP offers deep pockets to assist with many projects being completed.
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: C. Sampson mentioned a possible name change from Land Conservation Division to the Racine County Land and Water Conservation Division or something similar.
12. A motion by J. Eckman / M. Dawson to adjourn at 5:53 p.m. The motion was approved (1-0) by Youth in Governance and (5-0) by the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Monte Osterman, Chairman
Land Conservation Committee

Chad Sampson, Recorder