

RACINE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION
14200 Washington Avenue
Sturtevant, Wisconsin 53177-1253
Phone: 262-886-8440 Fax: 262-886-8480

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, 6:00 p.m., June 6, 2022

SUMMARY MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee Members Present: M. Osterman, R. Grove, J. Eckman, T. Wishau, O. White,
T. Rutkowski, T. Greil

Committee Members Excused: T. Hincz, T. Wishau

Youth in Governance Excused: Charles Letsch, Rabeka Liberto

Staff Present: C. Sampson

1. Chairman M. Osterman took roll call and called the June 6, 2022, Racine County Land and Water Conservation Committee meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.
2. A motion by R. Grove, seconded by T. Rutkowski to approve the minutes from May 16, 2022. The motion was approved (7-0) by the Committee.
3. Kari Divine, Glacierland RC & D, attended the meeting and gave a brief overview of their working relationships with other Counties in the MOU. M. Osterman stated that he had two suggested changes in the MOU. The first was to make the agreement between the Racine County Land and Water Conservation Committee. The second change was to eliminate the RC&D managing grant funds on behalf of the County. T. Rutkowski asked if there was any reason to have reservations on signing the MOU. M. Osterman stated the MOU went to Corp Counsel for review and no other changes were recommended. M. Osterman stated the goals are similar and he sees no reason for any reservations to sign the MOU. J. Eckman asked if there is any cost to the County. M. Osterman said the only cost to the County is a little staff time to facilitate the agreement. J. Eckman asked if this is an opportunity to do things more efficiently. K. Divine said the RC&D can be adaptable to meet whatever role the County needs. C. Sampson said Glacierland could possibly write some grants for the County such as the DNR Surface Water Grant Program. K. Divine said they currently do this for some counties. M. Osterman said a lot of ongoing monitoring is done through the RC&D's across the country. A motion by J. Eckman, seconded by R. Grove to enter into the MOU as presented. The motion was approved (7-0) by the Committee.
4. M. Osterman gave an update on WI Land & Water. M. Osterman said the Southeast Area had a meeting recently. C. Sampson was appointed as the Secretary of the Area Association and M. Osterman was elected as the LCC Representative for the SE Area on the WI Land & Water Board of Directors. M. Osterman stated that Marissa Castello was elected as the staff representative for the SE Area on the WI Land & Water Board.

M. Osterman said the State Urban Agricultural Committee has been established and led by the NRCS. It is called UCAS (Urban Conservation Ag Subcommittee) which is a subcommittee of the State Technical Committee. M. Osterman said "Jumping Worms" are an issue in urban agriculture. He said they use massive amounts of nutrients and their waste create a hard crust in the soil.

M. Osterman stated the Golden Sands RC&D has hired an Urban Conservationist based in Union Grove.

M. Osterman said the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board is meeting tomorrow. He continued to say the advisory committee on research and programming is a purpose statement and procedure which is going before the Board.

The WI Land and Water Annual Conference did make a little money this year. Also, any activities at the Conference is covered by their insurance.

5. M. Osterman said the Land and Water Resources Management Draft Plan is completed and available online and as a hard copy. C. Sampson stated that we are still awaiting comments from WI DNR and WI DATCP to include into the plan. C. Sampson said staff is putting together a 5 year report and a draft copy will be available at the next meeting.
6. C. Sampson showed video and photos of Case Eagle Park and the research plots. The videos were drone footage of corn being planted in the plots. There will be signs, maps and narrative to explain what is occurring in the field. T. Greil stated the weeds in the cover crops area were not doing as well as the weed in the conventional tilled areas. R. Grove asked how soon the cover crop would be terminated. T. Greil said soon because they don't want the cover crop to out compete the corn for sun.
7. M. Osterman asked the committee members to think about any conservation projects that we may be able to move forward. T. Greil mentioned using goats to pasture down buckthorn and other unwanted species as his project.
8. USDA reports: M. Osterman said the latest report from NRCS was an economic study on the programs increasing the adoption of cover crops was interesting as it compared EQIP to CSP. C. Sampson mentioned reading the bullet points on page two as a summary of the document.
9. A motion by T. Rutkowski / R. Grove to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. The motion was approved (7-0) by the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Monte Osterman, Chairman
Land Conservation Committee

Chad Sampson, Recorder