

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., April 18, 2022

SUMMARY MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Committee Members Excused: B. Nielsen, K. Kruse

Youth in Governance Excused: Charles Letsch, Rabeka Liberto

Staff Present: C. Sampson

1. Chairman M. Osterman took roll call and called the April 18, 2022 Racine County Land Conservation Committee meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.
2. A motion by M. Dawson, seconded by T. Hincz to approve the minutes from February 21, 2022. The motion was approved (6-0) by the Committee.
3. M. Osterman gave the WI Land and Water update. WI Land and Water has created and filled a full-time State-wide Training Coordinator Position. Also, a position has been approved for Climate Resiliency that came from the DNR's Stormwater Program. T. Hincz asked who the employee reports to and M. Osterman stated the Matt Krueger, the WI Land and Water Executive. The position is to coordinate agencies, counties and supervisors.

M. Osterman mentioned that NACD's annual meeting in Florida announced 3,000 new employees for NRCS that came out of the infrastructure bill.

4. C. Sampson gave a short description about how the 10-year Land and Water Resource Management Plan was put together with assistance from the Citizen's Advisory Committee and highlighted each chapter. C. Sampson said a few small errors have been found and are soon to be corrected in the final version. T. Greil asked if there was another public meeting on the plan. C. Sampson stated there will be a Public Hearing on the plan in August. T. Greil asked about how potential dam removal is reflected in the plan. C. Sampson said a brief description was given about each of the dams in the County, but no recommendations were made for removal or other actions. T. Greil also mentioned the Waukesha Water Diversion. C. Sampson stated that the diversion is mentioned in the plan, but the County will start with monitoring the Root River and Fox River and will do further best management practices as needed in the future. R. Grove asked about the non-metallic mining portion of the plan. C. Sampson said the Land Conservation specifically focuses on reclamation and the Development Services office focuses on the Conditional Use portion of the plan which spells out permitted activities, hours of operation, etc.

County Board Chairman T. Roanhouse joined the meeting and discussed grants with M. Osterman to see if this plan can help the County receive federal grants. M. Osterman stated the work plan is vital to securing State funds and can help the County receive federal funds.

5. C. Sampson gave handouts and a short presentation to the Committee as an educational portion of the meeting to explain the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) Program.
6. T. Greil said they are planning the field day on September 8 or 9 at Case Eagle Park. The current project is to try to have the County allow the farm group to clear a few trees. M. Osterman asked why the trees need to be cleared. T. Greil said there are two box elders and would be removed from the middle of the field which would allow for more consistency on the research plots. T. Greil said there is an area planned for pollinator strips as well. The cover crop research plots are being set up this spring.

T. Greil said an Eagle Scout is going to build some bird houses and bat houses and place them throughout the park.
7. C. Sampson spoke briefly about the Tree Program. The County had received 300 tree orders totaling 33,450 trees. The tree pick-up is tomorrow and Wednesday (April 19, 20). C. Sampson invited any or all the of supervisors to stop by the Racine County Fairgrounds to assist with the program or just come to check it out. M. Dawson asked what were the most popular trees ordered. C. Sampson said white pine and norway spruce.
8. The FSA submitted a report for the Committee to read. C. Sampson stated the CRP program is still available. M. Osterman is on the policy book task force for NACD to look at some program changes to be added to the next Farm Bill.
9. M. Osterman thanked M. Dawson for his time and effort on the Land Conservation Committee as this is his last meeting.
10. A motion by J. Eckman / M. Dawson to adjourn at 5:53 p.m. The motion was approved (6-0) by the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Monte Osterman, Chairman
Land Conservation Committee

Chad Sampson, Recorder