

RACINE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION
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RACINE COUNTY LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Also Known as a Subcommittee of
THE RACINE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE PLANNING COMMITTEE
Ives Grove Auditorium – 14200 Washington Avenue
Monday, 5:00 p.m., September 19, 2022

SUMMARY MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Committee Members Excused: T. Hincz, R. Grove

Youth in Governance Excused: Charles Letsch, Rabeka Liberto

Staff Present: C. Sampson

1. Chairman M. Osterman took roll call and called the September 19, 2022, Racine County Land and Water Conservation Committee meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
2. A motion by G. Horeth, seconded by T. Rutkowski to approve the minutes from August 1, 2022. The motion was approved (7-0) by the Committee.
3. M. Osterman discussed the handout with questions from WI DATCP and the WI Land & Water Conservation Board. The answers were written by C. Sampson and reviewed by M. Osterman to be approved by the Committee. M. Osterman said the LWCB doesn't only read the plans, but also bases their decision to approve plans on the answers provided. T. Rutkowski asked a few questions on the acronyms used and M. Osterman provided clarification. C. Sampson stated there is an acronym page in the new LWRM Plan. G. Horeth stated he appreciated the brief summary in which the questions and answers provided. A motion by G. Horeth to approve the "Implementation Covering the Past Five Years and Future Direction" form, seconded by T. Wishau. The motion was approved (7-0) by the Committee.
4. M. Osterman said the largest news at WI Land and Water is the winter County Conservationist meeting has been canceled. This may be a permanent cancellation. The Board felt it was close enough to the Annual Conference in the spring where it may not be needed.
5. M. Osterman stated that he represented the NACD at the U.S. Water Alliance Conference in Milwaukee last week. M. Osterman said there were some dynamic presentations. He continued to say those partners really might not understand what NACD does for water quality, but the strength of that alliance is outreach.
6. M. Osterman said the University of Illinois developed software to do remote sensing and agricultural modeling to do a pilot field / pasture carbon report. The informational report will provide insights about farm carbon and ecosystem markets. HabiTerre is the company putting all

of this together with a grant funded by NACD. C. Sampson said he is working with Jim Stute to get Case Eagle Park signed up for the program. He said we have the shapefiles and all of the metrics needed to get signed up, but he'll talk to Jim tomorrow. M. Osterman asked if the Committee had any issues or reservations signing up Case Eagle Park. No Committee members had any problems with signing up.

7. M. Osterman made sure everyone had a copy of the joint allocation plan. M. Osterman explained the first position is paid 100% by the grant, the second position 70% and the third position is allocated at 50%. This is mandated by State Statute, but the program is under-funded and the third position is hardly funded by the State due to a shortage of funds. M. Osterman said for years the State has not met their obligation. Cost Share grants are also applied for through the allocation plan. C. Sampson stated he applies for \$300,000 in bond funding and \$250,000 in SEG funding, but only received \$55,000 in bond and \$90,000 in SEG. G. Horeth asked about the fiscal year and who does the approval. C. Sampson stated the fiscal year starts January 1. M. Osterman stated the initial allocation is put together by WI DATCP based on the County Applications and then the LWCB and WI DATCP approve the plan.
8. M. Osterman asked Greg Horeth to summarize the handout provided by the Waterford Waterway Management District. G. Horeth stated the report was generated to provide information about the Waterford Dam and the Waukesha Diversion's potential impacts. The Diversion is set to take place in September 2023. The document states facts gathered from the WWMD. G. Horeth said the fact is if six inches of water is lost throughout the impoundment then many homeowners will own a riparian home on dry land. G. Horeth said it can take up to two years to change the dam order, which he feels is unacceptable.
9. C. Sampson stated he reached out to WI DATCP to request the map change. He was notified that a few other counties also requested map changes and all other changes would be submitted together with the next National and State contract. The timeline is rather uncertain because the existing CREP contract is continuous.
10. Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County update was started by C. Sampson. He stated that 70 people attended the Summer Field Day on September 15th. He continued to say there were three stations which included a soil pit, cover crops, and the research plots. There was also an example of drone interseeding into corn as well as the rainfall simulator. T. Greil stated that he accompanied County Board Chairman Roanhouse in a gator to attend the day. M. Osterman asked how many acres were harvestable and T. Greil said about 35 to 40 acres. M. Osterman stated that the Producer Led Program is being recognized for its success and a priority at the State.
11. T. Wishau stated there was a meeting with Southeast DNR Secretary Thompson, the County Executive Jonathan Delagrave and county staff to discuss options at the Margis Wildlife Area. Ideas were being shared and possible grants were discussed. T. Wishau continued to say nothing is set in stone yet, but things are moving forward.
12. A motion by T. Rutkowski / R. Grove to adjourn at 5:57 p.m. The motion was approved (7-0) by the Committee.

(approved by committee on 11/7/2022)

Respectfully submitted,

Monte Osterman, Chairman
Land and Water Conservation Committee

Chad Sampson, Recorder