

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
Public Works Conference Room – 14200 Washington Avenue
Monday, 6:00 p.m., March 6, 2023

SUMMARY MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Committee Members Excused: T. Hincz, R. Grove, T. Wishau

Youth in Governance Excused: Charles Letsch, Rabeka Liberto

Staff Present: C. Sampson

1. Chairman M. Osterman took roll call and called the March 6, 2023, Racine County Land and Water Conservation Committee meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
2. A motion by G. Horeth, seconded by T. Rutkowski to approve the minutes from the December 5, 2022 meeting. The motion was approved (5-0) by the Committee.
3. C. Sampson gave an overview of the DNR's Multi-Discharge Variance Program. G. Horeth asked who is monitoring the results. C. Sampson stated he reports the constructed projects on DNR's BITS (Best Management Practice Implementation Tracking System). This tracks pounds of phosphorus and tons of sediment. G. Horeth asked how many wastewater treatment facilities were in Racine County. C. Sampson stated there are seven facilities. A motion by J. Eckman, seconded by G. Horeth to continue to participate in the Multi-Discharge Variance Program. The motion was approved (5-0) by the Committee.
4. M. Osterman explained the NACD provides two separate grants for urban conservation / agriculture. There is a large grant for projects and a smaller \$10,000 grant for planning purposes. The non-profit needs to work with the Racine County Land and Water Conservation Division to apply for the planning grant and needs a resolution as part of the application. Cindy Sellers, representing the Racine Urban Garden Network (RUGN), distributed a flyer with information about RUGN. She has put together a planning grant proposal to make improvements at the Marquette Street Urban Garden. The goal is to take a portion of this area and create a teaching environment for kids and adults. The grant would assist with the planning. Cindy provided another handout to explain what the grant entails and how the money will be spent. Part of the money will be used to support a trip to Madison where there are many teaching gardens and learn from them. Some of the money will be used to draw a construction plan once a concept is decided. Finally, the remaining money will be used to help develop a program on how to get people to the site. This could be invites to schools or other organizations in a structured manner. This grant application needs a resolution from the Land and Water Conservation Committee in support of the

application. A motion by Jason Eckman, seconded by Greg Horeth for the resolution to be part of the grant application.

5. C. Sampson provided a handout that gave the final dollar figures transferred in from other counties from the Soil and Water Resource Management cost-share program.

C. Sampson provided the list of approved cost share contract extensions from 2022 to 2023. The main reason of the extension requests is the timing of nutrient management planning. Soil tests are usually taken in the fall, and the plans don't really need to be completed until prior to planting in the spring. This is the main reason for extension requests. M. Osterman asked the total acreage for the nutrient management extensions. C. Sampson stated the total dollar amount of \$60,007 divided by \$40 per acre which is 1,500 acres.

6. M. Osterman said he took photos of all of the winning area posters at the Annual Conference. He said the posters were phenomenal. C. Sampson stated that Greg Horeth joined staff to help judge the posters in early January. There were about 35 posters at three different grades levels that turned in posters to Racine County. Two of the Racine County posters took 2nd place at the Area level. G. Horeth stated he enjoyed the judging and found it ironic that Allison and Jon ranked the top posters in the exact same order as he did which clearly showed us which were the best. G. Horeth asked if we were doing something to recognize the winning posters. C. Sampson stated a small amount of cash was given to the winners as well as a certificate.

7. T. Greil said the Winter Workshop was a success. David Brandt, a farmer from Ohio, was the keynote speaker. He gave a formal presentation and then went into a question and answer session. C. Sampson said 114 people attended the event. T. Greil said the Watershed Protection Committee is meeting tomorrow night to make some decisions about this summer's field day and about next year's workshop. M. Osterman asked if there was a date set for the summer field day. T. Greil said nothing was set because they are trying to make sure to pick a date where the student Future Farmers of America can attend.

C. Sampson said the Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County is also a sponsor at the Fox River Summit which is on March 16th at the Veteran's Terrace in Burlington. The Summit is an all day educational event for farmer's, municipal staff, environmental groups or any interested citizens to learn about what is being done to improve the Fox River.

8. C. Sampson said there are 289 customers that purchased 33,400 seedling trees over the winter. The pickup dates are April 25 and 26 at the Racine County Fairgrounds in Union Grove. J. Eckman asked what kind of tree were for sale. C. Sampson stated pines, spruces, shrubs, oaks, maples and a few others.
9. M. Osterman gave an update on the WI Land and Water Annual Conference. M. Osterman stated there was a change made to the resolution process and in the bylaws. The changes were made to make the process more streamlined and allow for better timing. C. Sampson said each county is asked to bring donated items to for the silent auction to support WI Land and Water's Youth and Education Program. Items Racine County was able to solicit included a Dremel Tool, an Evolution Excel Garbage Disposal from InSinkerator, two gift baskets from SC Johnson and 12 kringles from Lehman's Bakery.

10. M. Osterman stated he was in New Orleans for the National Association of Conservation Districts annual meeting. M. Osterman stated that a bylaw change has extremely changed Committee structure. He said Wisconsin had six representatives at the Conference.
11. C. Sampson gave an overview of the Farmland Preservation Program. He stated the only two Towns with Prime Agricultural Zoning (A1) were Waterford and Burlington. There are about 25 farmers currently in the program that farm approximately 6,000 acres. There is a conservation compliance component with farm inspections. C. Sampson also stated that this year, the County and SEWRPC will be updating the Farmland Preservation Plan.
12. T. Rutkowski shared information on a book named "A World Without Soil: The Past, Present, and Precarious Future of the Earth beneath Our Feet." T. Rutkowski mentioned a few other books mentioning environmental crisis.
13. A motion by G. Horeth / J. Eckman to adjourn at 7:06 p.m. The motion was approved (5-0) by the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Monte Osterman, Chairman
Land and Water Conservation Committee

Chad Sampson, Recorder