

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., April 3, 2023

SUMMARY MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee Members Present: M. Osterman, G. Horeth, R. Grove, T. Greil, T. Wishau-phone.

Committee Members Excused: T. Hincz, T. Rutkowski, J. Eckman

Youth in Governance Present: Christopher Nabor

Youth in Governance Excused: Charles Letsch, Rabeka Liberto

Staff Present: J. Grove

1. Chairman M. Osterman took roll call and called the April 3, 2023, Racine County Land and Water Conservation Committee meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.
2. A motion by T. Wishau, seconded by R. Grove to approve the minutes from March 6, 2023. The motion was approved (5-0) by the Committee.
3. M. Osterman gave a Wisconsin Land + Water update and stated that the annual conference was held in early March with record attendance and noted that some of the bylaws were changed. He also discussed a research survey that requested input about county committees interacting with UW research. M. Osterman also stepped down from the SE area legislative committee with Alan Barrows appointing himself in the open committee seat.
4. M. Osterman explained that he was asked to chair an NACD committee at the national level. He discussed that NACD was given \$92 million for conservation projects and the rules and regulations are currently being worked out.
5. J. Grove discussed the Farmland Preservation Planning update, giving a timeline of how the planning will proceed, and asked if any committee members would like to be on the advisory committee. R. Grove suggested the municipalities be contacted or for a brochure to be sent to them to decide if they want to adopt Farmland Preservation.
6. J. Grove gave an update on the Racine County Tree Program, over 33,000 trees were sold in 2023 with the tree pickup days being held on April 25th and 26th. M. Osterman stated he will be stopping out to help with tree pickup and G. Horeth suggested an email be sent out to the committee as a reminder in case any other members would like to stop out and help.

7. T. Greil said the Watershed Protection committee selected Ray Archuleta as the keynote speaker for next year's winter workshop. Some discussion on if the current venue would be large enough for the large crowd that Ray Archuleta would bring in for the event. T. Greil also said they haven't selected a date yet for the fall field day, but they have asked a top WI DNR official from southeast Wisconsin to be the keynote speaker. T. Greil stated they will select a date for the fall field day after they meet with the DNR official on April 13th.
8. In other business, M. Osterman stated that he and G. Horeth are in discussions with the County Executive, some County Board Supervisors, and the performance and analytics division to strategize and prioritize grant funding opportunities to get more conservation projects done within Racine County. M. Osterman discussed making the grant writing cooperative an agenda item for the Land & Water Conservation committee in the future. T. Roanhouse affirmed that the Land & Water conservation committee must be the main mentor/contributor to which grants should be applied for.
9. J. Grove gave an overview and demonstration of the drone the department uses to track progress on conservation projects within the county.
10. A motion by T. Wishau / G. Horeth to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. The motion was approved (5-0) by the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Monte Osterman, Chairman
Land and Water Conservation Committee

Jonathan Grove, Recorder