

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

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, 6:00 p.m., August 7, 2023

SUMMARY MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee Members Present: M. Osterman, J. Eckman, G. Horeth, T. Rutkowski, R. Grove,
T. Wishau(phone), T. Greil

Youth in Governance Excused: C. Naber, M. Patil

Staff Present: J. Grove

1. Chairman M. Osterman took roll call and called the August 7, 2023, Racine County Land and Water Conservation Committee meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
2. A motion by G. Horeth, seconded by R. Grove to approve the minutes from the June 5, 2023 meeting. The motion was approved (7-0) by the Committee.
3. M. Osterman stated a Health & Conservation working group was formed to relate the conservation work that is done in Wisconsin to human health. M. Osterman stated WI Land & Water has an agreement with the Savannah Institute for reintroducing forestry.
4. M. Osterman stated that NACD is concentrating heavily on the Climate Smart Commodities grant and they have increased their 2023 budget to 35.4 million dollars. NACD has confirmed with the Ag Committee that there will not be a Farm Bill this year. M. Osterman stated the Nation Outreach Committee met with NRCS Chief Cosby and he discussed his five priorities: Climate Smart Initiative, urban conservation, partner outreach, equitable distribution of funds, and filling empty NRCS positions across the US.
5. J. Grove provided a Farmland Preservation Planning update along with stating who the Advisory Committee members are so far. R. Grove asked why the Town of Norway and the Town of Dover would not be interested in joining Farmland Preservation. T. Wishau suggested Jon Vos, a farmer from the Town of Burlington, would be a good candidate for the Advisory Committee. T. Wishau said he contacted Sam Stratton, from the Town of Dover, during the meeting and asked if Chad could send more info about Farmland Preservation straight to him.
6. J. Grove provided a handout and gave an overview of completed projects constructed since the June LWCC meeting.
7. T. Greil stated the WPCR Summer Field Day is on September 8th and gave an overview of the different speakers they were going to have. T. Greil said the WPCR Committee will have a meeting to complete the 2024 grant application with a deadline of September 15th. T. Greil asked

if any Land & Water Conservation Committee members wanted to be a part of the WPCR committee. M. Osterman suggested the Committee write a support resolution to be part of the WPCR 2024 grant application. G. Horeth discussed the timing of the resolution and the deadline for the grant application. M. Osterman stated there can be an online committee meeting so then the resolution can have first and second reading, also approval at the Racine County Board on August 22nd.

8. M. Osterman stated that the SE WI Land and Water Conservation Association Summer Tour will be hosted by Racine County on Wednesday, September 20th. J. Grove gave an overview of the scheduled stops for the tour and suggested the committee attend.
9. M. Osterman stated the 2024 joint allocation plan revealed a \$370,000 cut from the year prior which was an unfortunate error on DATCP's part. J. Grove discussed the staffing impacts from the 2024 joint allocation plan update. M. Osterman discussed the need to keep funding at the same level or at an increase, not decrease as the 2024 joint allocation plan shows. M. Osterman stated Racine County will be receiving a separate Innovative grant for \$25,000 from DATCP.
10. G. Horeth requested the Waukesha water diversion project be added to next month's agenda as well as a few months after. G. Horeth discussed the potential impacts of the Waukesha water diversion, and the switch will occur sometime in September. G. Horeth stated his concern is that the water diversion will negatively impact the Fox River and Racine County downstream of the diversion. M. Osterman stated that the Waukesha water diversion will be added as a regular agenda item from here forward. T. Wishau stated the heads of government have a meeting on August 30th, in Burlington along the Fox River. T. Wishau discussed that he will contact Racine County Executive Delagrave to discuss the potential impacts to the communities on the west end of Racine County. G. Horeth said he was going to talk to Tom Slawski from SEWRPC and possibly invite someone from SEWRPC to the next meeting.
11. T. Rutkowski stated he contacted Scott McComb about the Japanese Knotweed along the Lake Michigan shoreline and that Scott was passing it on to the City of Racine for them to control the invasive weed.
12. A motion by T. Rutkowski / R. Grove to adjourn at 7:41 p.m. The motion was approved (7-0) by the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Monte Osterman, Chairman
Land and Water Conservation Committee

Jonathan Grove, Recorder