

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, 6 p.m., October 2, 2023

SUMMARY MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Committee Members Excused: T. Wishau, T. Rutkowski

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

Staff Present: C. Sampson

1. Chairman M. Osterman took roll call and called the October 2, 2023 Racine County Land and Water Conservation Committee meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
2. A motion by G. Horeth, seconded by R. Grove to approve the minutes from the August 7 and August 21, 2023 meetings. The motion was approved (5-0) by the Committee.
3. M. Osterman spoke about his meeting with Tom Vilsack, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. Monte stated he attended a meeting in Waukesha celebrating the first anniversary of climate smart conservation. Monte said the meeting was attended by about 120 people. Monte said the Secretary's key points were to be innovative and show data which is exactly what is occurring at Case Eagle Park.

T. Greil asked if the Secretary had mentioned anything about the Roundup (glyphosate). Monte said this was not discussed directly but talked about cover crop innovations without mentioning Roundup. R. Grove stated that certain chemicals are needed if you want that clean product.

R. Grove asked Monte where the Secretary felt we are at with the Farm Bill. Monte said the Secretary didn't believe there would be a Farm Bill by the end of the year.

4. Monte mentioned he attended the Coon Valley Watershed anniversary in western Wisconsin. This celebrated 90th year of best management practices taking place around the nation.

Monte said Racine County hosted the Southeast Area Field Day. Monte mentioned the Dylan Vaca from the DeLong Company presented their new "Climate Smart Program" in which a grant was received for certain best management practices. They have \$7 million to distribute which includes \$50 per acre for cover crops. The only catch is all of the grain must go through DeLong. This helps DeLong track the "Climate Smart" grain which may receive brand or sell for a premium.

5. Monte stated the 2025 Summer NACD meeting will be held in Milwaukee. The Wisconsin County Conservationist meeting is generally held around the same time and can be held in conjunction with the NACD meeting. Monte would like to do a Racine – Kenosha Tour as part of the event.
6. C. Sampson stated the timeline has moved back and the first Farmland Preservation Advisory Planning Committee meeting will be December 12th at 9:00 a.m. at Ives Grove. M. Osterman suggested meeting materials be distributed to all LWCC members. G. Horeth said the Comprehensive Land Use Plan has been discussed at the Village level and asked the status. C. Sampson stated the Farmland Preservation Plan will be completed by December 31, 2024 and this information will be used to assist with the development of the Comp Plan 2050.
7. C. Sampson stated he does not have a handout pertaining to construction projects completed, but said the Village of Union Grove Stream Restoration Project was completed with a few glitches. Also, a larger shoreline restoration project was finishing up using Southeast Wisconsin Fox River Commission Funds in the Town of Waterford. There will be a complete update at the next meeting.
8. T. Greil said the Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County's Summer Field Day occurred back on September 8th. There were three stations. A farmer from Illinois explained his regenerative journey. Jim Stute spoke about the research at Case Eagle Park. Chad Sampson discussed the Waukesha Water Diversion and potential impacts. Finally, C. Sampson stated the Producer Led Application was submitted on September 14th. The application included a Resolution with unanimous support from the County Board.
9. G. Horeth said if you've been following the news the Waukesha Water Diversion has been moved back to mid-October. Water flow is continuously being monitored at the Waterford Dam.
10. C. Sampson and M. Osterman gave an overview of the Outagamie County Phosphorus Reduction Project. There was a diagram to show the different best management practices used to drop out the total suspended solids which contain phosphorus. Finally, the last part of project before water was released to capture the soluble phosphorus used alum or iron slag to neutralize the phosphorus before being released to a waterway or reused as irrigation onto a field.
11. Other Business: There was a discussion to move the Land & Water Conservation Committee meeting time to another day or time to allow less travel for Committee members. No final decision was made, but there will be further discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Monte Osterman, Chairman
Land and Water Conservation Committee

Chad Sampson, Recorder