

(approved by committee on December 4, 2023)

RACINE COUNTY LAND & WATER 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., November 6, 2023

SUMMARY MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

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

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

Staff Present: C. Sampson, Josh Holden USDA

1. Chairman M. Osterman took roll call and called the November 6, 2023, Racine County Land and Water Conservation Committee meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
2. A motion by G. Horeth, seconded by R. Grove to approve the minutes from the October 2, 2023, meeting. The motion was approved (7/0) by the Committee.
3. Joshua Holden from the USDA Wildlife Services briefly explained that the 2024 budget for the Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP) will be similar to this year. He answered the questions of the committee members. A motion by G. Horeth, seconded by T. Wishau to approve the budget was approved by the Committee (7/0).
4. Joshua Holden presented and answered questions of the Committee members regarding the 2023 Wildlife Damage crop price proposal and 90% harvest date. A motion by R. Grove, seconded by T. Wishau to approve the proposed prices and the 90% harvest date of December 15, 2023. The motion was approved (7/0) by the Committee.
5. M.Osterman introduced this resolution to enter into a new five-year cooperative agreement (2024-2028) with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and United States Department of Agriculture for the Wildlife Crop Damage Management Program. M. Osterman, Joshua Holden, and C. Sampson answered questions of the Committee. A motion by G. Horeth, seconded by T. Wishau to approve and forward the resolution to the Economic Development and Land Use Planning Committee for approval to forward to the County Board for adoption. The motion was approved (7/0) by the Committee.

6. M. Osterman introduced the item to repeal Section 20-1167 Procedures for Siting Livestock Facilities from the Racine County Code of Ordinances. C. Sampson provided some historical information regarding the procedures and how cumbersome and time-consuming the process is, including an application that is over 70 pages. The County Corporation Counsel is looking at this as well since there have been court cases due to this Ordinance, which is what Racine County would like to avoid. As there was no motion to take the action on this item by the Committee members, Chairman Osterman suspended it for further discussion until input is received from Corporation Counsel.
7. C. Sampson reviewed the list of grants to Racine County: Milwaukee providing \$15,000, which is a done deal. Undetermined amounts may be received from Kenosha and Waukesha Counties. A motion by R. Grove, seconded by J. Eckman to accept these transfers was approved by the Committee (7/0).
8. C. Sampson discussed the transfer of \$1,500 to John Napientek Farms for nutrient management planning. A motion to approve the transfer by J. Eckman, seconded by T. Wishau was approved by the Committee (7/0).
9. M. Osterman explained that the DNR is asking for comments regarding continuing the Multi Discharge Variance (MDV) Program at the County level. C. Sampson expressed his opinion that it is a good program and should continue. M. Osterman indicated that he would compose a letter to the DNR in favor of continuing the program. A motion by T. Rutkowski, seconded by G. Horeth to approve the letter of support in favor of the (MDV) Program. The motion was approved (6/0) – J. Eckman was not in the room for this vote.
10. C. Sampson provided information on Farmland Preservation Planning. The first meeting is on the second Tuesday in December. Chapters one and two will be sent to the committee prior to that date.
11. C. Sampson provided information on projects completed in 2023 which included:
 - Village of Union Grove, just East of the County Fairgrounds.
 - Margis Project
 - Holding-Kolb Project
 - Karczewski Project
 - Four land-erosion projects in the Town of Waterford
12. T. Greil indicated that would be no winter meeting this year for the Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County; they will be attending the No-Till convention instead. C. Sampson said they were awarded a \$30,000 grant for 2024.
13. C. Sampson provided information on the 2024 Racine County Land & Water Conservation Department Budget. Staffing is the major cost against the County levy. Approximately \$400,000 of the budget comes from non-levy sources.
14. No other business.
15. R. Grove moved, seconded by G. Horeth to adjourn the meeting.