

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, 6:00 p.m., December 4, 2023

SUMMARY MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Committee Members Excused: T. Rutkowski, and T. Greil

Youth in Governance Present: M. Patil

Staff Present: C. Sampson

1. Chairman M. Osterman took roll call and called the December 4, 2023, Racine County Land and Water Conservation Committee meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
2. A motion by R. Grove, seconded by T. Wishau to approve the minutes from the November 6, meeting. The motion was approved (5/0) by the Committee.
3. C. Sampson reviewed the cost share extensions of \$50,000 from 2023 to 2024 for
4. M. Osterman introduced the possible application for the Multi-Discharge Variance funding for 2024. \$10,000 to \$12,000 was received in 2023. The money received is based on the location of the water treatment plants. A motion by G. Horeth, seconded by T. Wishau to approve applying for the funding in 2024. The motion was approved (5/0) by the Committee.
5. M. Osterman and C. Sampson reviewed the final cost share transfer numbers to and from other Counties. \$41,000 was transferred in and \$14,000 was transferred out. This was information only; no action was taken.
6. M. Osterman and C. Sampson discussed the annual National poster contest. There were four Racine County schools participating.
7. M. Osterman introduced updates of the NACD and WI Land & Water Associations. The five-year plan of the WI Land & Water Association is currently being put together.

Friends of NACD grants are out and were due back November 30th. The grants are \$2,500 each. January 10 and 11 is the North Central Regional meeting in Springfield, Illinois. The NACD executive board indicated that as of 9/30/2023, they had a net income of \$205,000 and have now passed one million dollars in membership dues. There was a 35% increase in membership in NACD in the State of Wisconsin this year alone.

8. M. Osterman discussed a change in the statute for Farmland Preservation which increased the payment per area and reduced the requirement a little. The County has created a Farmland Preservation Planning Committee, and their first meeting will be on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. C. Sampson indicated that SEWRPC was hired to complete the Chapters and Plans. All municipalities were invited to be on the advisory committee. The Towns of Waterford and Burlington were the most interested in participating as they have about 10,000 acres in these areas.
9. C. Sampson stated that this week in the Wisconsin Dells is the Wisconsin Soil Health Conference. The Watershed Protection Committee received their 2024 grant which is a little less than \$30,000. About two-thirds of the money will be used for cover props. Research at Case Eagle Park is on-going.
10. G. Horeth indicated that he is now tracking the results of the Waterford Dam daily, in addition is tracking rainfall. They are going back 3 years developing a monthly history to track trends. M. Osterman received a request to arrange a tour and education regarding the Waukesha Water Diversion. The topic has gained national attention and there is a local citizen's action group.
11. R. Grove received information that run off from the solar farms adjoining the west branch of the Root River in the Village of Yorkville. The concern is that there is possibly pollution coming off the solar farms affecting the Root River and ultimately Lake Michigan. C. Sampson will bring information to the next meeting from DATCP and Kenosha County.

M. Osterman received notice of the assessment the Drainage District passed for the Villages of Union Grove, Raymond and Yorkville, which he believes amounts to 2.3 million dollars.

12. A motion by G. Horeth to adjourn at 7:02 p.m.