

RACINE COUNTY LAND & WATER 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., March 4, 2024

SUMMARY MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Committee Members Excused: R. Grove, and T. Wishau

Youth in Governance Present: M. Patil and C. Naber

Staff Present: C. Sampson

1. Chairman M. Osterman took roll call and called the March 4, 2024, Racine County Land and Water Conservation Committee meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. A motion by G. Horeth, seconded by T. Rutkowski to approve the minutes from the February 5, 2024, meeting as presented. The motion was approved (5/0) by the Committee, (1-0) Youth-in-Governance.
3. M. Osterman introduced a Resolution to support a grant proposal for the National Association of Conservation Districts in partnership with the Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network for an urban agriculture and community conservation project at the Racine County Youth Development and Care Center. The project is the building of a micro farm to install a garden to grow pollinator and native plants from seed and then harvest plants to transplant them along County roads and highways, for water and fluoride uptake. There is up to \$60,000 available with a 25% match with in-kind services. The program would provide an economic benefit to the County and would be beneficial as a training program for Youth at the Development and Care Center. A motion by G. Horeth, seconded by T. Rutkowski to approve the resolution as presented. The motion was approved (5/0) by the Committee, (2/0) Youth-in-Governance.
4. M. Osterman discussed his trip to San Diego for the National Association of Conservation (NACD) annual meeting. A resolution for a new initiative was put forth by business groups, such as insurance companies attempting to monetize the natural resources of public lands. The air, mineral and water rights would be assigned a

March 4, 2024, LWCC
Page 2

5. value, and they would be able to regulate, legislate and control it. There will be a policy in the farm bill to oppose it.

The Wisconsin Land and Water Conference starts this week. The Board meeting is Wednesday morning. Registration was cut off due to reaching capacity for the first time ever. The outreach is in over 50 external committees. C. Sampson received donations from Lehman's and O&H bakeries, inSinkErator, and Case/IH. All items are on the site that can be viewed through Wisconsin Land and Water for bidding.

6. C. Sampson indicated that the Tree Program received 296 orders, with over 30,000 trees. The sale was about average even though the price of hardwood trees had increased to \$25 per bundle. Distribution of the trees will be in April at the County Fair Grounds.
7. C. Sampson indicated that the next Farmland Preservation Planning meeting will be in May or June. There are three chapters and a summary left to complete. The towns may want public hearings before adoption.
8. C. Sampson provided highlights of the Animal Waste Management Ordinance including a definition of the unconfined manure pile. This definition is important as it is needed to determine if a violation has occurred. The nutrient management and the manure storage plans are also part of this section. Our County has more manure storage closures than new construction. Violation notices include a verbal warning, then a notice of violation letter, a second letter to delivered by the County Sheriff's office, lastly a fine of \$200 per day is imposed. No suggested changes to the Ordinance have been made.
9. T. Greil said he went to Parkside and watched the movie "Common Ground". It showcased how Roundup contaminated our water and everything we eat has a trace of Roundup in it. The movie will run on March 16, 2024, at the Oriental Theatre in Milwaukee. Some discussion was made about bringing the viewing of the movie to Racine as well.

Field Day will be closer to September this year. Speakers are still needed.

C. Sampson said the Fox River Summit is Thursday, March 14th at the Veteran's Terrance in Burlington. Attendance is usually about 120 to 130 people.

March 4, 2024, LWCC
Page 3

10. G. Horeth provided an update regarding the Waukesha Water diversion. We have continued to see that the water levels have remained static between 1.6 and 1.7.

11. C. Sampson lead the discussion regarding the Solar Farm Ordinance. Questions were brought up related to the following: a cap on electricity when the use is only going to increase, why there is a height restriction, deer fencing, the drain tile management plan and insurance information at the end of the ordinance.

12. No other business discussed.

13. T. Rutkowski moved to adjourn the meeting.