

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., April 1, 2024

SUMMARY MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Committee Members Excused: T. Wishau

Youth in Governance Present: M. Patil

Staff Present: C. Sampson

1. Chairman M. Osterman took roll call and called the April 1, 2024, Racine County Land and Water Conservation Committee meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. A motion by G. Horeth, seconded by R. Grove to approve the minutes from the March 4, 2024, meeting as presented. The motion was approved (6/0) by the Committee, (1-0) Youth-in-Governance.
3. C. Sampson introduced a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Racine County Land & Water Conservation Department. This MOA is an update from previous ones which allows our agency to share information, designs, cost-share amounts, and so forth. The County has a good working relationship with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. This agreement is a good thing for both agencies' staff members as well as the citizens. A motion by T. Rutkowski, seconded by G. Horeth to approve the MOA with a change to the Land and Water Conservation Committee. The motion was approved (6/0) by the Committee, (1-0) Youth-in-Governance.
4. M. Osterman provided an update of the Wisconsin Land & Water/National Association of Conservation Districts. The Governor joined the meeting and M. Osterman was able to discuss state funding with him. The Governor was concerned about the producer-lead groups and PFA'S contamination. There were more break-out sessions and had a good variety of topics.

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5. C. Sampson provided an update on the Tree Program. The trees are arriving on Monday, April 22nd, Tuesday, April 23rd sorting and organizing in the morning and distribution will start Tuesday afternoon and all-day Wednesday. There were almost 300 orders.

6. C. Sampson indicated that SEWRPC has been in contact regarding the Farmland Preservation Planning update. They indicate that May or June will be the next meeting to review the full draft. At least one public information meeting in either Waterford or Burlington. All approvals are expected to be completed by November.

Some discussion was had regarding Farmland Preservation signage and including the cost in the next budget.

7. C. Sampson reviewed the areas he refers to the most in the Chapter 12.5 Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance. He summarized the biggest issues he has experienced over the years, such as infringing on the setbacks to property lines and how he would like to see more restoration as they keep opening acres.

8. T. Greil provided an update of the Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County. They are working on Field Day and want to reach out to SC Johnson regarding showing the movie, Common Ground.

9. G. Horeth provided a chart tracking the water levels at the Waterford Dam which have been tracked since the Waukesha Water Diversion on October 9th. There hadn't been any material difference, however, the water levels were lower this month than they were last year, but we had more precipitation. Looking back at previous years, it is not materially different.

10. In reference to the Solar farm ordinance, C. Sampson indicated that American Farmland Trust put out a 35-page document and suggested the committee review the suggestions in preparation for the questions and comments to be presented to the EDLUP committee.

11. This was R. Grove's last meeting; M. Osterman indicated that R. Grove is the most professional, knowledgeable, and thoughtful public servant that he has had the privilege to work with.

12. R. Grove moved to adjourn the meeting.