

(approved by committee on July 15, 2024)

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., June 4, 2024

SUMMARY MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee Members Present: M. Osterman, T. Greil, T. Rutkowski, J. Spencer

Committee Members Excused: T. Wishau, R. Grove, G. Horeth

Youth in Governance Excused: E. Hansing, S. Szabo

Staff Present: C. Sampson, K. Palomares

1. Chairman M. Osterman took roll call and called the June 4, 2024, Racine County Land and Water Conservation Committee meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
2. A motion by T. Rutkowski, seconded by T. Greil to approve the minutes from the April 1, 2024, meeting as presented. The motion was approved (4/0) by the Committee.
3. M. Osterman utilized a power point to provide an overview of the history of County Land & Water Conservation offices. This history includes the development of the Soil Erosion Service as a result of the “Dust Bowl” in the 1930’s. In the 1950’s, Conservation Districts were formed across the United States. In the 1980’s, Wisconsin moved the Conservation Districts to the County level. Currently, all counties in Wisconsin have in some form “County Land & Water Conservation Departments (LCD’s)” with oversight and direction coming from the “Land and Water Conservation Committees (LCC’s)”

Two videos were shown from the Land & Water Conservation website. The first video gave an overview of Chapter 92 which is the ground work for Wisconsin’s Soil and Water Conservation program. The second video explained the Land & Water Conservation Board and how they guide the Soil and Water Resource Management Program.

The Racine County LCC will approve resolutions, grant applications, contracts, memorandums of agreement and ordinance revisions. The LCD staff will provide updates on department staff activity relating to conservation practices.

4. C. Sampson stated the SEWRPC has completed draft chapters 3 through 5 and they are currently being reviewed by staff at SEWRPC and Racine County. The Chapters will be released in July or August. This will be followed by a public participation meeting and then final approval by the Farmland Preservation Planning Advisory Committee.
5. T. Greil stated that the Summer Field Day will be held on Thursday, September 12th at Case Eagle Park. T. Greil continued to say they are finalizing speakers for the Field Day. C. Sampson said Case Eagle Park research plots had not been planted yet. M. Stever said they only have about a week to get it planted.
6. C. Sampson stated the Waukesha Water Diversion does not appear to have any impacts on water levels, but the wet spring has kept water levels high.
7. C. Sampson asked if the Solar Farm Ordinance had been approved yet. T. Rutkowski said it had not been approved and many comments were suggested by Orrie Walsvik, the staff attorney at RENEW Wisconsin. There was further discussion on the need and locations for the solar farms. There were many pros and cons that were discussed.
8. T. Rutkowski suggested moving the LCC meeting to follow EDLUP on the third Monday of each month. No decision was made regarding moving the LCC meeting or keeping it on the 1st Monday of each month.
9. T. Rutkowski motioned to adjourn the meeting.