



MINUTES

ROCK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY AUGUST 10, 2020, 7:15 P.M. Virtual Meeting - Zoom

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Bostwick called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

Committee Members Present: Stephanie Aegerter, Rich Bostwick, Wes Davis, Kaelyb Lokrantz, Mike Mulligan, James Quade and Alan Sweeney.

Committee Members Excused: Jeremy Zajac

Others Present: Andrew Baker, LCD
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Supervisor Davis moved to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Supervisor Lokrantz. **Motion Carried.**
3. **Approval of Minutes – July 1, 2020 LCC meeting:** Supervisor Aegerter offer two corrections minutes: Item 8, second to last line should read "...effectively a tax on producers and importers ~~exporters.~~" Item 6, the vote was not recognized. Staff will revised the minutes to reflect that the vote was unanimous by adding "Motioned Carried." Supervisor Mulligan moved the minutes from the July 1, 2020 LCC meeting with the clarifications, seconded by Supervisor Lokrantz. **Motion Carried.**
4. **Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements:** Supervisor Sweeney announced the Annual Meeting of the Rock Koshkonong Lake District will be held at 10 am on Saturday, August 15th, at Racetrack Park in Edgerton.
5. **Review Bills Paid:** The committee reviewed the bills paid. Supervisor Davis asked a question regarding the rental payment and noticed that it has gone up with the revised lease. Andrew explained that this was due to the fact that the cost of construction for the dedicated LCD staff space was prorated over the course of the lease rather than paid at the time of construction. No other questions were asked.
6. **Resolution: Recognizing Thomas Sweeney:** Supervisor Sweeny made a motion to table this matter to provide more time to include additional lines recognizing Mr. Sweeney's accomplishments over the years. Seconded by Supervisor Bostwick. **Motion carried.**
7. **Resolution: YAHARA RIVER BASIN ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PROJECT APPROVAL OF INCENTIVE PAYMENT.** Andrew explained that these payment require a resolution due to the amounts exceeding \$10,000. In all cases these are one of three equal payments the landowners will receive, but all contracts are 15 years. Motion to approve by Supervisor Sweeney, seconded by Supervisor Davis. **Motion carried.**
8. **Support for Staff to pursue a Cooperative Agreement with Counties of Dodge, Jefferson and Walworth for an application for (and implementation of) Wisconsin DNR for of cost-sharing grant for lake and river planning, monitoring and protection, and aquatic invasive species.** Andrew explained that staff was approached by Jefferson County staff in an effort to working together and combine available funding for lake and river planning, monitoring and protection and aquatic invasive species control. The revised grant process guarantees a certain amount of money for each county, but it must be applied for. Current estimate funding for Rock County is approximately \$11,000 per year. Counties can combined funds to possibly support a

shared staff person or private consultant to administer the program. Currently, Rock River Coalition is interested in being the administrator for the four Counties. Applications are due by November 1. There has not been a decision made yet as to whether to apply this year for 2021 or wait to next year. Supervisor Sweeney suggested that the Rock Koshkonong Lake District could be a stake holder in this matter. Supervisor Sweeney made a motion to support Staff pursuing the cooperative agreement, seconded by Supervisor Davis. **Motion Carried.**

9. **Land and Water Resource Management Program - Approval of Cost Share Agreements:** Andrew reviewed the Cost Share agreement to be considered for approval, one diversion for Raymond and Jean Firn Trust. Supervisor Davis made a motion to approve the cost share agreement presented for approval, seconded by Supervisor Aegerter. **Motion Carried.**
10. **Producer Led Watershed Group: Approval of Letter of Support for creation of “Farmers on the Rock” Producer Led Watershed Group.** Andrew explained that the letter of support was written as general support of the group, rather than specifically in support of a certain group initiative, such as applying for grant funding. Supervisor Sweeney noted that the decision was made to make the group county-wide effort at this point, rather than specific to a certain smaller watershed. Supervisor Sweeney made a motion to approve the letter of support as presented, seconded by Supervisor Aegerter. **Motion Carried.**
11. **Groundwater Workgroup Activities.** The Committee was notified the grant application made to USDA-NRCS by UW Discovery Farms was not awarded, but Discovery Farms still has interest in doing studies in Rock County. Andrew informed the Committee that the meeting schedule for August 10th was cancelled due to lack of agenda items. Next meeting will be scheduled sometime between the Producer Led Watershed Group meeting (August 25th) and the next LCC Meeting (September 2nd). The Committee also discussed options for testing ground water a shallow intervals, possibly in lieu of more costly lysimeters.
12. **Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements - Update.** Andrew stated he is working on final documentation for the Barlass Easements. Enough funding for an additional Barlass application has also been earmarked by the NRCS, with closing likely in 2021. This parcel is at the corner of Hwy A and Milton-Shopiere Rd and directly adjacent to one of Barlass parcels already in the acquisition process.
13. **Semi Annual Report – Attendance at Convention/Conferences.** No staff attended conferences or conventions exceed \$1,000 per event in the first 6 months of 2020.
14. **Adjourn:** Supervisor Davis made motion to adjourn the August 10th, 2020 Land Conservation Committee meeting at 7:50 pm, seconded by Supervisor Lokrantz. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew Baker
County Conservationist

Minutes are not official until adopted by the Land Conservation Committee.