

	AGENDA Land Conservation Committee Wednesday January 19, 2022 at 1:00 PM HHS Building, Community Room 303 W. Chapel St. Dodgeville, WI 53533 Remote attendance option: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87418388404 Conference call #: 1-312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 874 1838 8404	Iowa County Wisconsin
For information regarding access for the disabled please call 935-0399.		
<i>Any subject on this agenda may become an action item.</i>		
1	Call to Order	
2	Roll Call	
3	Approve the agenda for this January 19, 2022 meeting	
4	Approve the minutes of the December 22, 2021 meeting	
5	Report from committee members and an opportunity for members of the audience to address the Committee. No action will be taken.	
6	NRCS update	
7	Outdoor Recreation Plan list of projects- Jacklyn Essandoh, SWWRPC	
8	Blackhawk Lake Commission update	
9	Approval of Farmland Preservation Program Notices of Noncompliance	
10	Birch Lake repair update and DNR dam grant resolution approval	
11	Consideration of wolf population resolution	
12	Consideration of clean water referendum	
13	Land Conservation Department updates: A) 2021 annual report B) 2022 work plan C) Poster contest results	
14	Agenda items for future meetings: Department policy reviews, Outdoor Rec Plan review/approval	
15	Motion to set the next meeting date and adjourn	
Posting Verified by: your name or title Date: _____ Initials: _____		

	UNAPPROVED MINUTES LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday December 22, 2021 at 1:00 PM HHS Building, Community Room 303 W. Chapel St. Dodgeville, WI 53533 Remote attendance option: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87140864475 Conference call #: 1-312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 871 4086 4475	Iowa County Wisconsin
Meeting was called to order by Chair Dave Gollon at 1:05pm		
Roll Call. Members present: Ron Benish, Bob Bunker, Kevin Butteris, Dave Gollon, Don Leix, Dan Nankee. Absent: Jason James Others present: Katie Abbott, Landon Baumgartner (via zoom)		
Approve the agenda for this December 22, 2021 meeting: Sup. Leix made a motion to approve this December 22, 2021 agenda. Sup. Butteris seconded the motion. Motion carried.		
Approve the minutes of the November 17, 2021 meeting: Mr. Bunker made a motion to approve the November 17, 2021 minutes. Sup. Benish seconded the motion. Motion carried.		
Report from committee members and an opportunity for members of the audience to address the committee. No action will be taken. Sup. Nankee shared information on the federal infrastructure plan funding for dam repair or removal, and reported on a meeting about Extension ag agents and the regionalization of positions.		
NRCS update: None provided		
Blackhawk Lake Commission update: Sups. Benish and Leix reported that electrical upgrades were complete and restroom and shower upgrades are in progress. Discussion of ATV/UTV routes, contributions to the Blackhawk Lake dam fund, and permissions required by the agreement.		
Approve Farmland Preservation Program Notices of Noncompliance: Ms. Abbott provided an updated list of Notices of Noncompliance (NONs); discussion of compliance issues. Sup. Benish made a motion to issue a NON to Jim March. Sup. Butteris seconded the motion. Motion carried. Sup. Benish made a motion to issue a NON to Lois Powell trust and Ted & Barb Sawle. Mr. Bunker seconded the motion. Motion carried. Sup. Nankee moved to issue NONs for the eleven others on the list due to not turning in self-certifications. Sup. Leix seconded the motion. Motion carried.		
Discussion of potential new FPP fee and current/future enforcement process: Ms. Abbott and Mr. Baumgartner provided a flowchart and memo regarding current enforcement steps and new plans to improve the process. Discussion of compliance process, fees, and need a landowner form to provide permission for staff to work directly with a renter and/or CCA. Mr. Bunker made a motion to move forward with the recommendations in the memo. Sup. Benish seconded the motion. Motion carried.		

Land Conservation Department update: Ms. Abbott provided Department updates.

- A) **Birch Lake valve repair:** discussion of dredging project, valve replacement, and leaking of the valve. Staff will keep an eye on the valve and the lake level until the valve can be replaced.
- B) **Outdoor Recreation Plan:** Ms. Abbott went over the list of potential projects at the Bloomfield property.
- C) **Recent outreach efforts:** discussion of latest newsletter and recent webinar
- D) **Land+Water meetings and conference:** Ms. Abbott provided information from the recent County Conservationist meeting and about reducing staff and committee registrations at the upcoming Land+Water conference due to budget cuts.
- E) **Groundwater study report timing:** Ms. Abbott reported that the report is not finished yet, but County staff and researchers will meet in late January to get an update and plan for the public and media release.

Agenda items for future meetings: Outdoor Recreation Plan w/ SWWRPC, youth poster contest results, LCD annual report and 2022 work plan, Department policy reviews, DNR Municipal Dam Grant resolution

Motion to set the next meeting date and adjourn. The next meeting date was set for Wednesday January 19, 2022 at 1:00 PM. Sup. Leix made a motion to adjourn. Sup. Nankee seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:12pm.

FPP Notices of Noncompliance: January 2022

Name	NR 151 Standard not met	Date of initial letter	Background	Amount received in credit	Notes
Jeff Fancsali	Compliant NMP with current soil tests	8/27/2020	Routine soil test reminder letter sent fall of 2020, followed by reminder letter upon completion of routine FPP Visit in Summer of 2021, followed by another final reminder sent September 2021. Contractor did not complete testing.	\$ 588.83	Contacted Ross Soil Service to have them completed, but testers never made it out to farm. Completed all other operated ground in the past 2 years though. Would like to write explaining this a bit more to the committee.
Clarence Pittz	Compliant NMP with current soil tests	8/27/2020	Routine soil test reminder letter sent fall of 2020, followed by reminder letter upon completion of routine FPP Visit in Summer of 2021, followed by another final reminder sent September 2021. Have not received correspondence on updated test results.	\$4,366.58	Landlord of the late Larry Steffes. Would've worked with Ross Soil to have testing done. Came in for self-certification, but did not mention having anyone scheduled to have testing completed by year's end.
Jeff Reynolds	Compliant NMP with current soil tests	8/27/2020	Routine soil test reminder letter sent fall of 2020, followed by reminder letter upon completion of routine FPP Visit in Summer of 2021, followed by another final reminder sent September 2021. Have not received correspondence on updated test results.	\$1,597.65	No correspondence
Bill Wolfe	Updated NMP	8/27/2020	Took soil tests in fall of 2020. Has attempted to make a class at least 2 separate times now and has not been able to make the time.	\$2,227.88	

Note received via e-mail on January 10, 2022:

Hey Landon,

I checked with Ryan at Ross Soil Service and there was some confusion about soil testing Our farm (Wingait Farms) with some SCN Testing that we were doing. He said they will soil test as soon as they can this spring. I will update the plan as far as I can without the soil tests and send it over to you. When I receive the soil tests I will plug them in and make the necessary adjustments and send you the amended plan. The plan needed to be updated on cropping practices due to us going more no-till and adding cover crops. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Us. (Sean or me).

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jeff Fancsali

Resolution No. _____

**Authorizing Resolution for
Participation in the Department of Natural Resources
MUNICIPAL DAM GRANT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, Iowa County owns Twin Parks #7 (Birch Lake) dam and requests financial assistance under s. 31.385 and s. 227.11, Wis. Stats., and ch. NR 335, Wis. Adm. Code, for the purpose of dam repair; and

WHEREAS, the state share for such a project may not exceed 50 percent (50%) of the first \$1,000,000.00 of total eligible project costs nor 25 percent (25%) of the next \$2,000,000.00 of total eligible project costs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Iowa County HEREBY AUTHORIZES the County Conservationist of the Iowa County Land Conservation Department to:

- Submit an application to the DNR for financial aid under ch. NR 335, Wis. Adm. Code;
- sign grant agreement documents;
- take all necessary action to complete the project associated with any grant agreement; and
- submit reimbursement claims along with necessary supporting documentation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Iowa County agrees to pay a share of the eligible costs which is equal to the total project cost minus the state share.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2022.

John M. Meyers
Iowa County Chair

ATTEST:

Kristy K. Spurley
Iowa County Clerk



LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
303 W Chapel Street, Suite 2100
Dodgeville, WI 53533

TO: Land Conservation Committee

FROM: Katie Abbott, County Conservationist

Date: 1-12-2022

RE: Background on resolution and referendum for consideration

The wolf population resolution was forwarded to Katie Abbott and Dave Gollon from John Meyers, who received it from Laurie Groskopf, a citizen of Lincoln County associated with wisconsinwolffacts.com. Ms. Groskopf sent it in anticipation of an upcoming public comment period on DNR's draft Wolf Management Plan. Iowa County passed a resolution in 2015 supporting a wolf population of 100 or less (Resolution No. 4-1215).

The clean water referendum template was sent to Katie Abbott from Iowa County citizen Roberta Barham, who offered assistance if Iowa County wanted to add the referendum to their November ballot. The template was part of a "Clean Water Now" toolkit and statewide campaign supported by River Alliance of Wisconsin (<https://voteformcleanwater.com/>).

RESOLUTION CONCERNING WISCONSIN WOLF POPULATION GOAL TO THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES WOLF MANAGEMENT PLAN

TO THE HONORABLE SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF THE COUNTY OF _____:

Whereas, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) established a wolf population goal of 350 animals in 1999, and reaffirmed this population goal in 2007, based on prey availability and human population density; and

Whereas, the WDNR plans to review and revise the previous wolf management plan, adopted in 1999 and reviewed and revised in 2007; and

Whereas, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and Wisconsin Farm Bureau, Wisconsin Conservation Congress (2011, 2013, 2021), officially support a Wisconsin Wolf population goal of 350 or less; and

Whereas, thirty-six (36) county boards, half the county boards in Wisconsin, from north to south, have passed resolutions that recommend a Wisconsin wolf population goal of 350 or less; and

Whereas, Wisconsin's residents have experienced depredations and threatening incidents involving wolves, including 107 officially listed conflicts in 2021; and

Whereas, the high predator population, in particular wolves, has resulted in the reduction of the deer population where wolves are plentiful, reduced hunting opportunities, curtailed livestock and pleasure horse activities, and are a danger to pets and people.

Now, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the _____ County Board of Supervisors advises that Wisconsin approve a wolf population goal of 350 or less in the next Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the _____ County Board of Supervisors encourages the WDNR to include elected officials from counties with high wolf conflicts in the DNR Wolf Advisory Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the _____ County Board of Supervisors requests that WDNR and other partners implement meaningful population controls in the Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the _____ County Board of Supervisors requests that WDNR not relocate problem wolves from other counties in the state into _____ County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk shall forward this resolution to the offices of the Wisconsin Governor, Secretary of the WDNR, Preston Cole, Secretary of DATCP, Randy Romanski, and state and federal legislators who represent _____ County. When the WDNR public comments period for the revised Wolf Management Plan is announced, the resolution will be sent to the designated contact determined by WDNR.

Template for Clean Water Now referendum resolution:

RESOLUTION NUMBER:

TO THE HONORABLE CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS OF THE PORTAGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

WHEREAS, there are numerous indicators that the citizens of Portage County are concerned about clean drinking water and clean lakes because of the health of its people and the economic impact(s) on its people and industries; and,

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation Committee is directly involved in local and regional discussions focusing on surface water and ground water issues and is statutorily charged with considering issues related to these topics; and,

WHEREAS, the Portage County Board of Supervisors has passed resolutions asking for the State of Wisconsin to pursue initiatives related to surface water and ground water issues;

FISCAL NOTE. There are no fiscal obligations associated with this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Portage County Board of Supervisors, in legal session assembled, does hereby approve that the following question be placed on the April 6, 2021 ballot as an advisory referendum:

Question: Shall the State of Wisconsin establish a right to clean water to protect human health, the environment, and the diverse cultural and natural heritage of Wisconsin YES NO ; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Corporation Counsel shall prepare an explanation of a yes or no vote to be published by the Portage County Clerk in accordance with statutory requirements; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution and the referendum shall be filed with the Portage County Clerk no later than 70 days prior to the April 6, 2021 election, at which the question will appear on the ballot; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Portage County Clerk is directed to send the results of the referendum to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Counties Association, all Wisconsin County Boards, and to local members of the State Legislature.

Dated this, January 2021 Respectfully submitted,

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Land Conservation Department 2022 Work Plan summary

*= dependent on Covid-19 limitations **=new or priority item

Long-term Goal 1: Increase farmland and infrastructure resilience to heavy rains and drought

Objective 1a: Promote farmland practices that improve infiltration and soil health

- Continue newsletter and website updates
- Create new department Facebook page and post at least weekly**
- Demonstrate rainfall simulator at 1-2 events*
- Organize a field day and/or webinar focused on conservation topics*
- Continue partnerships with Extension, farmer-led groups, neighboring Counties, and other groups on events & outreach

Objective 1b: Keep County-owned dams functioning

- Complete inspections and mowing of all dams
- Continue minor repairs, weed control, tree/brush removal, beaver control when needed
- Inspect and clear debris after rain
- Apply for Municipal Dam Grant to complete repairs on TP7 (Birch Lake)**

Long-term Goal 2: Facilitate farmer investment in conservation practices

Objective 2a: Address financial and other barriers to implementation

- Promote CREP/CRP for low-productivity or flood-prone portions of fields, including a possible direct mail (w/ Pheasant Forever)
- Use website, newsletter, events, and brochures to share conservation success stories, promote cost-share and incentive programs, and demonstrate financial benefits
- Continue using cost-share funding for cover crop or no-till practices
- Implement Precision Ag Incentive program with Innovation Grant funding**

Objective 2b: Increase farmer engagement in NMP process and use of their plans

- Continue NMP training and update classes
- Promote NMP to non-FPP participants and those with expiring soil tests
- Communicate with CCAs and custom applicators about County needs & process
- Understand new SnapPlus program changes and promote to farmers as applicable

Long-term Goal 3: Improve Groundwater Quality

- Work with SWIGG team on public release of final report**
- Begin stakeholder meetings to discuss SWIGG results and moving forward with solutions**
- Hold a workshop and/or webinar re: well testing, maintenance, & finding records*
- Create new materials as needed for well education (e.g. well testing video)**
- Assist Extension with Clean Sweep



IOWA COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Projects

Soil and Water Projects

- Designed and funded 13 projects totaling \$37,378 in cost-share: 2 stream crossings, 5 well decommissions, 2 spring developments, 2 grassed waterways, 2 manure storage abandonments
- Provided additional technical assistance to 13 landowners
- Designed 6 projects for 2022 installation: 4 stream crossings, 2 streambank stabilization
- Surveyed 3 projects for cricket frogs
- Laid out contour strips for 2 farmers covering 76 acres
- Submitted plan for Multi Discharger Variance (MDV), installed 1 spring development, and designed 2 projects for 2022 installation



Nutrient Management and Cropland

- Cost-shared 20 NMPs totaling \$61,957 and 2,213 acres
- Assisted 34 farmers with NMPs via class or one-on-one
- Funded 3 cover-crop contracts and one no-till contract totaling \$7,749 and 318.5 acres
- Successfully applied for a \$22,500 Innovation Grant from DATCP
- Provided permit technical assistance for two new manure storages, 1 repurpose, and 2 storage closures
- Responded to four complaints





Farmland Preservation Program

- Completed 131 FPP compliance site visits with 40 (30%) non-compliant
- Managed 680 active Certificates of Compliance covering 147,241 acres, which equates to over \$1.1 million in tax credits

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

- Completed 5 contracts covering 51.5 acres and \$13,956 in incentive payments
- Processed 20 revisions, 1 transfer, 55 cost-share payments, and 4 buy-outs
- Monitored eight easements and installed 5 signs



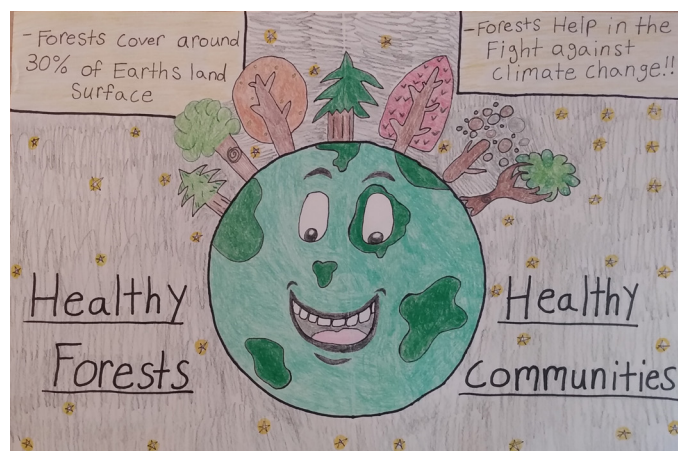
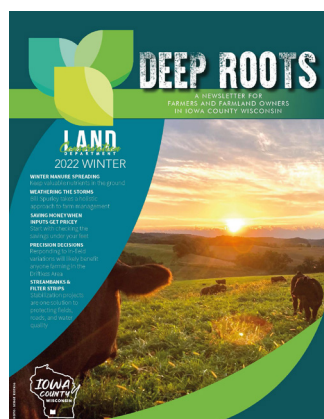
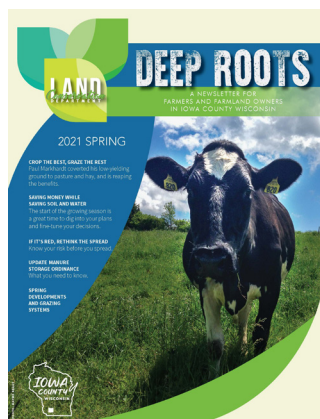
County-Owned Dams

- Completed 11 dam inspections and periodic debris clearing
- Lowered the hazard rating of three dams
- Contracted repairs to one dam



Outreach and Communications

- Assisted the Uplands Farmer-led Group with a Conservation Field Day, including soil health test kit and rainfall simulator demonstrations
- Led a team of Extension and neighboring Counties to hold Precision Decisions webinar
- Continued Youth poster contest and farmer awards
- Published two full-color newsletters



General

- Worked with County partners to update manure storage ordinance and create Bloomfield property ordinance
- Provided input on two UW-Madison research projects and a Driftless Conservation Planning effort
- Designed and planted prairie species in containers at the new Law Enforcement Center





Partnerships and Special Projects

- Continued partnerships with Southern Driftless Grasslands, Lowery Creek Watershed Initiative, Upper Sugar River Watershed Association, and SWIGG study
- Began implementing Targeted Runoff Management grant (water quality survey, 2 site visits, 2 transect surveys) with Michael Fields Agriculture Institute and Extension
- Submitted River Planning Grant application for phosphorus study with Extension and UW-Platteville partners
- Worked with DATCP, DNR, Land+Water, and Extension on planning and implementation of NR151 training series, high-input price management video/publications, and WI Cover Crop conference
- Joined South Central Invasive Partnership and collaborated on poison hemlock control
- Presented and facilitated a discussion at County Conservationist meeting

Long-term Goal 4: Facilitate a culture of conservation in the farm community

Objective 4a: Farm-related businesses understand conservation standards and practices

- Arrange 1-2 meet & greets with business contacts; explain practices/standards and gauge support/barriers and partnership opportunities*

Objective 4b: Area youth are aware of and engaged in conservation

- Implement annual Youth Conservation Field Day*
- Organize Earth Day activities/event**
- Explore 4H, FFA, and Scout partner opportunities (e.g. bluebird house building at Bloomfield Prairie, tie-ins with fair or badges)*
- Continue youth poster/speaking contest
- Assist with Highland Soil Health field day if they hold it*

Objective 4c: Recognize farmers for their efforts

- Continue Farmer Award Program; promote winners in paper/newsletter articles
- Explore other recognition methods (e.g. signs at fields where cover crops are cost-shared)

Long-term Goal 5: Increase NR151 Compliance

Objective 5a: Implement core programs

- Obligate all cost-share funding; complete extended projects
- Complete FPP compliance visits and follow up with schedules of compliance
- Revise FPP communications and revisit policies to see if they need any updates**
- Create a technical assistance request form**
- Complete contouring requests
- Provide comments regarding WI Code ATCP 50 revisions**

Objective 5b: Increase compliance of non-participants

- Continue outreach to engage potential new participants
- Implement manure storage & management ordinance
- Continue to respond to any complaints
- Assist DNR with NR151 training webinars for County staff**
- Explore option to create/provide videos for landowners about FPP, NR151, NMPs, etc.**

Long-term Goal 6: Improve surface water quality

- Promote and administer CREP, including placing signs and monitoring easements
- Implement TRM grant: outreach, farmer meetings, inventory, site visits, contracting**
- Conduct transect survey in impaired watersheds and other priority watersheds*
- Implement MDV phosphorus projects
- Implement Surface Water Grant phosphorus study w/ Extension, UWP (if funded)**

Long-term Goal 7: Improve office organization and tracking

- Continue using database modules and GIS to track projects and participation