

	AGENDA Land Conservation Committee Wednesday June 28, 2023 at 1:00 PM HHS Building, Community Room 303 W. Chapel St. Dodgeville, WI 53533 Remote attendance option: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82695962510 Conference call #: 1-312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 826 9596 2510	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 June 28, 2023 meeting	
4	Approve the minutes of the May 24, 2023 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	Blackhawk Lake Commission update	
8	Consider approval of update to policy 1202: Farmland Preservation Tax Credit Program Compliance	
9	Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan one-year review	
10	Cost-share project approval	
11	Land Conservation Department updates: A) Birch Lake dam repairs next steps B) Program updates C) Resolutions update	
12	Agenda items for future meetings: 2024 LCD proposed budget (August), Blackhawk Lake Commission annual report (August)	
13	Motion to set the next meeting (possible joint BH Lake meeting in August) and adjourn:	
Posting Verified by: County Clerks Office, Megan Currie - Deputy Date: 06/21/23 Initials: MC		

	UNAPPROVED MINUTES LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday May 24, 2023 at 1:00 PM HHS Building, Community Room 303 W. Chapel St. Dodgeville, WI 53533 Remote attendance option: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84862446690 Conference call #: 1-312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 848 6244 6690	Iowa County Wisconsin
Meeting was called to order by Chair Dave Gollon at 1:02 pm		
Roll Call. Members present: Bob Bunker, Kevin Butteris, Roger Geisking, Dave Gollon, Tim Harrington, Darrell Kreul, Don Leix, and Peter Vanderloo. Others present: Katie Abbott, Casey Michek, Ross Dewitt, Matt Miller, Sarah Hovis (zoom)		
Approve the agenda for this May 24, 2023 meeting: Mr. Vanderloo made a motion to approve this May 24, 2023 agenda. Sup. Geisking seconded the motion. Motion carried.		
Approve the minutes of the April 26, 2023 meeting: Sup. Geisking made a motion to approve the April 26, 2023 minutes. Sup. Butteris 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. Leix provided an updated resolution about WI wind and solar siting rules.		
NRCS update: Mr. Miller introduced himself as the new NRCS District Conservationist for Iowa and Grant Counties, and discussed other staffing changes.		
Blackhawk Lake Commission update: Sup. Kreul reported that the Park will be sealcoating some of the parking lots		
Birch lake repair bidding results and next steps: Ms. Abbott reported that the DNR granted a bidding deadline extension until May 1, 2024. Sup. Leix made a motion to decline the Birch Lake repairs bid. Mr. Bunker seconded the motion. Discussion of dam repairs and maintenance. Motion carried.		
Consider approval of update to policy 1201: Soil and Water Resource Management Grant Cost-share Prioritization: Sup. Leix made a motion to approve the policy change as presented. Sup. Geisking seconded the motion. Motion carried.		
Cost-share project approvals: Land Conservation staff presented the list of projects for approval. Discussion of adding grant recipient info and total remaining funds to future approval lists. Sup. Leix made a motion to approve the projects with the listed names as the funding recipients. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion. Sup. Geisking abstained from voting on the Liddicoat, Rock, Fingerson, and Kelly projects. Motion carried.		
Consider acceptance of DATCP reserve funds and approval of barnyard relocation project: Ms. Hovis and Ms. Abbott provided details, maps, and photos of the Favre/Geisler roofed lot project. Discussion of phosphorus loads and animal units. Mr. Bunker made a motion to accept the funds and approve the project. Sup. Leix seconded the motion. Motion carried.		

Choose Farmer Appreciation Day award winners: Ms. Abbott handed out the nomination forms she received. Consensus to save the Campbell nomination for 2024. Sup. Kreul made a motion to award Mike and Matt Mueller as Farmers of the Year, Cindy Becker as Friend of Conservation, and Linda Kane as Water and Wildlife Steward. Sup. Butteris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Discussion of enforcement of Manure Management Prohibitions in County Ordinance: Ms. Abbott presented details and photos about a farm that has had multiple complaints, with the most recent in May 2023; the owner did not voluntarily fix the problem when offered cost-sharing after a 2019 complaint. The Department plans to work with Planning & Development to pursue enforcement through the Manure Storage and Management Ordinance. Consensus from the Committee that they were comfortable with staff moving forward according to the Ordinance procedures.

Other policy update proposals: Ms. Abbott and Mr. Michek discussed issues that have come up recently with gullies in pastures and NMPs not being planned through the life of the soil tests and not providing annual updates. Consensus for staff to bring a policy revision proposal to next meeting.

Land Conservation Department updates:

- A) Information on well water nitrate testing costs: Per an information request at the last meeting, Ms. Abbott reported that starting a nitrate testing lab at the County would likely cost over \$16,000, and due to the cost and amount of vials needed per test there is a risk of losing money on each test.

Agenda items for future meetings: Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan one-year review; FPP policy revision

Motion to set the next meeting and adjourn. The next meeting date was set for Wednesday June 28, 2023 at 1:00 PM in the HHS Community Room. Mr. Harrington made a motion to adjourn. Sup. Butteris seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:38 pm.



FARMLAND PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT PROGRAM COMPLIANCE

Date Originated:

Date of Modifications: ~~2022~~ June 2023

Policy Number: 1202

1. PURPOSE:

To describe the process for issuing Notices of Noncompliance Wisconsin's Farmland Preservation Tax Credit Program (FPP).

2. ORGANIZATIONS AFFECTED:

Land Conservation Department

3. POLICY:

Compliance determination shall follow guidelines set forth in Wisconsin Administrative Code ATPC 50.

The Land Conservation Department (LCD) staff shall require an annual Compliance Self-Certification Form from each FPP participant. Participants who do not return their form by the deadline will be issued a Notice of Noncompliance (NON).

Each farm shall also have an on-site compliance check by LCD staff no less than once every four years. A site visit will also be conducted if LCD staff receives a complaint or has other compliance concerns. Any compliance issues found during the site visit shall be resolved by the landowner within the compliance timeframe set forth below. If the compliance timeframe is not met, the Land Conservation Committee (LCC) will issue a Notice of Noncompliance.

Tier 1 violations: ~~one year compliance schedule~~

- Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) violations, NR 151.07: An updated plan must be submitted by March 1 of the following year, or another date that is arranged ahead of time with LCD staff and is prior to any nutrient applications, tillage, or planting. If this deadline is missed, the landowner cannot claim tax credit for that year (i.e. NMPs submitted after spring nutrient applications will count for the next cropping season). Violations include:

- ~~Soil tests overdue (Nutrient Management Plan Violation, NR 151.07)~~
- NMP does not include the current cropping year
- NMP does not follow guidelines set forth in the most current University of Wisconsin Division of Extension publication A2809, "Nutrient application guidelines for field, vegetable, and fruit crops in Wisconsin."
- NMP does not match actual tillage, crop rotation, or nutrient applications

- ~~○ Not following NMP does not follow~~ nitrogen or manure application limitations in sensitive areas (~~Nutrient Management Plan Violation, NR 151.07~~)

- Idle Manure Storage Closure Needed (NR 151.05): one year compliance schedule

Tier 2 violations: ~~one year compliance schedule*~~

- Clean Water Diversions needed for feedlot, barnyard, or manure storage in a Water Quality Management Area (WQMA- 300ft from a stream, NR 151.06): one year compliance schedule
- 70% self-sustaining cover is not present on pasture streambanks (NR 151.08): *fencing to exclude cattle or reduce average stocking density must be installed within 6 months; vegetation re-established and any necessary watering systems installed within one year
- Unprotected concentrated flow channel identified (Nutrient Management Plan Violation, NR 151.07): one-year compliance schedule
- 5 ft. tillage setback from streambanks not being followed (NR 151.03): compliance with next tillage

Tier 3 violations

- Overflowing manure pit (NR 151.08): one-month compliance schedule
- Cracked, leaking, or failing manure pit (NR 151.05): six-month compliance schedule
- Tillage results in rotational T exceedance (NR 151.02): ~~one-year compliance schedule~~compliance with planting of next cropping season, including updated NMP if needed.
- Phosphorus Index violation; not using P-reduction strategy when needed (NR 151.04): ~~one-year compliance schedule~~compliance with planting of next cropping season, including updated NMP if needed.
- Not following manure winter spreading restrictions, groundwater conduit/well setbacks, or WQMA spreading strategies (Nutrient Management Plan Violation, NR 151.07): ~~one-year compliance schedule~~compliance with next manure application
- Manure stacking occurring in a WQMA (NR 151.08): one-month compliance schedule
- Significant Discharge of Process Wastewater to waters of the state (NR 151.055): one-year compliance schedule
- Direct runoff of manure into waters of the state (NR 151.08): immediate action required to stop manure flow; three-month compliance schedule to prevent reoccurrence

The LCC may approve an extension of the compliance window, not to exceed three years, under extenuating circumstances. The LCC may also approve a reduced compliance timeline

or an immediate Notice of Noncompliance for grievous violations, lack of cooperation by the landowner, repeated violations in a two-year time period, or other circumstances as warranted.

~~Multiple Violations: Subsequent violations found after the site visit may result in shorter compliance timeframes or immediate NONs according to the following guidelines:~~

~~If the first site visit found:~~

- ~~• Only Tier 1 violation(s): if 2 subsequent Tier 2 and/or 3 violations are found within one year of the site visit, a NON is issued immediately.~~
- ~~• Any Tier 2 or 3 violations(s): If a subsequent Tier 2 or 3 violation is found within one year of the first site visit, a NON is issued immediately.~~

~~Probationary Period: Once a participant has achieved compliance they will fall under a two-year probationary period. Within one year of achieving compliance from any Tier of violation:~~

- ~~• A subsequent Tier 3 violation will result in an immediate NON~~
- ~~• A subsequent Tier 2 violation will result in a written warning and a schedule of compliance set for one year. If not achieved, a NON is issued with no extension possibility.~~
- ~~• A subsequent Tier 1 violation will result in a 1-year schedule of compliance after which an extension request may be made for no more than 1 year. No further extensions may be requested~~

Voluntary reporting: If a participant voluntarily reports a subsequent compliance issue on their own property or operation that would have resulted in an immediate NON under the Multiple Violations or Probationary Period procedures above, the NON will not be issued immediately. Instead, the Participant will be allowed half of the time listed in the compliance timeframe to come into compliance. The LCC may approve an extension at their discretion.

Requests for response: If a letter from the Department requests or requires that the landowner respond, the landowner shall have thirty (30) calendar days to provide the response.

Return to program: Notices of Noncompliance will be cancelled at any point a landowner comes back into full compliance, allowing eligibility for the same tax year in which compliance was achieved (unless otherwise noted above).

4. REFERENCES:

Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter ATP 50
Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter NR 151

Iowa County Ordinance 400.18: Manure Storage and Management

5. PROCEDURES:

- a. The LCD shall mail Compliance Self-Certification Forms to all FPP participants in mid-October each year with a deadline of December 1 (or nearest week day).
- b. Participants who turn in their Form after the December 1 deadline will be assessed a late fee.
- c. The LCC will approve Notices of Noncompliance for participants who have not turned in their form by the December LCC meeting date.
- d. LCD staff will send Notices of Noncompliance to the Department of Revenue by December 31 each year.
- e. If at any time the LCD is made aware of an issue with a farm enrolled in FPP, staff shall visit the site as soon as possible to verify the issue, and will work with the landowner to address the problem within the compliance timeframe.
- f. Any compliance issues that pertain to Iowa County's Manure Storage and Management Ordinance shall also be referred to the Iowa County Planning & Development department. Any compliance issues that pertain to an existing Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) application or CAFO permit shall also be referred to the Department of Natural Resources.
- g. If a landowner wishes to obtain LCD technical or financial assistance to achieve compliance, they must first submit a "Request for Technical Assistance" form.

If the FPP land ownership includes a member of the County Board or Land Conservation Committee, a sibling, parent, spouse, or child thereof, or is considered county staff, at least one neutral party, who is not an Iowa County Employee, Supervisor, or Committee member, shall be asked to verify Iowa County staff's compliance assessment. The verification may include review of maps, photos, descriptions, and other supporting materials provided by staff, or joining Iowa County staff on site visits. The neutral party may be from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, a different County's Land Conservation Department, or other qualified party.

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Iowa County, WI

April, 2022



Full plan is online at <https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/CountyAdministrator/county-plans-and-documents> (under 2022 heading)

PLANNING ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY



Plan Purpose

This plan is an update of the Iowa County's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) 1981 – 1986. The purpose of this plan is to guide the development and improvement of the county's outdoor recreation facilities over the next five years in order to meet the recreational needs and growing demands of the county.

Policy decisions made by the Iowa County Board of Supervisors for outdoor recreation programs and improvement shall be guided by the goals, objectives, findings, and recommendations of this adopted plan. Actual public policy decisions or choices are contingent on funding sources, new opportunities and ideas, changing growth patterns, budget priorities as well as changing county needs and desires. For this reason, the plan should be reviewed annually, and a detailed update such as this should be completed every five years. Updating the plan every five years is also a requirement of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) for a jurisdiction such as Iowa County to stay eligible for matching government funds for parkland acquisition and facility improvements. But just as importantly, Iowa County needs to set a course of action for continued improvement of its outdoor recreational system.

Image 2: The Pendarvis historic site located in Mineral Point, Iowa County, WI.



Goals and Objectives

This plan is designed to provide a feasible program for meeting the recreational needs of Iowa County. Agreement upon basic goals and objectives is necessary to set the general direction for developing this program. Four goals related to recreational and resource protection are outlined below. The goals point toward final ends while the eight objective statements are more directly related to achieving those ends through specific actions.

Goals

- To preserve the county's open space resources and to protect them from visual blight and degradation of quality.
- To provide quality parks and recreational facilities to meet the needs of county residents.
- To provide opportunities for nonresident recreational activity to an extent compatible with preserving irreplaceable resources.
- To identify and preserve sites having scientific, historic, or archaeological significance.

Objectives

- To use multiple approaches to resource protection, including acquisition and easements through partnerships with other entities when appropriate.
- To combine resource protection with park and recreation development, where feasible, through multi-purpose projects.
- To coordinate the county's recreation program with the programs of other levels of government and with private enterprise in order to achieve maximum public benefit.
- To provide areas and facilities for those activities specified in the plan as a county responsibility.
- To develop a coordinated system of river access points emphasizing resource-based recreation areas.
- To maintain the quality of recreational experiences offered within the county by adhering to the standards contained in the plan.
- To encourage quality development of privately owned recreation facilities, particularly for nonresident-oriented activities.
- To maintain the county's eligibility to participate in federal and state financial and technical aid programs having recreation planning requirements.

Image 3: Avoca Lake within the Village of Avoca, Iowa County, WI



Recommendations for Improving Recreation Facilities

The following recommendations for improvement by the Iowa County Land Conservation Committee follow the proposed Capital Improvement Plan (Appendix B). These recommendations will be completed based on availability of county funding and grants.

Bloomfield Prairie property:

Several improvements are needed on the Bloomfield Prairie property. Recommendations for individual projects or activities are listed below:

1. Pond area:

- Dredge (or start with feasibility study for dredging)
- Weed/algae control
- Install canoe launch
- Build longer accessible pier (to reach deeper water/fewer weeds)
- Brush/weed control around the edge
- Rework trail and repair/rebuild footbridge just north of the Pond
- Possibly expand shelter (or maintain/repair as needed)
- Add pit toilet
- Add electricity (or solar panels) to the pond shelter so users could have light.

2. Non-CRP/CREP areas:

- Create accessible trails
- Create bike-able trails
- Create interpretive signs
- Add footbridges in pasture for public access to eastern fields
- Upgrade/replace other bridges (3)
- New or updated kiosks
- Create off-leash dog area

- Improve existing and add additional parking areas

3. Red shed:

- Add pit toilet/bathroom
- Preserve red barn; modify to a shelter or meeting facility
- Add electricity (or solar panels) to the red shed

4. White shed:

- Add a cement floor and more garage doors to the white shed.

5. General:

- Increased management of invasive brush and herbaceous invasive weeds, including but not limited to wild parsnip, Canada thistle, crown vetch, and bush honeysuckle.

Blackhawk Lake Recreation Area:

Several improvements are needed on the Blackhawk Lake Recreation Area. Recommendations for individual projects or activities are listed below:

1. Pit toilet repairs/Remodel
2. Weed/Algae control in beach swimming area
3. Roof replacement on pavilions
4. Retaining wall at beach area
5. Cabin repairs/Rebuilds
6. Parking lot maintenance
7. Shower house repairs and remodels
8. Nature Center improvements/Taxidermy
9. New playground equipment
10. Walk bridge replacement on hiking trail

Military Ridge State Trail:

Several improvements are needed on the Military Ridge State Trail. Recommendations for individual projects or activities are listed below:

1. Increase trail repair/ maintenance on Military Ridge State Trail.
2. Provide dog waste station along trail.
3. Provide bore benches along trail for walking people to sit.
4. Provide more trash cans along trail.

Additional recreation needs/recommendations:

1. The County owns some properties in the Mifflin area along the Pecatonica River and CTH E; which could be made into a park if there is interest to do so, otherwise should consider selling.

2. There is some additional right of way also owned by the county at Factory road and CTH II which could be an access point for fishing easements or a park along Otter Creek.
3. The County and the DNR should continue to work on a cooperative basis to enhance recreational opportunities in the State Riverway and on other public lands for residents of the County. This effort should include on a regional level, integrating a future planned Wisconsin DNR trail along the lower Wisconsin River between Muscoda and Avoca. The proposed trail could link the recreational park and boat launches in Avoca as well as that in Muscoda. Both of these facilities have been constructed in the past two years. This would greatly enhance the recreational opportunities for both of these communities and increase tourism and economic development for this region. Additional recreation needs to be implemented within Pulaski township include:
 - Trail to the Avoca Prairie, possibly some interpretive trail, with signs talking about its unique ecosystem/flora/fauna.
 - Improving/fixing the bridge to cross the river/creek to get out to the Avoca Prairie.
 - Trail/loop in the Avoca prairie.
 - Improvement/building out sand for their beach on the Wisconsin River in Avoca.
 - Life jacket library for the beach.
 - A canoe/kayak launch or some canoe/kayak access on the Wisconsin River.
4. Continue to provide and enhance public access to the Lower Wisconsin Riverway.
5. Continue to upgrade the parks and recreational areas the county owns or manages by bringing all facilities up to ADA standards over the next five to ten years.
6. Consider including paved shoulders as part of future road reconstruction projects to allow safer passing of slower moving vehicles which would benefit ATV/UTV, bicycle, and farm implement traffic.
7. Use the University of Wisconsin Platteville engineering students for any future park project(s). SWWRPC should help guide the process in pairing Iowa County with a suitable team.
8. Explore the feasibility of a trap shooting facility. If feasible, develop a location and facility for youth clubs and school-based teams.
9. Assess the current needs and opportunities for kayaking and canoeing, and, if feasible, develop additional kayak/canoe facilities.
10. The Land Conservation Committee should review the plan at least once a year to assess progress.

Land Conservation Cost-share Projects for Approval 6-28-23				
Landowner name	Grant recipient	Township	Practice	Estimated cost-share amount
Gregory and Kris Blynn	same	Wyoming	Well decommission	\$738.00
Cost-share summary				
	Starting amount	Committed	Remaining	
Bond (structural practices)	\$45,000.00	\$12,655.83	\$32,344.17	several projects in planning phase or waiting on cost estimates
SEG (NMP, cover crops, no-till)	\$40,000.00	\$27,706.50	\$12,293.50	