

	AGENDA Land Conservation Committee Wednesday December 20, 2023 at 1:00 PM HHS Building, Community Room 303 W. Chapel St. Dodgeville, WI 53533 Remote attendance option: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83507517512 Conference call #: 1-312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 835 0751 7512	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 December 20, 2023 meeting	
4	Approve the minutes of the October 25, 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	Introduce new Conservation Technician: Tony Pillow	
7	NRCS update	
8	Blackhawk Lake Commission update	
9	Consider approval of County Farm master planning proposal	
10	USRWA invasive species update and retroactive approval of agreement	
11	Cost-share project approvals	
12	Consider Birch Lake Dam repairs bid	
13	Approve Farmland Preservation Program Notices of Noncompliance	
14	Land Conservation Department updates: A) Staffing update	
15	Motion to set the next meeting and adjourn:	
Posting Verified by: Megan Currie, Deputy County Clerk Date: <u>12/14/2023</u> Initials: <u>MC</u>		

	UNAPPROVED MINUTES LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday October 25, 2023 at 1:00 PM HHS Building, Community Room 303 W. Chapel St. Dodgeville, WI 53533 Remote attendance option: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87024787817 Conference call #: 1-312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 870 2478 7817	Iowa County Wisconsin
Meeting was called to order by Chair Gollon at 1:00 pm		
Roll Call. Members present: Bob Bunker, Dave Gollon, Tim Harrington, Darrell Kreul, and Don Leix. Excused: Roger Geisking, Peter Vanderloo. Absent: Kevin Butteris Others present: Katie Abbott, Zac Venchus, Dave Terrall, Ross Dewitt		
Approve the agenda for this October 25, 2023 meeting: Sup. Kreul made a motion to approve this October 25, 2023 agenda. Mr. Bunker seconded the motion. Motion carried.		
Approve the minutes of the August 23, 2023 meeting: Sup. Leix made a motion to approve the August 23, 2023 minutes. Mr. Harrington 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. Mr. Harrington had a question about the amount of emails coming from the Land & Water list.		
NRCS update: None provided		
Blackhawk Lake Commission update: Sup. Kreul and Sup. Leix reported on the bids for the shower house and retaining wall.		
Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program: Dave Terrall and Zac Venchus from USDA Wildlife Services presented crop price proposal, budget, and 5 year agreement; Zac introduced himself as the new specialist. A) Approval of 2023 crop prices and 90% harvest date: discussion of prices, funding source, and number of claims. Mr. Harrington made a motion to change the alfalfa rate to \$225/ton, corn to \$5.20/bushel, and soybeans to \$12.50/bushel, and keep other rates as proposed. Mr. Bunker seconded the motion. Motion carried. Sup. Leix mad a motion to set the 90% crop date as December 15. Sup. Kreul seconded the motion. Motion carried. B) Approval of 2024 budget: budget is down from last year due to fewer enrollees. Sup. Leix made a motion to approve the 2024 budget as presented. Sup. Kreul seconded the motion. Motion carried. C) Approval of 5-year Cooperative Service Agreement: discussion of changes from previous agreement. Mr. Bunker made a motion to approve the agreement. Sup. Leix seconded the motion. Motion carried. D) Consider participation in Venison Donation Program: there is not a participating processor in Iowa County so we can't have a program; hunters wishing to donate venison could take deer to another county.		
Cost-share project approvals: Ms. Abbott presented the list of projects. Sup. Leix made a motion to approve the projects. Mr. Bunker seconded the motion. Motion carried.		

Discussion of cost-sharing and compliance: discussion of cost-sharing one practice if others are out of compliance, severity and intention, and contractor payment. Staff will look into existing policy and bring back for discussion at a future meeting.

Land Conservation Department updates:

- A) **Staffing update:** Ms. Abbott provided an update on the hiring process
- B) **Potential transfer of cost-share funds:** we may have extra funds to transfer to another county, but we are still following up with landowners
- C) **2024 budget update:** 2024 tax levy increase is due to wage and insurance cost increases
- D) **Birch Lake repair updates:** bids will be advertised in mid-November with a Dec 1 deadline

Motion to set the next meeting and adjourn. The next meeting date was set for Wednesday November 15, 2023 at 1:00 PM. The December meeting date was set for Wednesday December 20, 2023 at 1pm. Mr. Harrington made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bunker seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:01 pm.



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

TO: Land Conservation Committee

FROM: Katie Abbott, County Conservationist, and Bloomfield Planning Team: Jake Tarrell, Larry Bierke, Scott Godfrey, Barry Hottmann, and Paul Ohlrogge (consultant)

Date: 12-20-23

RE: Bloomfield property master planning

Many questions and ideas about public uses and the future of the Bloomfield property have come up over the years. Because of this, staff have recognized the need for a master planning process for the property. The goals of this plan are to:

1. Establish a vision for the property
2. Understand what the public and stakeholders would like to see
3. Guide future decisions and grant writing
4. Help staff focus time and funding
5. Provide a reference for future supervisors and staff

Staff propose to embed this plan as a revision to the Iowa County Comprehensive Plan under the Natural Resources element. This keeps the information in one place rather than having multiple plans that may be forgotten over time, and ensures the goals and direction laid out for this property are considered in future land use decisions involving the property.

Staff propose the following timeline:

1. Create a survey that will be release in mid-January and open through February
2. Hold three public listening sessions in late January or early February
 - a. Directly invite neighbors, Town of Linden board members and staff, and current stakeholders (such as the two nonprofit renters)
 - b. Promote throughout the county so any other interested stakeholders or members of the public can attend
3. Report back to the LCC in February or March with our findings, recommendations, and proposed next steps

Costs will be minimal; we will use ATC funding to cover expenses for Paul Ohlrogge, who is acting as a consultant and facilitator for the public input survey and listening sessions. Any additional consultant services that may be needed after this initial phase would also be paid with the ATC funding.

We ask the Land Conservation Committee to consider approving staff to begin this planning process, and to agree to act as the Committee to review the information and recommend any future action to the Planning and Zoning Committee and the County Board.

Cooperative Agreement
to Satisfy Eligibility for
Upper Sugar River Watershed Association
and Iowa County
Lake Monitoring and Protection Network for Calendar Year 2024

Instructions: Each county must submit a signed cooperative agreement if using a designated agent when participating in the Lake Monitoring and Protection Network (LMPN). This cooperative agreement is used during discussions between counties, the designated agent, and DNR staff when determining the core tasks that will be completed as part of the network.

Once the cooperative agreements are finalized and signed by the county and designated agent, they can be submitted with a corresponding application to DNRSurfaceWaterGrants@wisconsin.gov. After all applications and cooperative agreements are collected, the designated agent will send in an authorizing resolution. A grant agreement will then be sent to the designated agent to sign before funds are distributed directly to the designated agent.

**Cooperative Agreement
to Satisfy Eligibility for
Upper Sugar River Watershed Association
and Iowa County
Lake Monitoring and Protection Network for Calendar Year 2024**

Project Title: USRWA AIS coordinator

Term of Agreement: January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

A. General Purpose

This Agreement documents the manner in which the Upper Sugar River Watershed Association (hereafter “agent”) will provide core Aquatic Invasive Species (“AIS”) Prevention and Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (“CLMN”) services in the coverage area during the Term of Agreement referenced above. The coverage area and training include the following counties: Sauk, Green, Grant, Lafayette, Iowa, and Vernon.

B. Iowa County designates Upper Sugar River Watershed Association as its agent.

C. Goal of Iowa County

To improve surface water quality through the detection, prevention, and control of AIS and monitoring of lake water quality conditions.

D. Goal of the Upper Sugar River Watershed Association

To provide technical assistance to communities, stakeholders, and volunteers within the coverage area to prevent the spread of AIS, to provide education about AIS impacts and prevention, and to conduct lake monitoring.

E. Annual Meeting Requirement

All parties agree to meet annually to plan, prioritize, and coordinate pilot project activities.

F. Duties of the Agent

In cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), the agent agrees to continue to implement an AIS Prevention and Outreach Program throughout coverage area. The agent will perform the following:

- 1) Provide local support and assistance in implementation of statewide communication and education priorities to ensure consistent AIS messaging.
 - a. Work with WDNR and UW Madison, Division of Extension in implementation of the Wisconsin Statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Strategic Plan.
 - b. Collaborate with WDNR on delivery of consistent project communication, outreach, and educational programming.
 - c. Participate in and coordinate local partner involvement in at least four statewide AIS initiatives including Landing Blitz, Drain Campaign, Waterfowl Hunter Outreach, Bait Shop Initiative and other campaigns as directed by the WDNR to AIS stakeholders in the coverage area. This includes providing media tools, resources, and messaging prompts to partners.

- d. Coordinate with WDNR staff and other local partners within the coverage area to share AIS prevention and education efforts.
 - e. Meet with cooperative invasive species management areas (CISMAs), to assist with AIS education, monitoring, and response efforts.
 - f. Assist AIS grant recipients with AIS education and outreach tools to ensure consistent messaging as grants are awarded.
 - g. Participate in WDNR training on AIS Response Framework, including verification of AIS.
 - h. Assist the WDNR, UW Madison, Division of Extension, UW-Sea Grant, and other partners in identifying audiences and knowledge gaps in AIS prevention, awareness, and compliance.
 - i. Attend annual WDNR AIS and UW Lakes Partnership events and training sessions including, but not limited to:
 - i. AIS Partnership meetings
 - ii. Aquatic Invasive Species training sessions
 - iii. Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) trainings
 - iv. CLMN trainings
 - v. Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol trainings
 - vi. AIS Response Framework trainings
 - j. Adhere to decontamination and disinfection protocols required by the WDNR for controlling, transporting, and disposing of aquatic plants and animals, and moving water. This includes requirements under s. 30.07, Wis. Stats., and ss. NR 19.055 and NR 40.07, Wis. Adm. Code, as well as compliance with the most recent WDNR approved 'Boat, Gear, and Equipment Decontamination and Disinfection Protocol'.
 - k. Serve as media contact for the coverage area for all WDNR campaigns.
- 2) Assist to coordinate the CLMN in Iowa County including water quality and/or AIS components:
- a. Conduct at least 1 regional CLMN training workshops for volunteers.
 - b. Manage and distribute lake monitoring equipment.
 - c. Train new volunteers on use of monitoring equipment, as needed.
 - d. Perform at least 3 field checks on citizen monitors and conduct quality assurance checks on data entered into the WDNR Surface Water Integrated Monitoring System (SWIMS) by citizen monitors at the end of monitoring year.
 - e. Provide email/phone support to answer questions and be point of contact to CLMN volunteers.
 - f. Assist with SWIMS data entry, as needed.
- 3) Collect and report other chemical, biological, or physical data on lakes and lake ecosystems, including data on water levels and lake ice extent and duration as requested by WDNR.
- 4) Coordinate early detection monitoring for AIS:
- a. Serve as local coordinator of the annual AIS Snapshot Day by recruiting and training volunteers and monitor at least 6 locations.
 - b. Monitor for AIS using CLMN methods at public boat launches.
 - c. Provide AIS response monitoring based on reports of AIS findings or repeated instances of AIS.
 - d. Assist with other AIS Pathways monitoring including pet store monitoring as needed by the WDNR, US Fish and Wildlife Service, UW Sea Grant, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), etc.

- e. Conduct at least 3 regional Project Riverine Early Detection (Project RED) training workshop for volunteers.
- 5) Coordinate the Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) watercraft inspection program in Iowa County:
 - a. Seek volunteers to staff boat launches and educate boaters about AIS and prevention steps.
 - b. Organize and coordinate at least regional 3 CBCW trainings to train volunteers and/or paid staff on methods to conduct boat inspections and educate boaters about the AIS prevention steps.
 - c. Work with partners to apply for CBCW grants to fund additional inspectors.
- 6) Coordinate the implementation of the Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol Program in Iowa County:
 - a. Support and expand the existing network of purple loosestrife biocontrol partners.
 - b. Plan and conduct at least 2 regional training workshops for purple loosestrife biocontrol partners.
 - c. Help identify insectaries, coordinate the collection and distribution of purple loosestrife biocontrol organisms to all interested partners, and target the release of organisms, where needed, in Iowa County.
 - d. Work with WDNR and UW Madison, Division of Extension to report infestations and track biocontrol releases in the SWIMS database.
- 7) Write a quarterly electronic newsletter to provide AIS information and updates on Coordinator activities/outreach to partners:
 - a. Share our monthly newsletter which will have, on average, one AIS-related articles.
 - b. Articles from newsletter will be shared through relevant social media.
 - c. Share relevant AIS articles with new and previously established partners for use in their newsletters.
 - d. Submit newsletter to county partners and WDNR contacts.
- 8) Coordinate checks on WDNR AIS signage at lake/river public access sites within Iowa County:
 - a. Conduct inspections of at least 5 public access sites to verify WDNR AIS signage is in place and in good condition.
 - b. Use WDNR-approved forms to conduct signage inspections and enter data in SWIMS.
 - c. Maintain digital photographs of AIS signs that have been inspected.
 - d. Install WDNR AIS signage, as needed, and per installation protocol.
 - e. Work with WDNR to design additional AIS signage, as needed.
- 9) Provide AIS outreach and education to local partners and AIS stakeholders:
 - a. Conduct AIS and Habitattitude outreach and education at local schools, events, meetings, etc.:
 - i. Including, but not limited to, large public festivals, farmers markets, presentations to local school children (when requested), fishing tournaments, Habitattitude pet surrender events, and stakeholder meetings (e.g., Conservation clubs, boating clubs, angling clubs, etc.).
 - ii. AIS and Habitattitude outreach and education will be held minimally at 4 events/meetings/tournaments/etc.
 - b. Network with AIS stakeholders and partners at local events and meetings.
 - c. Contact at least 5 bait shops as part of the statewide Bait Shop Initiative and provide AIS outreach message and materials.

- d. Share, on average, 2 AIS related posts per month via social media to increase AIS awareness and reinforce prevention messaging.
- 10) Provide technical assistance to a grantee or grant applicant for AIS prevention.
- 11) Provide technical assistance to a grantee or grant applicant for AIS control.
- 12) Facilitate entry of all data into SWIMS:
 - a. Train partners how to enter AIS information into SWIMS, including for CBCW, CLMN, Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol, etc.
 - b. Ensure data entry into SWIMS is completed per annual reporting requirements that may include CBCW, CLMN, Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol, Snapshot Day, AIS Signage monitoring, and any incidental AIS findings.
- 13) Retain, for a period of six years after the end date of this agreement, all project records, including proofs of payment and proofs of purchase, showing events/tasks undertaken as part of this agreement.
 - a. This shall include:
 - i. Training sessions attended.
 - ii. Training sessions held and name of participants attending.
 - iii. Meetings with stakeholders and/or partner groups.
 - iv. AIS outreach activities.
 - v. Media contacts.
 - b. Participate in meetings with WDNR to discuss agreement accomplishments and financial status.
- 14) Submit semi-annual progress reports to Iowa County and WDNR.
- 15) Submit final reimbursement request to WDNR on form provided by WDNR no later than 60 days after the end of this agreement.

G. Duties of Iowa County

- 1) To attend periodic meetings or conference calls with WDNR and Upper Sugar River Watershed Association for the furtherance of this project.
- 2) Submit form WDRN form 8700-284L by November 15 of each year by a county authorized representative. Failure to submit will render the agreement void for that calendar year.
- 3) Allow agent to accept directly from WDNR, on the County's behalf, \$10,914.45, in accordance with the expenditure schedule described in the budget.

Budget: Iowa County gets \$10,914.45 annually as allotted by the WDNR. This combines with other LMPN county responsibilities to fund the USRWA Invasive Species Program Coordinator staff position.

County Allotments:

County	Amount	
Grant	\$11,723.17	
Green	\$10,935.31	
Iowa	\$10,914.45	
Lafayette	\$10,367.40	
Sauk	\$13,058.86	
Vernon	\$9,070.83	
Total	\$66,070.02	
Cost	Amount	%
AIS Coordinator Salary	\$51,534.62	78.00%
AIS Coordinator Fringe Benefits	\$660.70	1.00%
Salaries (Administration)	\$3,303.50	5.00%
Fringe Benefits (administration)	\$0.00	0.00%
Travel	\$6,607.00	10.00%
Supplies & Operating Expenses	\$3,303.50	5.00%
Contractual Services	\$0.00	0.00%
Equipment	\$660.70	1.00%
Other (describe in detail)	\$0.00	0.00%
Total	\$66,070.02	100.00%

H. Declaration

By affixing our signatures below, we swear that the document above accurately portrays the relationship and intent of all parties.

FOR Iowa County

FOR Upper Sugar River Watershed Association

By:

By:

Name: _____

Name: Lindsay Foy _____

Signed: Katherine Abbott _____

Signed: Lindsay Foy _____

Title: County Conservationist _____

Title: Executive Director _____

Date Signed: 11/15/2023

Date Signed: 11/2/2023

By (2nd, optional):

Name: _____

Signed: _____

Title: _____

Date Signed: _____

Land Conservation Cost-share Projects for Approval 12-20-23

Landowner name	Grant recipient	Township	Practice	Estimated cost-share amount
The Farm at Mounds Creek LLC	Mike Wilkinson	Arena	Stream Crossing	\$2,100.00
Steven Strutt	Richard Strutt	Ridgeway	Field border	\$367.00
Dennis Phillips et al	Dennis Phillips	Ridgeway	Well decomission	\$927.50
Thomas	same	Arena	Well decomission	\$1,610.00

Cost-share summary

	Starting	Committed	Remaining	
Bond (structural practices)	\$183,555.00	\$188,717.69	(\$3,062.69)	Additional funds are from DATCP reserve fund for barnyard project (approved 5/24/23); the excess funding needed will come from 2024 dollars, since several projects will be extended into next year
SEG (NMP, cover crops, no-till)	\$40,000.00	\$38,296.76	\$1,703.24	I will contract the last of the funds and extend into next year; just waiting to hear back from landowners