

	AGENDA Land Conservation Committee Wednesday March 27, 2024 at 1:00 PM HHS Building, Community Room 303 W. Chapel St. Dodgeville, WI 53533 Remote attendance option: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84500962773 Meeting ID: 845 0096 2773 Conference call #: 1-312-626-6799	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 March 27, 2024 meeting	
4	Approve the minutes of the February 28, 2024 meeting	
5	Report from committee members and an opportunity for members of the audience to address the Committee. No action will be taken.	
6	Introduction of Monica Yates-Olsen, new Farm Service Agency County Executive Director	
7	NRCS update	
8	Blackhawk Lake Commission update	
9	Cost-share project approvals	
10	Farmland Preservation Program Notices of Noncompliance	
11	Farmer Appreciation Day award nominations	
12	Land Conservation Department updates: A) Work plan B) Birch Lake repairs C) Bloomfield planning D) SWIGG continuing research	
13	Motion to set the next meeting and adjourn:	
Posting Verified by: Megan Currie, Deputy County Clerk Date: 03/21/2024 Initials: MC		

	UNAPPROVED MINUTES LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday February 28, 2024 at 1:00 PM HHS Building, Community Room 303 W. Chapel St. Dodgeville, WI 53533 Remote attendance option: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87288155544 Conference call #: 1-312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 872 8815 5544	Iowa County Wisconsin
Meeting was called to order by Chair Gollon at 1:00 pm		
Roll Call. Members present: Bob Bunker, Kevin Butteris, Roger Geisking, Dave Gollon, Darrell Kreul, Don Leix, and Peter Vanderloo. Others present: Katie Abbott, Jake Tarrell, Paul Ohlrogge, Scott Godfrey, Zac Venchus, Stosh Potocki, Tony Pillow, Sara Wilhelm		
Approve the agenda for this February 28, 2024 meeting: Sup. Butteris made a motion to approve this February 28, 2024 agenda. Sup. Leix seconded the motion. Motion carried.		
Approve the minutes of the January 24, 2024 meeting: Mr. Bunker made a motion to approve the January 24, 2024 minutes. Sup. Geisking 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. none		
Introduce new LCD staff- Sara Wilhelm: Ms. Wilhelm introduced herself.		
NRCS update: None provided		
Blackhawk Lake Commission update: Sup. Leix reported that the commission discussed progress on the shower house, and future projects.		
Wildlife Damage Abatement program (Zac Venchus): Approve 2023 Wildlife Damage Claims: Sup. Leix moved to approve the claims. Sup. Butteris seconded the motion. Discussion of harvest objectives. Motion carried.		
Bloomfield property listening sessions and survey results; discussion and approval of next steps: Ms. Abbott presented a summary of the public input process and results. Discussion of County-owned public land, ag use, protection options, costs and funding. Sup. Kreul made a motion for staff to continue looking at funding and management options. Sup. Geisking seconded the motion. Motion carried.		
Cost-share project approval: Ms. Abbott presented the project list and an email from a concerned CCA about non-payment of NMP services. Discussion of if/how we can check that CCAs are getting paid. Staff would need to ask DATCP what we are allowed to do. Sup. Kruel made a motion to table until next meeting. Sup. Butteris seconded the motion. Motion carried.		
Birch Lake repair updates; discussion and approval of next steps: Ms. Abbott gave an update on options for a variance for the DNR grant bidding timeline. Sup. Leix made a motion to rebid the two excavation projects in 2024, and bid out the valve repair in 2025. Mr. Vanderloo seconded the motion. Motion carried.		

Land Conservation Department updates:

A) Annual report: Ms. Abbott presented the Department's 2023 report

B) 10-yr Land and Water Resource Management Plan- due Dec 2025: Iowa County's LWRM Plan is due for a full update in 2025. This is a long process that will get started in late 2024.

Motion to set the next meeting and adjourn. The next meeting date was set for Wednesday March 27, 2024 at 1:00 PM. Mr. Bunker made a motion to adjourn. Sup. Geisking seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:03pm.

Land Conservation Cost-share Projects for Approval 3-27-24

Landowner name	Grant recipient	Township	Practice	Estimated cost-share amount
Level Acres Grains	Dennis Putz	Pulaski	NMP	\$8,761.60
	Note: Denny & Kandy have over 1,000 acres in various ownerships and we plan to cost-share about 250-275 acres per year to stay under funding caps			
Moundsview Farm	same	Brigham	Field border	\$350.00
Everett Beckius	same	Highland	Well decommission	\$4,690.00
	Plus additional 20% (\$1340) from the Groundwater Fund and ~\$1400 from Groundwater fund to close a cistern on the same property			
Donald Potterton Trust	same	Waldwick	Grassed waterway w/ rock-lined outlet	\$8,400.00
Note: Cost-share amounts are staff estimates and may change after bids are received				

Cost-share summary

	Starting	Committed	Remaining
Bond (structural practices)	\$45,000.00	\$18,358.96	\$26,641.04
SEG (NMP, cover crops, no-till)	\$45,000.00	\$9,164.46	\$35,835.54

FPP Notices of Noncompliance: March 2024				
Name	Violation	Due date	Amount of tax credit	Notes
William Dolan	Outdated Soil Samples	3/1/2024	\$1,404.20	
Rick Jones and Suzanne Bottum-Jone	Outdated Soil Samples	3/1/2024	\$2,239.50	
Jarret & Allison Batton	Outdated Soil Samples	3/1/2024	\$2,916.50	
Anna Radtke	Outdated Soil Samples	3/1/2024	\$790.00	
Krals Trust	Not following Nutrient Mangement Plan (planned for no-till continuous corn, but found to be spring chisel plowing which results in erosion and phosphorus issues)	3/1/2024	\$1,578.40	Uncertain if the plan we have is an updated version. Need to check into this more. We will also check if they are tilling again this spring. If still out of compliance we will issue a NON in April

Iowa County Conservation Awards descriptions and criteria:

Award winners should demonstrate a conservation ethic and good stewardship that goes above and beyond and serves as an example in the County.

- *Iowa County Conservation Farmer of the Year*: This award must be given to an active farmer, preferable one who derives most of his/her income from farming, who shows consistent, outstanding conservation work. This includes comprehensive practices throughout the farm to reduce soil erosion, promote healthy soil, protect water quality, and manage nutrients. Preference is for farmers who are also active in promoting conservation through volunteering, field days, or otherwise influencing peers to follow their example.
- *Water and Wildlife Steward*: Landowners or farmers who improve and/or protect water quality and/or create a haven for wildlife on their property. Nominees may also be organizations that provide exemplary work in managing water resources or habitat, assisting landowners, and/or providing outreach and education. Citizens who show impressive dedication to Iowa County water quality through volunteering or education may also be considered. Habitat can be game or non-game, with a preference for declining species and a diversity of habitat types or species benefitted.
- *Friend of Conservation*: A professional, teacher, business, elected official, etc. who has shown dedication to conservation, beyond the duties of his/her job, through education, outreach, technical assistance, volunteering, or other efforts.
- *Iowa County Tree Farmer of the Year*: Chosen by DNR. Landowners who manage timber on their properties in a sustainable way, implementing a forestry plan and BMPs.

Please provide the Land Conservation Department with your nominee's name, the award category, address, phone number (if you know it), and a description of the property, practices, programs, and/or activities that qualify them for the award.

Past Iowa County Conservation Award Winners

YEAR	Conservation Farmer of the Year	Water Quality Leadership	Wildlife Habitat (Private)	Wildlife Habitat (Club) (combined with Wildlife Habitat-Private award in 2018)	Tree Farmer	Friend of Conservation (new in 2018)
1994					Rachel and Don Jordan	N/A
1995	Glen Welsh Family	Springer Family	Dave Ladd Family	Wings Over Wisconsin	Herbert Lindocken	N/A
1996	Bill Enloe	Ron Jacobson	Erdman Associates	Ducks Unlimited	Dick Cates	N/A
1997	Bishop Family Farm	Bill Polkinghorn	Charles Steudel	Pheasants Forever	Don Fesenfeld	N/A
1998	Leix Family	Tony Kirch	Bill Wisler	Boy Scouts	Russ Moody	N/A
1999	Windswept Farms Bomkamp Family	Dick and Kim Cates	Roland Taylor	Iowa County Recreation and Prairie Restoration	Jeff Anderson	N/A
2000	Jim March	Mark and Lee Greenwood	Leroy Fahrney	Blue Mounds Project	Kelly Heibel	N/A
2001	Dave Rundel	Bjorge Farms	Steve Bunker	SW Wisconsin Prairie Enthusiasts	Hal Manhart	N/A
2002	Jay and Andrea Sigg	Ron and Marie James	Law n Oaks Tom Lawinger	Pheasants Forever	Jean Ellarson	N/A
2003	Art and Helen Kirch	JR Anderson	Sandy and Al Beamis	Nature Conservancy	Jim Widder	N/A
2004	Dave and Joyce Berning	Grass Dairy Mike Gingrich	Brad and Barb Glass	TU Harry Nohr Chapter	LaVerne Hensen	N/A
2005	Tom Murphy	Stanley Nelson	Bill Weege and Sue Steinmann	Driftless Area Conservancy	Jamey Wardell	N/A
2006	Jim Day	Jeff Sigg	Jeff Underwood	TU Harry Nohr Chapter	Dr Grunow	N/A
2007	Art Linscheid	James Fizimmons	Bill and Jayne Wisler	Iowa County Master Gardners	Mead Family	N/A
2008	Dean Putz	Dick Brokish	Mary Trewartha	WI Woodland Owners, Bad Axe Chapter	Bill Carden and Family	N/A
2009	Ken Ruppert Family	Travis Keast	Gollon's	Southern Chapter of TU	David and Tracy Hataj Rev Trust	N/A
2010	Ted Thompson Family	HyVista Farm, Bruce Paull Family	Steve and Mary Thompson	Whitetails Unlimited Nick Portzon	Steve Stoddard and Sally Dahire	N/A
2011	Calvin & Victor Williams	Otis, Mark, & Eric Gilbertson	Helen Kirch	Burr Oak Deer Management (BODM)	Don Winch	N/A

YEAR	Conservation Farmer of the Year	Water Quality Leadership	Wildlife Habitat (Private)	Wildlife Habitat (Club) (combined with Wildlife Habitat-Private award in 2018)	Tree Farmer	Friend of Conservation (new in 2018)
2012	Richard Amble	Luther Smith	Wayne Schuelke	Prairie Enthusiasts, Empire-Sauk Chapter	Dave & Bonnie Downs	N/A
2013	Laura Daniels	Dan Marquardt	Stith Gower	Mineral Point Schools (Friends of the M.P. Savanna Project)	Rock Ridge Community	N/A
2014	Nankey Farms	Mike Ryan Family	Janet & Doug Huebner	The Prairie Enthusiasts	Tom Foster	N/A
2015	Moyer Farms, Russ & Lonny	Bill Hanson	Brett Peterson Family	Bethel Horizons Youth Education	Brad & Barb Glass	N/A
2016	Finkelmeyer Farms	Rodney Anding Family	Dr. Gary Grunow Family	Pecatonica Education Charitable Foundation	Ron Butteris	N/A
2017	Alan Kolb Family	Paul Lawinger Family	Mike Crook Family	Avoca Rod & Gun Club	Doug Randall Family	N/A
2018	Hartung Brothers	Eric Cates	Stanley Erickson		John Walte and Pam Callahan	Paul Dietmann
2019	Joe Stapleton	Brad Walter	Dry Dog Partnership		John Morton	Mary Kay Baum
2020	Wayne, Dan, and Mark Ramsden	Bill Spurley	David Anderson		Dick Powell	Gene VanDyke
Conservation Farmer of the Year		Water and Wildlife Steward 2021			Tree Farmer	Friend of Conservation (new in 2018)
2021	Bob McCarthy	Mark Steffes			Steve Colden	Len Olson
2022	Roger and Terry Dax	Doug Carden			Joel Fait/ Fait Farms	Ron Endres
2023	Mike and Matt Mueller	Linda Kane			Rick Gallagher	Cindy Becker

Conservation Farmer of the Year Award Nomination

Return by **Monday May 13, 2024** to Katie Abbott:

katherine.abbott@iowacounty.org or 303 W Chapel Street Suite 2100 Dodgeville WI 53533

Your name _____

Phone number _____

Email _____

Nominee Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Property Address (Fire Number, etc) if available: _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

What conservation practices does this farmer use? Provide specific examples.

How has this farmer promoted healthier soil, groundwater, and/or surface water to other farmers or the community? Please provide some concrete examples.

Water and Wildlife Steward Award Nomination

Return by **Monday May 13, 2024** to Katie Abbott:
katherine.abbott@iowacounty.org or 303 W Chapel Street Suite 2100 Dodgeville WI 53533

Your name _____

Phone number _____

Email _____

Nominee Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Property Address (Fire Number, etc) if available: _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

What project(s) has this person or group implemented or assisted with in Iowa County to improve water quality and/or wildlife habitat? Provide details about the project(s) and water or wildlife benefits.

In what ways has this person or group promoted water and/or wildlife conservation through education, civic engagement, landowner assistance, or other activities?

Friend of Conservation Award Nomination

Return by **Monday May 13, 2024** to Katie Abbott:
katherine.abbott@iowacounty.org or 303 W Chapel Street Suite 2100 Dodgeville WI 53533

Your name _____

Phone number _____

Email _____

Nominee Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

How has this person actively advanced conservation in Iowa County and in what role? Please provide examples.

How has this person advanced policy, education, appreciation, or other aspects of conservation in Iowa County?

Land Conservation Department 2024 Work Plan summary

Long-term Goal 1: Facilitate farmer/landowner investment in conservation practices

Strategy 1a: Address financial and technical barriers to conservation implementation

- Continue cost-share programs for nutrient management plans, no-till, cover crops, and structural practices (site visits, contracting, designs/permits/as-builts, payments, reimbursements, tracking, reporting, Phosphorus and nitrogen reduction calculations)
 - Contract engineered and agronomic projects to spend \$90,000 in cost-share funds
 - 1-2 projects installed using phosphorus Multi-discharger Variance funds
- Continue Nutrient Management Planning training for farmers
 - 2 classroom sessions and 3-5 update sessions
 - Create new page on website with NMP information (advantages, trainings, links, etc)
- Assist municipalities with phosphorus trading programs as feasible
 - 3-5 baseline NMPs created, assist with site visits as time allows
- Explore no-till drill needs and avenues to increase access to rentable drills
 - Look at grant opportunities
 - Discuss rental arrangements with implement dealers
- Promote new cost-sharable practices when/if ATCP50 changes are approved
- Look for ways to streamline program processes (e.g, online payments/form submittal)
- Influence statewide policies and programs
 - Participate in Land+Water Association Legislative Committee meetings
 - Testify in hearings or submit comments on legislation pertaining to County conservation programs or funding
- Participate in Lowery Creek Watershed Initiative and Southern Driftless Grasslands partnership
- Participate in WI Grazing Coalition meetings and projects
 - Assist with practitioner survey to assess technical assistance coverage and gaps
- Provide non-cost-shared technical assistance/advice as requested/feasible

Strategy 1b: Provide incentives for conservation practices

- Continue Farmland Preservation tax credit program
 - ~170 site visits with follow-up letters and database entry
 - Review NMPs as they are submitted and enter into database (~200)
 - Complete self-certification process for all FPP participants (~675; mailing, payment processing, data entry, reminders, reports)
 - Send compliance reminders as needed
 - Summer soil testing reminder letters
- Continue Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program partnership
 - 10-15 agreements, payments, transfers/revision paperwork, reporting
 - Complete ~6 easement visits with DATCP
- Use enforcement tools when necessary
 - Review manure storage permit applications and send Certificates of Use
 - Respond to complaints and manure spills; send NR151 noncompliance letters if needed

Long-term Goal 2: Facilitate a culture of conservation in the farm community

Strategy 2a: Increase frequency and variety of conservation messages for farmers and landowners

- Continue use of Facebook, e-news, print newsletters, videos, and newspaper articles
- Partner on fields days, webinars, or other outreach: 1-2 Uplands Farmer-led field day(s), 1-3 Lowery Creek Watershed Initiative events, 2-3 Southern Driftless Grasslands bird-friendly farming programs, 1-2 local pasture walks

Strategy 2b: Increase awareness/understanding of conservation standards, practices, and programs by ag businesses and consultants

- Continue to build relationships with ag retailers, agronomists, lenders, etc
 - Annual update (via email) for agronomists; notify of events or new programs as needed

Strategy 2c: Engage area youth in conservation education

- Continue annual Youth Conservation Field Day (approx. 150 kids- plan/implement with UWEX)
- Continue poster contest
- Present at River Valley high school field day at Cates Farm

Strategy 2d: Recognize farmers for their efforts

- Continue conservation award program (four awards presented)
- Explore other recognition program and funding needs
 - Partner with Uplands Watershed group on farm signs and conservation driving tour

Long-term Goal 3: Reduce well and groundwater contamination

- Continue groundwater quality cost-share program (using ATC funding)
- Partner with Iowa Co Health Department on Groundwater Awareness Week
 - Create 2 videos; organize one presentation/webinar on groundwater quality
- Continue participation in Land + Water conservation-public health committee

Other activities

Promote wildlife/habitat and recreation practices

- Continue working with County team and local partners on Bloomfield Property management and planning
- Assist with recreation projects/grant program (using ATC funds)
- Partner on poison hemlock education/ID; attend South Central Invasives Partnership meetings
- Provide wildlife habitat/invasive species information online and upon request

Maintain County-owned dams

- Complete inspections, mowing, and regular debris removal on all dams
- Explore camera availability for outlet pipe internal inspections
- Continue Birch Lake dam repairs and Municipal Dam Grant/permit requirements

Maintain office tracking and record keeping

- Continue use/maintenance of GIS shapefiles and four databases for program/practice tracking
- Track staff time for grant and program reporting (CREP, MDV)