

	AGENDA Land Conservation Committee Wednesday December 18, 2024 at 1:00 PM HHS Building, Community Room 303 W. Chapel St. Dodgeville, WI 53533 Remote attendance option: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83035743341 Meeting ID: 830 3574 3341 Conference call #: 1-312-626-6799	Iowa County Wisconsin
For information regarding access for the disabled please call 935-0399.		
Any subject on this agenda may become an action item.		
1	Call to Order	
2	Roll Call	
3	Approve the agenda for this December 18, 2024 meeting	
4	Approve the minutes of the October 23, 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	USDA update	
7	Blackhawk Lake Commission update	
8	Consider trout barrier on Trout Creek (TP8) dam; info on fish and dams: Justin Haglund, WI DNR	
9	Approve FPP Notices of Noncompliance	
10	Cost-share project approvals	
11	Consider cover crop funding prioritization proposal	
12	Land Conservation Department updates: a) Birch Lake dam repairs b) Land and Water Resource Management Plan	
13	Motion to set the next meeting and adjourn	
	Following the meeting, a quorum may be present for a holiday gathering at the Land Conservation Department Office. No County business will be transacted during this time.	
Posted by: Megan Currie, Deputy County Clerk Date: 12/12/2024 Initials: MC		

	UNAPPROVED MINUTES LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday October 23, 2024 at 1:00 PM HHS Building, Community Room 303 W. Chapel St. Dodgeville, WI 53533 Remote attendance option: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81639308000 Conference call #: 1-312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 816 3930 8000	Iowa County Wisconsin
Meeting was called to order by Chair Gollon at 1:01 p.m.		
Roll Call. Members present: Bob Bunker, Kevin Butteris, Dave Gollon, Darrell Kreul, Don Leix, Dan Nankee, and Peter Vanderloo. Others present: Katie Abbott, Sara Wilhelm, Zach Venchus, Jasmine Wyant, Terry Schaefer, Jess Schmelzer, Wes Satern		
Approve the agenda for this October 23, 2024 meeting: Sup. Kruehl made a motion to approve the October 23, 2024 agenda. Sup. Nankee seconded the motion. Motion carried.		
Approve the minutes of the August 21, 2024 meeting: Sup. Butteris made a motion to approve the August 21, 2024 minutes. Mr. Bunker 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. Nanke shared an article about a \$1 million National Science Foundation Regional Innovation Engine grant to WiSys for sustainable agriculture technology.		
USDA update: Ms. Abbott shared updates provided by USDA staff for both September and October.		
Blackhawk Lake Commission update: Sup. Kruehl provide an update: they repaired some UTVs, the beach pavilion needs a roof but it has been tough to get quotes; they need to replace some rusted grills, and may increase camping fees in 2025		
Farmland Preservation Program Noncompliance appeal: TEVA (Terry Schaefer): Ms. Abbott and Ms. Wilhelm provided background. Mr. Schaefer provided his reasons for the appeal. Discussion of notification process and costs. Sup. Nankee made a motion to cancel the NON. Sup. Kruehl seconded the motion. Mr. Vanderloo pointed out the reasons for approval: good standing of the farmer, mail issues, and ability to correct the issue by the end of the year. Motion carried.		
Farmland Preservation Program Noncompliance appeal: Jess Schmelzer: Ms. Abbott and Ms. Wilhelm provided background. Mr. Schmelzer provided his reasons for the appeal. Mr. Satern provided additional information. Sup. Leix made a motion to cancel the NON if soil samples are taken by November 15 and the NMP is submitted by December 15. Mr. Bunker seconded the motion. Motion carried.		
Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program- Zac Venchus (USDA Wildlife Services): Mr. Venchus provided an overview of the program. A) Approval of 2024 crop prices and 90% harvest date: Sup. Leix made a motion to approve the crop prices as presented and designate December 1 as the 90% harvest date. Sup. Nanke seconded the motion. Motion carried. B) Approval of 2025 budget: Sup. Nanke moved to approve the 2025 budget. Sup. Butteris seconded the motion. Discussion of expenses. Motion carried.		

Regional invasive species funding: 2024 summary and 2025 agreement- Jasmine Wyant (Upper Sugar River Watershed Association): Ms. Wyant provided an overview of the program, 2024 summary, and planned 2025 activities. Discussion re: outreach ideas and more frequent updates. Sup. Nanke made a motion to approve the County Conservationist to sign the 2025 agreement and grant application. Mr. Vanderloo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Cost-share approvals: Ms. Abbott provided an updated list of projects for approval. Discussion of cover crop rate increase, limited funding, and need for prioritization. Sup. Butteris made a motion to approve the well decommission projects. Sup. Leix seconded the motion. Motion carried.
Sup. Leix made a motion to approve the cover crop projects. Mr. Vanderloo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Land Conservation Department updates: Ms. Abbott provided the following updates.

- a) **Birch Lake repairs and dam maintenance:** the Phase I Birch Lake repairs are planned to be finished this week. Next we will need to bid out the valve replacement. Staff have had issues with beavers clogging several dam inlets, and NRCS brought in a camera to look at the condition of a dam inlet pipe.
- b) **Budget updates:** There is no change for the 2025 budget proposal, but staff are already looking at solutions for a tight 2026 budget and the need to increase fees. Staff will look into certified mail costs and possibility of a NON appeal fee.

Motion to set the next meeting and adjourn. The next meeting date was set for Wednesday November 20, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. if needed, and the December meeting was set for Wednesday December 18, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. Sup. Kruel made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bunker seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

FPP Notices of Noncompliance: December 2024 *an updated list will be provided at the meeting to account for any late self-certifications*					
	Name	Violation	Due date	Amount of tax credit	Notes
1	Lavin Sigg	not enough vegetation on streambank in pasture	12/31/2024	\$677.50	no response to phone calls; last message was 12/10
2	Mary Beirne Living Trust	Have not received self-certification paperwork	12/2/2024	\$1,365.60	sent reminder postcard and left phone message
3	Isaac and Carey Campbell	Have not received self-certification paperwork	12/2/2024	\$666.40	papers should be on their way
4	Laura Daniels	Have not received self-certification paperwork	12/2/2024	\$1,610.00	sent reminder postcard and left phone message
5	David and Rita Dorota	Have not received self-certification paperwork	12/2/2024	\$400.00	sent reminder postcard and left phone message
6	Jeffrey Flannery and Melissa Leonard-Flannery	Have not received self-certification paperwork	12/2/2024	\$1,214.00	sent reminder postcard and left phone message
7	Dean Gullickson	Have not received self-certification paperwork	12/2/2024	\$924.20	papers should be on their way
8	Jewell Revocable Trust	Have not received self-certification paperwork	12/2/2024	\$10,815.80	papers should be on their way
9	Kramer Farms LLC	No longer wants to be in FPP		\$1,907.90	
10	Level Acres Dairy Farms LLC	Have not received self-certification paperwork	12/2/2024	\$518.70	papers should be on their way
11	Level Acres Grains LLC	Have not received self-certification paperwork	12/2/2024	\$2,190.20	papers should be on their way
12	Level Acres Grains II LLC	Have not received self-certification paperwork	12/2/2024	\$4,559.40	papers should be on their way
13	James McGraw	Have not received self-certification paperwork	12/2/2024	\$3,080.50	sent reminder postcard and left phone message
14	Brendan Moneypenny	Have not received self-certification paperwork	12/2/2024	\$1,467.60	May opt out
15	Eugene Oimoen	Have not received self-certification paperwork	12/2/2024	\$2,041.00	sent reminder postcard and left phone message
16	Jon Orcutt	Have not received self-certification paperwork	12/2/2024	\$417.70	sent reminder postcard and left phone message
17	Denny and Kandy Putz	Have not received self-certification paperwork	12/2/2024	\$2,036.90	papers should be on their way
18	Douglas Roh	Have not received self-certification paperwork	12/2/2024	\$1,796.80	sent reminder postcard and left phone message
19	Slaney Revocable Trust	Have not received self-certification paperwork	12/2/2024	\$1,134.10	papers should be on their way
20	Tabitha Steffes	Have not received self-certification paperwork	12/2/2024	\$2,446.80	papers should be on their way

Land Conservation Cost-share Projects for Approval 12-18-24

an updated list may be provided at the meeting after we finalize some projects

Landowner name	Grant recipient	Township	Practice	Estimated cost-share
Alan Kolb	same	Moscow	No-till	\$4,036.89
Linda Kane	same	Clyde	No-till	\$166.50
Alex Trollop	same	Linden	Well decommission	\$1,050.00
Steven Strutt	Rich Strutt	Ridgeway	Filter strips	\$1,141.30

Cost-share funding summary

	Starting	Committed	Remaining
Bond (structural practices)	\$45,000.00	\$42,748.73	\$2,251.27
SEG (NMP, cover crops, no-till)	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$0.00



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

TO: Land Conservation Committee
FROM: Katie Abbott and Sara Wilhelm
Date: 12-18-24
RE: Cover crop cost-share prioritization

In 2024, the WI Department of Agriculture increased the cover crop cost-share rate from \$25 to \$35 (with higher rates for termination or multi-species mix). With this increase, as well as increased interest in the practice, we quickly ran out of money this year. To help us prioritize where cover crop funding should go, we propose the following:

1. Reserve 50% of our funding for nutrient management plans and reduced tillage (no-till or strip till). In 2025, we will have \$45,000. We will request more funding for 2026. These two practices will be funded first-come first-served until August 1 each year.
2. Cover crop funding requests must be submitted by landowners by August 1st. 50% of our funds will be reserved for cover crops. We will also use any NMP or no-till funds that have not been contracted by August 1 for cover crops.
3. Cover crop funding priorities:
 - 1) Fields have had cost sharing in the past (to honor the four-year cost-share timeframe)
 - 2) Cover crops are needed to meet conservation standards or Farmland Preservation Program compliance (tolerable soil loss, phosphorus index, etc.). This will probably be a rare situation.
 - 3) Fields are located in a watershed with an impaired river and/or stream.
 - 4) Farms with the highest % of acres designated as “most susceptible to ground water contamination.”
4. We will fund fields in category 1 first. If we don’t have enough money for all of them, we will prioritize them based on the next category(ies) down. If we have extra funds, those will go to fields in the next category(ies) down.

We would also like feedback on the funding cap. Currently our policy states “Nutrient management planning, cover crop, and no-till payments shall not exceed \$10,000 for a single practice or \$15,000 for a combination of practices per year per entity.” We should probably lower this, at least until we can get more funding. If we lower the cap, do we want to “grandfather in” landowners who have already been working with us using the \$10,000 maximum?