

	AGENDA Land Conservation Committee Wednesday May 28, 2025 at 1:00 PM HHS Building, Community Room 303 W. Chapel St. Dodgeville, WI 53533		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 May 28, 2025 meeting		
4	Approve the minutes of the April 30, 2025 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	Cost-share project approvals		
9	Choose Farmers Appreciation Day award winners		
10	Land Conservation Department updates: a) Blackhawk Lake beaver removal b) Partnership updates: Uplands Farmer-led group; Lowery Creek evenings afield schedule c) Cyber incident impacts		
11	Motion to set the next meeting and adjourn		
Posting Verified by: Date: Initials:			

	UNAPPROVED MINUTES LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday April 30, 2025 at 1:00 PM HHS Building, Community Room 303 W. Chapel St. Dodgeville, WI 53533	Iowa County Wisconsin
Meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Leix at 1:05 p.m.		
Roll Call. Members present: Bob Bunker, Kevin Butteris, Darrell Kreul, Don Leix, Dan Nankee, and Peter Vanderloo. Excused: Dave Gollon Others present: Katie Abbott, Sara Wilhelm		
Approve the agenda for this April 30, 2025 meeting: Mr. Vanderloo made a motion to approve the April 30, 2025 agenda. Sup. Krueel seconded the motion. Motion carried.		
Approve the minutes of the March 26, 2025 meeting: Sup. Krueel made a motion to approve the March 26, 2025 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. Mr. Bunker shared an article about the Cates family farm from the Progressive Forage magazine, and asked about ways to track or calculate wind erosion. Sup. Nankee asked about county dam funding.		
USDA update: report from USDA was provided in the packet. Discussion of payments from the Emergency Commodity Assistance Program.		
Blackhawk Lake Commission update: Sup. Leix reported that the Commission provided updates on the lake shore work.		
Cost-share project approvals: Sup. Nankee made a motion to approve the projects as presented. Mr. Vanderloo seconded the motion. Motion carried.		
Dam fish barrier agreement: Mr. Bunker made a motion to approve the agreement. Sup. Krueel seconded the motion. Motion carried.		
Farmer award nomination forms: Ms. Abbott provided the nomination forms and information. Discussion of possible nominees.		
Land Conservation Department updates: Ms. Abbott provided the following updates. a) Dam updates: Jewell Engineering will be hired for required inspections and possible benchmarks. Birch Lake repairs are moving forward, and Ms. Abbott is working with staff to source signage regarding the new ordinance language. b) State budget advocacy information: Ms. Abbott provided a memo with information on representative contacts and talking points.		
Motion to set the next meeting and adjourn. The next meeting date was set for Wednesday May 28, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Vanderloo made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bunker seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:36 p.m.		

Land Conservation Cost-share Projects for Approval 5-28-25

Landowner name	Grant recipient	Township	Practice	Estimated cost-share amount
Colby & Cassandra Reichling	same	Ridgeway	Manure storage closure	\$2,800
Tom McCullick	same	Moscow	Well decomission	\$1,540.00
Zachary & Dana Leigh	same	Mifflin	Well decomission	\$1,458.54
Chip and Danielle Foss	same	Ridgeway	Well decomission	\$1,015.00

2025 cost-share funding summary

	Starting	Committed	Remaining
Bond (structural practices)	\$45,000.00	\$20,872.50	\$24,127.50
SEG (NMP, cover crops, no-till)	\$45,000.00	\$14,461.74	\$30,538.26

General Information

Join us for monthly evening field trips and socializing, May-October, to learn from experts and each other about land and water conservation topics.

Events are on Thursday evenings, **6:00-8:00pm**, at locations in and around the Lowery Creek watershed, south of Spring Green.

Hear what others are doing on their land and find new resources to achieve your own goals. See Driftless-friendly conservation and agricultural practices in action.

These events are free, but donations are encouraged and appreciated. All sessions are outdoors.

Registration is required and details will be sent to those who sign up. To register go to:

driftlessconservancy.org/events

For more information:

Barb Barzen, Coordinator
barb@driftlessconservancy.org

Mike Degen, Field Coordinator
mdegen@franklloydwright.org

driftlessconservancy.org/lowery-creek-watershed

Lowery Creek Watershed Initiative 2025 Evenings Afield



May 22

Restoring and Protecting Aldebaran Farm

Aldebaran Farm has a fascinating history: both Frank Lloyd Wright and Svetlana Stalin lived there for brief periods. The current owners completed a conservation easement with the Driftless Area Land Conservancy (DALC) last year and their son recently bought adjacent land. They will touch on the property's history, then walk us through their process and their prairie as they describe restoring and protecting the 17-acre homestead. DALC staff will explain easement basics.

Location: Aldebaran Farm, County T

Leaders: Mary Williams, Mike Lenahan, Jack Lenahan, Steph Judge

June 26

Bats Bouncing Back: Updates on the Surface and Subterranean

Wisconsin is home to more than 40% of the nation's little brown bats! Four of the state's eight bat species continue to experience stress from White-nose Syndrome (WNS), but there is some good news to share. Join us to learn about local bats, citizen monitoring, WNS research in WI, and how you can help. Big brown bats and tricolored bats that hibernate on the Taliesin property have been monitored for 10 years. We will offer a tour of underground sites after the indoor presentation. Stick around after sunset to observe, count, and listen to bats emerging from summer roosts. **This event will be from 6:30-8:30 pm.**

Location: Hillside Theater at Taliesin, Highway 23

Leader: Jennifer Redell

July 24

Be a Good Ancestor - Build Good Soil

Whether you tend a farm, a garden, or a yard, this wisdom from Native American ecologist Robin Wall Kimmerer should be taken to heart. Nurturing soil health has benefits far beyond your piece of ground, and far into the future. Soil experts will use soil cores, a rainfall simulator, and a trip to a perennial crop field and blueberry patch to describe interactions between soil health, water quality and movement, and plant life. Learn the basics of carbon sequestration, taking and interpreting soil tests, creating healthy soil, and soil-stream dynamics.

Location: Twin Crix Farm, Highway 23

Leaders: Patrick Michaels, Dick Cates, Katie Abbott, Joe Stapleton

August 21

Monitoring Invasive Species: The Power of Apps, Maps, and Collaboration

A number of plant and animal identification and reporting tools help to paint a valuable picture as invasive species spread across the landscape. The Upper Sugar River Watershed Association plays a leading role on this front in our area. They will show us books and apps for identifying and reporting invasive plants, which we will use in the field so charge your phone before you come! They will also explain how to share data you collect on invasive species in your area to statewide community science programs.

Location: Twin Crix Farm, Highway 23

Leader: Jasmine Wyant

September 11

Restoring Taliesin Dam and Pond: Lessons Learned

Visit the Taliesin dam and learn of its storied history, as well as its connection and importance to the Lowery Creek watershed. Hear and see what management practices are at work and what is planned for pond and wetland restoration. Participants can expect some easy walking along the way. **This event will be from 5:00-7:00 pm.**

Location: Taliesin, County C

Leader: Mike Degen

October 16

Protect the Night: Enjoy and Preserve Dark Skies

Experience the nocturnal world under dark, starry skies and learn how to conserve them. Light pollution threatens not only our “right to starlight”, but can affect energy consumption, wildlife, and health. Discover how you can become a citizen-scientist by identifying familiar constellations and measuring night sky brightness (with a phone app) through the Globe at Night campaign. In case of clouds, the date will be October 23.

Location: Savanna Institute South Farm, County Z

Leader: John Heasley

The Lowery Creek Watershed Initiative believes in the power of community when it comes to conserving our natural and agricultural resources long-term. We work together to keep farmland in farming; protect and manage agricultural, natural, and cultural resources; use science to guide us; and grow community around conservation.

Our watershed, or drainage basin, runs from the Lower Wisconsin River south to Pleasant Ridge, six miles as the crow flies. It is a small watershed packed with a Class I trout stream that hosts a rare heritage population of brook trout, a UNESCO World Heritage Site (Frank Lloyd Wright’s Taliesin estate), a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance (the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway), and landowners who are creating a promising future for our land, water, and economy.

Individually and together, we are working to promote Driftless-friendly values and practices in and around our watershed.

Watershed partners

Cates Family Farm
Driftless Area Land Conservancy
Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway
Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation
Future Fruit Farm
Iowa County Conservation Department

Savanna Institute
Stapleton Family Farm
Taliesin Preservation
Town of Wyoming
Twin Crix Farm
Local residents and land managers