

	AGENDA Land Conservation Committee Wednesday June 25, 2025 at 1:00 PM HHS Building, Community Room 303 W. Chapel St. Dodgeville, WI 53533 Remote attendance option: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82996629255 Meeting ID: 829 9662 9255 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 June 25, 2025 meeting	
4	Approve the minutes of the May 28, 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	Approve Farmland Preservation Notices of Noncompliance	
9	Approve cost-share project	
10	Discussion of Blackhawk Lake dams valve testing	
11	Discussion of MOU with Uplands Farmer-led Watershed Group	
12	Land Conservation Department updates: a) Dams update b) Summer intern	
13	Motion to set the next meeting and adjourn	
Posting Verified by: Date: Initials:		

	UNAPPROVED MINUTES LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday May 28, 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 Chair Dave Gollon at 1:00pm		
Roll Call. Members present: Dave Gollon, Bob Bunker, Kevin Butteris, Don Leix, Dan Nankee, and Peter Vanderloo. Absent: Darrell Kreul Others present: Mayme Keagy, Sara Wilhelm, Tony Pillow		
Approve the agenda for this May 28, 2025 meeting: Sup. Leix made a motion to approve the May 28, 2025 agenda. Sup. Butteris seconded the motion. Motion carried.		
Approve the minutes of the April 30, 2025 meeting: Sup. Butteris made a motion to approve the April 30, 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. Sup. Nankee shared the 2024 Grant County Annual Report and highlighted an article by Extension Outreach Specialist, Landon Baumgartner.		
USDA update: report from USDA was provided to committee members. Mr. Bunker made note of the tight June 6, 2025 general sign-up deadline for CRP.		
Blackhawk Lake Commission update: Sup. Leix reported the roof of the shelter has been installed and they are now working on reinstalling the underground wiring from the office to the shop. Bookings are going well for this year.		
Cost-share project approvals: Mr. Pillow provided summaries of current cost-share projects and answered questions from the committee. Sup. Butteris made a motion to approve the Reichling manure storage closure project. Mr. Vanderloo seconded the motion. Motion carried. Sup. Butteris made a motion to approve the well decommission projects. Sup. Leix seconded the motion. Motion carried.		
Choose Farmers Appreciation Day award winners: Sup. Nankee made a motion to award Tom and Stacie Novak the Conservation Farmer of the Year award, Bob Reddell and Family the Water and Wildlife Stewards of the Year award, and Rich Henderson the Friend of Conservation award for 2025. Sup. Buttis seconded the motion. Motion carried.		
Land Conservation Department updates: a) Blackhawk Lake beaver removal: Mr. Pillow reported that the USDA/APHIS trapped 8 beavers and removed the beaver dams around the Blackhawk Lake dams. b) Partnership updates: Uplands Farmer-led group; Lowery Creek evenings afield schedule: Ms. Keagy reported that the LCD will be supporting the Uplands Farmer-led Group in writing grants and reporting. Margaret Krome has stepped down from her position at Michael Fields Ag Institute but plans to continue coordinating Upland's events. The Evenings Afield schedule was included in the meeting packet. c) Cyber incident impacts: Ms. Keagy reported that the LCD files have been recovered, and any missing files have mainly been recreated. We are missing software and databases that could delay service and projects.		
Motion to set the next meeting and adjourn. The next meeting date was set for Wednesday June 25, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. Sup. Leix made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Vanderloo seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.		

	FPP Notices of Noncompliance: June 2025				
	Name	Violation	Due date	Amount of tax credit	Notes
1	LeRoy Gruenwald	Outdated Soil Samples	5/1/2025	\$1,013.60	Leroy originally had a 3/1/2025 deadline. Extended the deadline with Roger Geisking to give him time to get samples. Roger could not get into contact with Leroy. Sara also tried to call Leroy on the date of deadline. No response.
2	Ronald Kann and Kristine Kann Revocable Trust	Tillage Setback and Gullies	6/1/2025	\$1,200	Sara was out for routine site visit on 5/24/2024. Both Ronald and Jon Kann properties had washing which formed several gullies emptying into the stream below. In addition, they were not adhering to the 5 foot tillage setback. Sara had a couple phone calls with Ronald about the violation throughout the year. On 06/02/2025 Sara went back out to the site and there was no change on either property.
3	Jon Kann	Tillage Setback and Gullies	6/1/2025	\$800	See Ronald Kann Notes. Ronald is the contact for both properties.

Land Conservation Cost-share Projects for Approval 6-25-25

Landowner name	Grant recipient	Township	Practice	Estimated cost-share amount
Penny Debur and family	same	Mineral Point	Stream	\$6,500

2025 cost-share funding summary

	Starting	Committed	Remaining
Bond (structural practices)	\$45,000.00	\$32,503.67	\$12,496.32
SEG (NMP, cover crops, no-till)	\$45,000.00	\$14,413.45	\$30,586.55

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
IOWA COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
AND
IOWA COUNTY UPLANDS FARMER-LED WATERSHED GROUP**

BACKGROUND

To improve water quality, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) will provide grants to producer led groups that implement non-point source pollution abatement activities.

PURPOSE

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a partnership between the Iowa County Land Conservation Department (Collaborating Entity) and Iowa County Uplands Farmer-led Watershed Group (Group) as required under s. 93.59, Stats., and Ch. ATPC 52 Wis. Adm. Code for this Producer Led Watershed Protection Grant. This MOU identifies the roles and responsibilities of the Collaborating Entity and the Group related to implementation of the producer led watershed protection grant.

MISSION

The Collaborating Entity and the Group enter into this MOU to work collaboratively on a producer-led water quality protection project in eight sub-watersheds. The Group's mission is to provide mutual support and exchange information about farming practice strategies that improve nutrient management, protect water quality, retain soil, and improve soil quality on farmland in the watersheds. The Collaborating Entity's mission is to assist rural landowners with conservation of soil, water, and other natural resources through technical and financial assistance.

The Group and Collaborating Entity agree as follows:

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Collaborating Entity and the Group will work collaboratively to improve soil and water quality within the Knight Hollow-Mill Creek, Meudt Creek-Mill Creek, Lowery Creek, Rush Creek, Outlet Otter Creek, Pompey Pillar Creek, Black Hawk Lake-Otter Creek, and Flint Creek sub-watersheds, located in Iowa County, Wisconsin.

The watersheds' resource concerns include:

- Reducing nutrient and sediment loads to Otter, Mill, and Ryan Creeks, which are impaired due to excess phosphorus and sediment
- Maintaining several Class I and II trout streams and two Exceptional Resource Waters (Harker and Lee Creeks).
- Minimizing soil erosion, particularly on cultivated fields with low tolerable soil loss values or high erodibility.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
DATCP Producer Led Watershed Protection Grant Program

- Protecting groundwater quality, as recent testing found percentages of nitrate and bacteria contamination in private wells throughout Iowa County was greater than statewide averages.

The primary objectives of grant implementation are to improve water and soil quality through the implementation of conservation practices and by providing outreach and education to farmers.

Specific goals and activities may vary each year and will be detailed in the grant applications.

Goals and activities may include, but are not limited to:

- ensuring all members have and implement an up-to-date nutrient management plan
- increasing acres of cover crops, no-till, and pasture
- increasing Group membership and participation
- holding a specific number of meetings, field days, and other events
- participation in on-farm research or demonstration projects
- using media such as video, radio, newspaper, and websites for outreach and communication
- engaging other agencies or non-profit organizations for expertise or project collaboration

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Collaborating Entity's responsibilities include:

- Submitting grant applications, reimbursements, and reports to DATCP.
- Providing in-kind grant match as allowed by DATCP grant guidelines.
- Administering grant funds, including making payments to farmers for conservation practices, accounting, and grant finance record-keeping.
- Coordinating Group meetings and outreach events, including arranging logistics (such as presenters, location, and food), assisting with promotion and printing, and keeping notes and records.
- Assisting the farmer leader and Group members as needed with planning, prioritization, evaluation, agendas, and meeting/event facilitation.
- Providing technical assistance, training, and program information to Group members as requested.

The Group's responsibilities include:

- Providing information needed in a timely manner for the Collaborating Entity to complete grant applications, reimbursements, and reports.
- Keeping receipts and other records/documentation required for grant deliverables, reimbursements, and reporting.
- Meeting commitments agreed to in grant applications, such as implementing practices, providing grant match, holding meetings and events, and recruiting new members.
- Creating the Group structure, leading meetings and events, and deciding on goals, activities, and topics.
- Providing leadership in peer learning and being local advocates for soil and water conservation.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
DATCP Producer Led Watershed Protection Grant Program

The collaborating entity and the group are each responsible for its own expenses related to this MOU except as otherwise provided herein.

The official contacts who will coordinate the activities of each organization in carrying out this MOU are:

- Iowa County Land Conservation Department: Katie Abbott, County Conservationist, 608-930-9893
- Iowa County Uplands Farmer-led Watershed Group: Joe Stapleton, Farmer. Stapleton Farms (608) 574-8118

SHARING OF GRANT FUNDS

Grant funds shall be used for conservation practice incentive payments to farmers, outreach event expenses, and other activities as allowed by the grantor and specified annually in the grant application. Grant funds shall also be used for salary and fringe of the Collaborating Entity's staff or contracted agent's time to support the Group, to the extent allowed by the grantor. Specific funding distribution will be detailed annually in grant application budgets.

TERM OF UNDERSTANDING

Unless terminated earlier as provided below, the term of this MOU is for a period of 3 years from the execution of the MOU and may be extended upon written mutual agreement. It shall be reviewed annually to ensure that it is fulfilling its purpose and to make any necessary revisions.

TERMINATION

Either party may request termination by giving 60 days written notice to the other party.

These provisions are agreed to by:

Iowa County Uplands Farmer-led
Watershed Group

Iowa County Land Conservation
Department

BY _____

Joe Stapleton, Farmer Leader

BY _____

Katherine Abbott, County Conservationist

DATE _____

DATE _____

Posted by County Clerk's Office on 6/19/2025, Barbara Weinbrenner