

	AGENDA Land Conservation Committee Wednesday July 30, 2025 at 1:00 PM HHS Building, Room 1001 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.		
Any subject on this agenda may become an action item.		
1	Call to Order	
2	Roll Call	
3	Approve the agenda for this July 30, 2025 meeting	
4	Approve the minutes of the June 25, 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	Farmland Preservation Notice of Noncompliance update	
9	Approve cost-share projects	
10	Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan annual review	
11	Land Conservation Department updates: a) Summer intern b) State budget results c) Upcoming events: Aug 8, 2pm- soil health field day, Aug 21, 6pm- invasive species, Sept 4, all day- Southern Area tour (Jefferson County)	
12	Motion to set the next meeting (possible joint meeting with Blackhawk Lake) and adjourn	
Posting Verified by: Date: Initials:		

	UNAPPROVED MINUTES LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday June 25, 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, Darrell Kreul, Don Leix, Dan Nankee, and Peter Vanderloo. Others present: Katie Abbott, Ross DeWitt, Stosh Potocki, Sara Wilhelm, Tony Pillow		
Approve the agenda for this June 25, 2025 meeting: Motion by Sup. Nankee to approve the June 25, 2025 agenda. Mr. Bunker seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.		
Approve the minutes of the May 28, 2025 meeting: Motion by Mr. Vanderloo to approve the May 28, 2025 minutes. Sup. Butteris seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.		
Report from committee members and an opportunity for members of the audience to address the committee. No action will be taken. Sup. Nankee shared information from the June 18 Southwest WI Forage & Cover Crops Field Day. Sup. Butteris reported on one of the manure storage projects. Stosh Potocki spoke about the proposed wind turbines.		
USDA update: A report from USDA was handed out to committee members.		
Blackhawk Lake Commission update: Sup. Leix reported on the recent Blackhawk Lake Commission meeting, including upcoming projects and events.		
Approve Farmland Preservation Notices of Noncompliance: Motion by Sup. Vanderloo to approve the three Notices of Noncompliance. Sup. Nankee seconded the motion. Motion by Sup. Nankee to amend the original motion to provide 30 days from June 25 for a response from Gruenwald, otherwise the NoN will be issued. Seconded by Sup. Leix. Amendment passed. Amended motion carried unanimously.		
Approve cost-share project: Motion by Sup. Leix to approve the project. Mr. Bunker seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.		
Discussion of Blackhawk Lake dams valve testing: Mr. Pillow and Ms. Abbott provided updates and information. Discussion followed. No action taken.		
Discussion of MOU with Uplands Farmer-led Watershed Group: Motion by Sup. Nankee to approve the MOU. Sup. Butteris seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.		
Land Conservation Department updates: a) Dams update: Mr. Pillow and Ms. Abbott provided updates. b) Summer intern: Ms. Abbott provided updates.		
Motion to set the next meeting and adjourn. The next meeting date was set for Wednesday July 30, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. Motion by Sup. Kruehl to adjourn. Sup. Nankee seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.		

Iowa County USDA Service Center
1124 Professional Drive, Suite 200
Dodgeville, WI 53533-1176
PH (608) 935-2791 FX 608-740-5980

July 2025

TO LCD Board
FROM Iowa County FSA Office
SUBJECT USDA – FSA Programs Report

CRP Programs (Conservation Reserve Programs)

CRP Continuous Sign up (CREP/SAFE/HELI, etc.) for FY2025 concluded on July 18, 2025.

FSA offices were notified of the offers in Batch 1 and their acceptance or rejection into the General Sign up 64 and Continuous Sign up 63. A letter was sent to each participant, as applicable, and as they notify us they want to move forward we will then move the contracts to NRCS for Conservation Planning of the Conservation Plan of Operations, etc.

CRP Grasslands Sign Up 207

The CRP Grassland Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) 207 is part of CRP, a federally funded voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive agricultural land is not farmed but instead used for conservation benefits. FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. The contract duration is 10 to 15 years. Grassland CRP helps landowners and operators protect grassland, including Rangeland, pastureland, and certain other lands, while maintaining the areas as grazing lands. The rental rate for Iowa Co is \$49/ac.

The program works to minimize conversion of grassland, and supports grazing operations, wildlife habitat, forage production, and other uses. Grassland CRP is reauthorized by the 2018 Farm Bill.

Grassland CRP signup 207 will run from July 14 to Aug. 8, 2025. Contact the FSA office for more information.

Nominations for FSA County Committee

FSA County Committee will be holding an election for LAA-3 this fall. This LAA consists of the following Townships: Mifflin, Linden, Mineral Point, Waldwick, and Moscow Townships. Iowa County Committee members serve for a 3-year term. Nomination forms for eligible voters in LAA 3 are due to the FSA office no later than August 1. Nominations can be submitted by providing the FSA-669A Nomination Form to the Iowa Co FSA Office.

Emergency Commodity Assistance Program

ECAP was authorized by the American Relief Act, 2025, the Emergency Commodity Assistance Program (ECAP) provides economic assistance payments to eligible agricultural commodity producers for the 2024 crop year. These payments help producers mitigate the impacts of increased input costs and falling commodity prices.

Eligible producers must meet the following requirements:

- Be actively engaged in farming.
- Have an interest in input expenses for a covered commodity.
- Have reported acreage of eligible commodities to FSA for the 2024 crop year using an FSA-578, Report of Acreage form.
- Have reported acres that were prevented from being planted to FSA for the 2024 crop year on an FSA-576 (if applicable).

Eligible Acreage: Acreage reported as intended for harvest, haying, grazing, silage, or other similar purpose is eligible.

- 50 % of the acreage on the farm reported as prevented from being planted.
- In cases where an initial eligible commodity failed or was prevented from being planted and the producer planted a subsequent eligible commodity for the 2024 crop year; eligible acreage is limited to the initial crop.

Please call the office for additional information. The deadline to sign up for ECAP is 8/15/2025.

Supplemental Disaster Relief Program (SDRP)

SDRP was announced on July 10, 2025. The American Relief Act, 2025, provides disaster relief payments to producers who suffered revenue, quality or production losses to crops, trees, bushes, or vines due to qualifying disaster events in calendar years 2023 and 2024.

All producers who receive SDRP payments will be required to purchase [federal crop insurance](#) or [NAP coverage](#) for the next two available crop years at the 60% coverage level or higher.

Producers who fail to purchase crop insurance for the next two available crop years will be required to pay back the SDRP payment, plus interest, to USDA.

Applications were mailed from the National FSA Office. If you did not receive an application and believe you should have you can reach out to your local FSA office to determine if an application was mailed. The local FSA offices can print them if needed too. There currently is no deadline announced for SDRP Stage 1.

Land Conservation Cost-share Projects for Approval 7-30-25

Landowner name	Grant recipient	Township	Practice	Acres	Estimated cost-share amount
John and Judy Swenson	same	Brigham	cover crops	122.6	\$4,289.60
Gregory Oimoen	John and Judy Swenson	Brigham	cover crops	89.53	\$3,133.55
John Gates	same	Arena	cover crops	25	\$875.00
Don Winch Rev Trust	Peter Gates	Arena	cover crops	90	\$3,150.00
Denny and Kandy Putz	same	Pulaski	cover crops	98	\$3,430.00
Jay & James Goldthorpe	Jay Goldthorpe	Mineral Point	cover crops	200	\$7,000.00
Leix Trust	Don Leix	Mifflin	cover crops	30	\$1,050.00
Billy Bahr	same	Pulaski	cover crops	150	\$5,250.00
Steven Strutt	Richard Strutt	Ridgeway	cover crops	20	\$700.00
Daniel Meudt	same	Dodgeville	cover crops	50	\$1,750.00

2025 cost-share funding summary

	Starting	Committed		Remaining
Bond (structural practices)	\$45,000.00	\$32,200.84		\$12,799.16
SEG (NMP, cover crops, no-till)	\$45,000.00	\$43,732.80		\$1,267.20

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Iowa County, WI

April, 2022



Full plan is online at <https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/CountyAdministrator/county-plans-and-documents> (under 2022 heading)

PLANNING ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY



Plan Purpose

This plan is an update of the Iowa County's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) 1981 – 1986. The purpose of this plan is to guide the development and improvement of the county's outdoor recreation facilities over the next five years in order to meet the recreational needs and growing demands of the county.

Policy decisions made by the Iowa County Board of Supervisors for outdoor recreation programs and improvement shall be guided by the goals, objectives, findings, and recommendations of this adopted plan. Actual public policy decisions or choices are contingent on funding sources, new opportunities and ideas, changing growth patterns, budget priorities as well as changing county needs and desires. For this reason, the plan should be reviewed annually, and a detailed update such as this should be completed every five years. Updating the plan every five years is also a requirement of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) for a jurisdiction such as Iowa County to stay eligible for matching government funds for parkland acquisition and facility improvements. But just as importantly, Iowa County needs to set a course of action for continued improvement of its outdoor recreational system.

Image 2: The Pendarvis historic site located in Mineral Point, Iowa County, WI.



Goals and Objectives

This plan is designed to provide a feasible program for meeting the recreational needs of Iowa County. Agreement upon basic goals and objectives is necessary to set the general direction for developing this program. Four goals related to recreational and resource protection are outlined below. The goals point toward final ends while the eight objective statements are more directly related to achieving those ends through specific actions.

Goals

- To preserve the county's open space resources and to protect them from visual blight and degradation of quality.
- To provide quality parks and recreational facilities to meet the needs of county residents.
- To provide opportunities for nonresident recreational activity to an extent compatible with preserving irreplaceable resources.
- To identify and preserve sites having scientific, historic, or archaeological significance.

Objectives

- To use multiple approaches to resource protection, including acquisition and easements through partnerships with other entities when appropriate.
- To combine resource protection with park and recreation development, where feasible, through multi-purpose projects.
- To coordinate the county's recreation program with the programs of other levels of government and with private enterprise in order to achieve maximum public benefit.
- To provide areas and facilities for those activities specified in the plan as a county responsibility.
- To develop a coordinated system of river access points emphasizing resource-based recreation areas.
- To maintain the quality of recreational experiences offered within the county by adhering to the standards contained in the plan.
- To encourage quality development of privately owned recreation facilities, particularly for nonresident-oriented activities.
- To maintain the county's eligibility to participate in federal and state financial and technical aid programs having recreation planning requirements.

Image 3: Avoca Lake within the Village of Avoca, Iowa County, WI



Recommendations for Improving Recreation Facilities

The following recommendations for improvement by the Iowa County Land Conservation Committee follow the proposed Capital Improvement Plan (Appendix B). These recommendations will be completed based on availability of county funding and grants.

Bloomfield Prairie property:

Several improvements are needed on the Bloomfield Prairie property. Recommendations for individual projects or activities are listed below:

1. Pond area:

- Dredge (or start with feasibility study for dredging) **pond sediment survey completed in 2024**
- Weed/algae control
- Install canoe launch
- Build longer accessible pier (to reach deeper water/fewer weeds)
- Brush/weed control around the edge
- Rework trail and repair/rebuild footbridge just north of the Pond
- Possibly expand shelter (or maintain/repair as needed)
- Add pit toilet **completed in 2024**
- Add electricity (or solar panels) to the pond shelter so users could have light.

2. Non-CRP/CREP areas:

- Create accessible trails
- Create bike-able trails
- Create interpretive signs
- Add footbridges in pasture for public access to eastern fields
- Upgrade/replace other bridges (3)
- New or updated kiosks
- Create off-leash dog area **no location after Bloomfield sale**

Bloomfield improvement ideas are on hold until we know what land the County will retain

- Improve existing and add additional parking areas

3. *Red shed:*

- Add pit toilet/bathroom
- Preserve red barn; modify to a shelter or meeting facility
- Add electricity (or solar panels) to the red shed

4. *White shed:*

- Add a cement floor and more garage doors to the white shed.

5. *General:*

- Increased management of invasive brush and herbaceous invasive weeds, including but not limited to wild parsnip, Canada thistle, crown vetch, and bush honeysuckle.

Blackhawk Lake Recreation Area:

Several improvements are needed on the Blackhawk Lake Recreation Area. Recommendations for individual projects or activities are listed below:

1. Pit toilet repairs/Remodel
2. Weed/Algae control in beach swimming area
3. Roof replacement on pavilions **beach pavilion roof complete**
4. Retaining wall at beach area **completed in 2024 with grant funding from Iowa Co ATC funds**
5. Cabin repairs/Rebuilds
6. Parking lot maintenance
7. Shower house repairs and remodels **complete**
8. Nature Center improvements/Taxidermy
9. New playground equipment
10. Walk bridge replacement on hiking trail

Military Ridge State Trail:

Several improvements are needed on the Military Ridge State Trail. Recommendations for individual projects or activities are listed below:

1. Increase trail repair/ maintenance on Military Ridge State Trail.
2. Provide dog waste station along trail.
3. Provide bore benches along trail for walking people to sit.
4. Provide more trash cans along trail.

have discussed ideas from 1-4 with Craig Hardy in the past but no recent activity

Additional recreation needs/recommendations:

1. The County owns some properties in the Mifflin area along the Pecatonica River and CTH E; which could be made into a park if there is interest to do so, otherwise should consider selling.

2. There is some additional right of way also owned by the county at Factory road and CTH II which could be an access point for fishing easements or a park along Otter Creek.
3. The County and the DNR should continue to work on a cooperative basis to enhance recreational opportunities in the State Riverway and on other public lands for residents of the County. This effort should include on a regional level, integrating a future planned Wisconsin DNR trail along the lower Wisconsin River between Muscoda and Avoca. The proposed trail could link the recreational park and boat launches in Avoca as well as that in Muscoda. Both of these facilities have been constructed in the past two years. This would greatly enhance the recreational opportunities for both of these communities and increase tourism and economic development for this region. Additional recreation needs to be implemented within Pulaski township include:
 - Trail to the Avoca Prairie, possibly some interpretive trail, with signs talking about its unique ecosystem/flora/fauna.
 - Improving/fixing the bridge to cross the river/creek to get out to the Avoca Prairie.
 - Trail/loop in the Avoca prairie.
 - Improvement/building out sand for their beach on the Wisconsin River in Avoca.
 - Life jacket library for the beach.
 - A canoe/kayak launch or some canoe/kayak access on the Wisconsin River.
4. Continue to provide and enhance public access to the Lower Wisconsin Riverway.
5. Continue to upgrade the parks and recreational areas the county owns or manages by bringing all facilities up to ADA standards over the next five to ten years.
6. Consider including paved shoulders as part of future road reconstruction projects to allow safer passing of slower moving vehicles which would benefit ATV/UTV, bicycle, and farm implement traffic.
7. Use the University of Wisconsin Platteville engineering students for any future park project(s). SWWRPC should help guide the process in pairing Iowa County with a suitable team.
8. Explore the feasibility of a trap shooting facility. If feasible, develop a location and facility for youth clubs and school-based teams.
9. Assess the current needs and opportunities for kayaking and canoeing, and, if feasible, develop additional kayak/canoe facilities.
10. The Land Conservation Committee should review the plan at least once a year to assess progress.

Posted by County Clerk's Office on 7/23/2025, Barbara Weinbrenner