

	AGENDA Land Conservation Committee Wednesday December 18, 2019 at 1:00 PM USDA Conference Room 1124 Professional Drive 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>		
Prior to the meeting, from 12:15 to 1:00 PM, a quorum will be present for a holiday gathering the Land Conservation Department office, 1124 Professional Dr, Dodgeville. No County business will be transacted during this time.		
1	Call to Order	
2	Roll Call	
3	Approve the agenda for this December 18, 2019 meeting	
4	Approve the minutes of the November 14, 2019 meeting	
5	Report from committee members and an opportunity for members of the audience to address the Committee. No action will be taken.	
6	NRCS update	
7	Blackhawk Lake Commission update	
8	Approve Farmland Preservation Program Notices of Non-compliance	
9	Additional cost-share contract approval	
10	Birch lake dredging update & siphon storage plan approval	
11	Groundwater study update: August 2019 sampling results	
12	Land Conservation Department updates: a) 2019 annual report b) UW-Platteville dam effectiveness project c) Updates on WI conservation legislation	
13	Agenda items for future meetings: 2020 work plan	
14	Motion to set the next meeting date and adjourn:	
Posting Verified by: your name or title Date: _____ Initials: _____		

	UNAPPROVED MINUTES LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING Thursday November 14, 2019 at 1:00 PM HHS Building, Room 1001 303 W. Chapel St. Dodgeville, WI 53533	Iowa County Wisconsin
Meeting was called to order by Chair David Gollon at 1:02 PM.		
Roll Call. Members present: Ron Benish, Bob Bunker, Kevin Butteris, Roger Dax, Dave Gollon, Don Leix, and Dan Nankee. Members excused: Rod Anding Others present: John Meyers, Larry Bierke, Katie Abbott, Kaitlin Schott		
Approve the agenda for this November 14, 2019 meeting and approve the minutes of the October 17, 2019 meeting: Sup. Benish made a motion to approve the November 14, 2019 agenda and the October 17, 2019 minutes. Mr. Bunker seconded the motion. Sup. Gollon abstained. 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 discussed an article on CWD carcass drop-off locations, articles and editorials about a Lafayette County groundwater study resolution, and an invitation to the Iowa County Uplands Farmer-led Watershed Group dinner.		
NRCS update: Kaitlin Schott, NRCS Soil Conservationist, provided updates on CSP and EQIP. The Soil Technician position is still vacant. There is still no batch date for 2020 CSP or EQIP but interested landowners should contact them as soon as possible. There may be a general CRP sign-up in December.		
Blackhawk Lake Commission update: A group from Iowa County and Blackhawk Lake Commission will meet with DNR on November 21. The Blackhawk Lake Commission meeting the previous night turned negative about the meeting and Iowa County's offer of assistance with DNR issues. The meeting will only focus on the Blackhawk Lake dams. The Committee discussed Iowa County's role, liability, and level of oversight; discussion of past payments and agreements.		
Approval of 2015 Blackhawk Lake Agreement: Sup. Gollon requested legal review of Section 4 regarding Iowa County having sole responsibility for maintenance of the dams. Discussion of the definition of maintenance vs. repair. Discussion of the mechanism for the commission's authority to run the park. Sup. Benish moved to send the Agreement to Public Works with the recommendation to approve. Sup. Leix seconded the motion. Motion carried.		
Cost-share project approvals: Ms. Abbott provided a list of cost-share projects for the 2019 funding. Discussion about operation and maintenance requirements of cost-shared practices. Sup. Bunker moved to approve the projects. Sup. Butteris seconded the motion. Motion carried.		
Land Conservation Department updates: a) Cost-share ranking sheet example: Ms. Abbott provided two examples of the new cost-share ranking sheet, which were created by Conservation Technician Sarah Hovis. b) WI Land + Water: Southern Area Association meeting and conference dates: Ms. Abbott brought attention to various upcoming meeting and events dates and encouraged participation by Committee members. c) Proposed Farmland Preservation Program legislation: Ms. Abbott discussed the proposed state legislation to increase the Farmland Preservation Program tax credit and to provide implementation grants to Counties. d) DNR nitrate rule scoping document: Ms. Abbott discussed the DNR's Statement of Scope about revising the agricultural nonpoint standards to address nitrate issues in sensitive areas. Public hearings are anticipated in the spring of 2021.		

Agenda items for future meetings: FPP Notices of Noncompliance, 2019 annual report

Motion to set the next meeting date and adjourn. The next meeting date was set for Wednesday December 18 at 1:00pm. Sup. Benish made a motion to adjourn. Sup. Nankee seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:26 pm.

LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



GENERAL

- Completed new manure storage ordinance with Planning & Development.
- Provided county tour to Lacey Cochart of DATCP and Matt Krueger of WI Land + Water.

PARTNERSHIPS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

- Partnered with Grant and Lafayette Counties to continue the two-year Southwest Wisconsin Groundwater and Geology study.
- Gave seven presentations on the groundwater study, including to the Water Quality Task Force
- Continued to participate in the Southwest Grasslands Network, Lowery Creek Partnership, and Iowa County Uplands Farmer-led Watershed group
- Continued NRCS joint meetings; organized meetings with UW-Extension and DNR to explore new collaboration opportunities



NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANNING

- 12 plans cost-shared totaling 2,226 acres and \$62,428.76
- Assisted UWEX and UW with training 14 farmers & landowners to write their own plans
- Held meetings with 5 Certified Crop Advisors to improve communication and collaboration

SOIL AND WATER PROJECTS

- Projects completed totaling \$30,935 of cost-share: 1 streambank stabilization, 1 grassed waterway, 1 spring development, 11 well decommissions
- Projects designed for next spring totaling \$23,885 of cost-share: 5 stream crossings, 1 spring development, 2 well decommissions



CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

- 17 agreements completed covering 209.3 acres and totaling \$67,586.59 in payments
- Completed one perpetual easement agreement and monitored five perpetual easements



FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

- 735 farms have Certificates of Compliance, covering 160,022.68 acres which equates to over \$1.2 million in tax credits
- Completed 187 compliance site visits, working with 39 that were found non-compliant
- Established contour strips on 7 farms

COUNTY-OWNED DAMS

- All 11 dams had annual inspections and were mowed by Highway Department
- Dams were checked multiple times after heavy rains and cleared of debris. The valve on one dam was inspected and will need to be replaced
- Partnered with UW-Platteville students for their senior project on dam effectiveness



OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Co-organized the Iowa County Youth Conservation Field Day for 160 sixth graders
- Assisted the Iowa County Uplands Farmer-led Watershed Group with two events
- Presented conservation awards and set up display at Farmers Appreciation Day
- 2 newsletters sent out to over 2,000 farmers and landowners in the County
- Demonstrated the new rainfall simulator at 8 events
- Led two stations at Highland High School's soils field day
- Co-organized and co-led a streambank workshop in the Lowery Creek watershed