

	APPROVED MINUTES LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday April 26, 2023 at 1:00 PM HHS Building, Community Room 303 W. Chapel St. Dodgeville, WI 53533 Remote attendance option: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83388387892 Conference call #: 1-312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 833 8838 7892	Iowa County Wisconsin
Meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Don Leix at 1:03 pm		
Roll Call. Members present: Bob Bunker, Kevin Butteris, Tim Harrington, Darrell Kreul, and Don Leix. Excused: Dave Gollon, Peter Vanderloo. Absent: Roger Geisking Others present: Katie Abbott, Casey Michek, Andy Walsh, Dan Nankee, Sarah Hovis (zoom)		
Approve the agenda for this April 26, 2023 meeting: Mr. Bunker made a motion to approve this April 26, 2023 agenda. Sup. Butteris seconded the motion. Motion carried.		
Approve the minutes of the March 22, 2023 meeting: Sup. Butteris made a motion to approve the March 22, 2023 minutes. Mr. Harrington 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. Nankee provided an update on the Ag-Extension Committee, including how they are handling shared ag educators and signage efforts. Sup. Kreul provided an example resolution from Outagamie County about foreign-owned land. Sup. Leix provided an example resolution about WI wind siting rules and gave an update on AB46 regarding renewable energy		
NRCS update: Mr. Walsh accepted a new position with NRCS in Richland Center but will stay in Iowa County until his replacement starts; another position is being added to the Dodgeville NRCS office; the Inflation Reduction Act will result in increased funding for conservation practices in the next 3-4 years		
Blackhawk Lake Commission update: The Commission is aware of the filing and audit issue and will take care of it. They sold some old equipment and held a school program at the park.		
Birch lake repair bidding results and next steps: Ms. Abbott reported on the latest bidding effort and that she asked DNR about extending the grant. Sup. Kreul made a motion to postpone this agenda item until we hear back from DNR; Sup. Butteris seconded the motion. Motion carried.		
Cost-share project approvals: Land Conservation Staff presented the list of structural and cropland cost-share projects and answered questions. Sup. Butteris made a motion to approve the six structural projects (Rue, Hach, Farve/Geisler, Dodge Point Country Club, Zoha, and Jones). Mr. Bunker seconded the motion. Motion carried. Discussion of interest in cropland practices exceeding current funding, and possible limit on payments to one entity. Staff will gather more information and bring projects back for approval at the next meeting. The Committee instructed staff to propose a policy change to establish a maximum payment.		

Consider approval to subordinate a recorded Wildlife Damage Abatement fence contract to a new mortgage: Committee approval not needed. Consensus to skip this agenda item.

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

- A) Project and grant updates, including update to groundwater funding plan: two items changed from initial plan: 1) designate \$5,000 for equipment & training for Health Dept to establish well water bacteria testing service instead of discount for well water testing (partially due to lack of availability of water lab) and 2) add septic system cost-share eligibility for systems that used perc tests rather than soil evaluation. Mr. Harrington moved to approve the changes. Sup. Butteris seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- B) Farmer award nominations: Farmers Appreciation Day is Sunday July 9. Nomination forms were provided and are due back by before the next meeting.
- C) Legislative updates: two bills being considered in the legislature include AB133 to update the Farmland Preservation Program and AB131 to remove LCC FSA representative appointment requirement. The Governor's budget included an increase to County staffing grants.

Agenda items for future meetings: CREP landowner management plan approval, choose Farmer Appreciation Day award winners, foreign land ownership resolution, wind siting resolution, NMP payment limit policy update

Motion to set the next meeting and adjourn. The next meeting date was set for Wednesday May 24, 2023 at 1:00 PM in the HHS Community Room. Sup. Kreul made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bunker seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:44 pm.