

	APPROVED MINUTES LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday October 23, 2024 at 1:00 PM HHS Building, Community Room 303 W. Chapel St. Dodgeville, WI 53533 Remote attendance option: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81639308000 Conference call #: 1-312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 816 3930 8000	Iowa County Wisconsin
Meeting was called to order by Chair Gollon at 1:01 p.m.		
Roll Call. Members present: Bob Bunker, Kevin Butteris, Dave Gollon, Darrell Kreul, Don Leix, Dan Nankee, and Peter Vanderloo. Others present: Katie Abbott, Sara Wilhelm, Zach Venchus, Jasmine Wyant, Terry Schaefer, Jess Schmelzer, Wes Satern		
Approve the agenda for this October 23, 2024 meeting: Sup. Kruehl made a motion to approve the October 23, 2024 agenda. Sup. Nankee seconded the motion. Motion carried.		
Approve the minutes of the August 21, 2024 meeting: Sup. Butteris made a motion to approve the August 21, 2024 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 an article about a \$1 million National Science Foundation Regional Innovation Engine grant to WiSys for sustainable agriculture technology.		
USDA update: Ms. Abbott shared updates provided by USDA staff for both September and October.		
Blackhawk Lake Commission update: Sup. Kruehl provide an update: they repaired some UTVs, the beach pavilion needs a roof but it has been tough to get quotes; they need to replace some rusted grills, and may increase camping fees in 2025		
Farmland Preservation Program Noncompliance appeal: TEVA (Terry Schaefer): Ms. Abbott and Ms. Wilhelm provided background. Mr. Schaefer provided his reasons for the appeal. Discussion of notification process and costs. Sup. Nankee made a motion to cancel the NON. Sup. Kruehl seconded the motion. Mr. Vanderloo pointed out the reasons for approval: good standing of the farmer, mail issues, and ability to correct the issue by the end of the year. Motion carried.		
Farmland Preservation Program Noncompliance appeal: Jess Schmelzer: Ms. Abbott and Ms. Wilhelm provided background. Mr. Schmelzer provided his reasons for the appeal. Mr. Satern provided additional information. Sup. Leix made a motion to cancel the NON if soil samples are taken by November 15 and the NMP is submitted by December 15. Mr. Bunker seconded the motion. Motion carried.		
Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program- Zac Venchus (USDA Wildlife Services): Mr. Venchus provided an overview of the program. A) Approval of 2024 crop prices and 90% harvest date: Sup. Leix made a motion to approve the crop prices as presented and designate December 1 as the 90% harvest date. Sup. Nankee seconded the motion. Motion carried. B) Approval of 2025 budget: Sup. Nankee moved to approve the 2025 budget. Sup. Butteris seconded the motion. Discussion of expenses. Motion carried.		

Regional invasive species funding: 2024 summary and 2025 agreement- Jasmine Wyant (Upper Sugar River Watershed Association): Ms. Wyant provided an overview of the program, 2024 summary, and planned 2025 activities. Discussion re: outreach ideas and more frequent updates. Sup. Nankee made a motion to approve the County Conservationist to sign the 2025 agreement and grant application. Mr. Vanderloo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Cost-share approvals: Ms. Abbott provided an updated list of projects for approval. Discussion of cover crop rate increase, limited funding, and need for prioritization. Sup. Butteris made a motion to approve the well decommission projects. Sup. Leix seconded the motion. Motion carried.
Sup. Leix made a motion to approve the cover crop projects. Mr. Vanderloo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

- a) **Birch Lake repairs and dam maintenance:** the Phase I Birch Lake repairs are planned to be finished this week. Next we will need to bid out the valve replacement. Staff have had issues with beavers clogging several dam inlets, and NRCS brought in a camera to look at the condition of a dam inlet pipe.
- b) **Budget updates:** There is no change for the 2025 budget proposal, but staff are already looking at solutions for a tight 2026 budget and the need to increase fees. Staff will look into certified mail costs and possibility of a NON appeal fee.

Motion to set the next meeting and adjourn. The next meeting date was set for Wednesday November 20, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. if needed, and the December meeting was set for Wednesday December 18, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. Sup. Kruel made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bunker seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.