

	APPROVED MINUTES LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday, August 15, 2018 at 5:00 PM Blackhawk Lake Recreation Area Beach Picnic Shelter 2025 County Highway BH Highland, WI 53543	Iowa County Wisconsin
Meeting was called to order by Dave Gollon at 5:00 P.M.		
Roll Call. Members present: Rod Anding, Ron Benish, Kevin Butteris, Roger Dax, Dave Gollon, Don Leix, and Dan Nankee Members excused: Thomas McGraw Others present: Katie Abbott, Landon Baumgartner, Bob Bunker		
Approve the agenda for this August 15, 2018 meeting and approve the minutes of the July 26, 2018 meeting. Sup. Benish made a motion to approve the August 15, 2018 agenda and the July 25, 2018 minutes. Sup. Butteris 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 reported on the August 1 Southern Area Tour, which included a rainfall simulator demonstration, Jung seed tour, quarry and bedrock tour, lunch at Horicon Marsh, and a windfarm tour.		
NRCS update: Ms. Abbott read a written report provided by Kaitlin Schott, who is the acting District Conservationist until August 27 while Andy Walsh is on vacation. The update included number of program enrollments, rotational grazing technical assistance, and recent outreach events.		
2019 proposed LCD budget: Ms. Abbott presented the preliminary 2019 Land Conservation Department budget. Revenue sources are anticipated to be \$280,773, a \$13,599 increase from 2018 due to additional grant funding for staff and cost-share projects. The total 2019 budget is anticipated to be \$447,282, an \$8,965 increase from 2018. Due to grant funding however the total tax levy request is anticipated to be \$166,509, which is \$4,634 less than the 2018 request. Ms. Abbott also reported the Department is under budget for 2018 due to multiple staff vacancies this year and may move two or three larger purchases requested in the 2019 Capital Improvements Plan to this year instead.		
Dam Failure Analyses contractor selection: The Department received eight proposals for the 2019 dam failure analyses. Three Department staff independently ranked each proposal, and the average scores and top three proposals were presented to the Committee. Sup. Gollon recused himself from the discussion due to currently working with one of the contractors. The Committee discussed project cost, proposal quality, and experience of the contractors. Sup. Benish moved to accept the proposal from Jewell Associates Engineers, Inc. Sup. Leix seconded. Sup. Gollon abstained from voting. Motion carried.		
Groundwater study proposal and budget: Ms. Abbott presented the proposal and budget for “Assessing private well contamination in Grant, Iowa, and Lafayette Counties, Wisconsin” from the WI Geological and Natural History Survey, U.S. Geological Survey, USDA-Agricultural Research Service, and Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Population Health. This project is a collaboration with Grant and Lafayette Counties to determine contamination extent, sources, and correlating factors in Southwest Wisconsin private wells. It is modeled on a Kewaunee County study conducted due to issues with manure-contaminated tap water. SW WI’s bedrock and preliminary well contamination percentages are similar to Kewaunee County. Discussion re: well, septic, and water issues. Sup. Benish moved that the Committee pursue and support this project. Sup. Nankee seconded. Motion carried.		

Update on dam access issues and upcoming repair: Ms. Abbott reported that County Highway mowing crews had access issues with two dams, and the Department is working on contacting those landowners. The Twin Parks #7 dam (Birch Lake) has a water control valve that is leaking and needs repair, which will likely cost \$15-17,000. The repair will likely happen once the lake level is lowered for the dredging project.

Farmland Preservation Program site visit process and inspection report overview: Conservation Specialist Landon Baumgartner presented the form and process used when visiting farms for the Farmland Preservation Program. Discussion re: reception from landowners and promoting CREP.

NR151 manure spreading restrictions overview: Conservation Specialist Landon Baumgartner presented a handout comparing NR151 manure spreading restrictions for most of Wisconsin (including the SW) with new restrictions in place for Silurian dolomite bedrock areas in the east side of the state.

Cobb-Highland BHL Commission annual report: Dan Welsh, Blackhawk Lake Park Manager, reported that they made \$150,000 of improvements including a new maintenance/storage shed, two new playgrounds, and concrete patio and steps on one cabin. Fall of 2018 they will upgrade electrical service from 30 Amp to 50 Amp. Alliant will upgrade their transformers at the same time as there have been electrical issues this summer. YTD revenue is \$2-3,000 less than last year; revenue is very weather dependent but weekends have been full. Blue-green algae was an issue with the heat this year. Overall accounts are healthy and July was a good month.

Agenda items for future meetings: updates on groundwater study and Farm Bill as they come in. Any budget changes. Update on farmer contact efforts. Possible discussion about local control and DNR CAFO approval process.

Motion to set the next meeting date and adjourn.

The next meeting date was set for Thursday September 20 at 1:00 pm. Sup. Benish moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Dax. Motion carried.