

	APPROVED MINUTES LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING Thursday March 21, 2019 at 1:00 PM USDA Service Center Conference Room 1124 Professional Drive Dodgeville, WI 53533	Iowa County Wisconsin
Meeting was called to order by chair Dave Gollon at 1:00 P.M.		
Roll Call. Members present: Rod Anding, Dave Gollon, Don Leix, Dan Nankee, and Thomas McGraw. Members excused: Ron Benish and Kevin Butteris. Members absent: Kallen Maxwell Others present: Katie Abbott, Kaitlin Schott, Doug Carden		
Approve the agenda for this March 21, 2019 meeting: Sup. Leix made a motion to approve the March 21, 2019 agenda. Mr. McGraw seconded the motion. Motion carried.		
Approve the minutes of the February 21, 2019 meeting: Sup. Nankee made a motion to approve the February 21, 2019 minutes. Sup. Leix 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 discussed water task force hearings, shared an article about solar energy from AgriView, and share an article about hemp crops. Sup. Gollon mentioned an article about municipal sludge residue (PFAS) found in plants, water, and milk in Maine. Sup. Leix discussed a New Mexico dairy farmer that had to get rid of cows due to PFAS contamination. The Farm Service Agency had provided fact sheets about Farm Bill changes to their programs.		
NRCS update: Kaitlin Schott provided an update. An EQIP sign-up runs through May 17; it covers beginning farmer and soil health practices only. They are accepting applications for other programs. No new NRCS programs came out of the new Farm Bill.		
Blackhawk Lake update: Ms. Abbott passed around an audit report for Blackhawk Lake and has a PDF on file at the LCD office. On April 11 some members of the Blackhawk Lake Commission will meet with Larry Bierke about the dam maintenance fund.		
Friends of Birch Lake update: Doug Carden from the Friends of Birch Lake Association presented a history of the project and a binder with beach, boat ramp and dredging permit approvals; contracts, and agreements; the Town of Brigham MOU; and various plans. A copy of the binder is on file at the LCD office. The drawdown will begin in May and take about two weeks. Committee members stressed the need for sediment control during and after the project, and commended Mr. Carden for his hard work.		
CREP management plan approval: Ms. Abbott presented a management plan for two permanent CREP fields owned by Roger and Jean Kessenich. Sup. Nankee made a motion to approve the plan. Mr. McGraw seconded the motion. Motion carried.		
Public access on County dams: Ms. Abbott provided a map of County-owned dams. The Committee discussed options for what to do with the dams, developing a list of priorities, liability risks, planning, and flood issues.		

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

- a) 2020 DATCP grant request: the LCD will request \$60,000 for Nutrient Management Planning and \$50,000 for Soil and Water practices cost-share.
- b) MDV funding amounts and process: LCD received MDV funding for phosphorus projects from three municipalities and one cheese plant, totaling \$30,295.42. LCD needs to submit a plan to DNR by next March about where and how the money will be spent, and will communicate with municipalities about the plan.
- c) Groundwater study updates: the next round of well samples will take place April 12 and 13; we had 650 people respond that they want to participate. WI Counties magazine featured water quality in their March issue, including a write-up on the SWIGG study. Ms. Abbott has given a variety of presentations about the study, met with Rep. Novak, and will testify at the Water Quality Task Force hearing in Lancaster.
- d) Program updates: SW Badger RC&D has closed their doors due to lack of funds. Ms. Abbott provided updates on CCA meeting, contour acres, project survey and design, manure complaints, and CAFO concerns. CREP enrollments are on hold until the Farm Bill rulemaking process is finished.
- e) Annual conference recap: Staff attended the annual Land + Water Conference; WI Land + Water provided updates on conservation items in the Governor's proposed budget and urged Counties to contact representatives in support. Ms. Abbott co-presented during two sessions about CREP and the SWIGG study; groundwater was a significant focus of the conference.

Agenda items for future meetings: manure storage ordinance, farmer awards (May)

Motion to set the next meeting date and adjourn. The next meeting date was set for Thursday May 16 at 3:30pm. Sup. Leix made a motion to adjourn. Sup. Nankee seconded the motion. Motion carried.