

	APPROVED MINUTES LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday December 18, 2019 at 1:00 PM USDA Conference Room 1124 Professional Drive Dodgeville, WI 53533	Iowa County Wisconsin
Meeting was called to order by Chair David Gollon at 1:00 PM.		
Roll Call. Members present: Ron Benish, Bob Bunker, Kevin Butteris, Roger Dax, Dave Gollon, and Dan Nankee. Members excused: Rod Anding Absent: Don Leix Others present: Katie Abbott, Larry Bierke, John Meyers, Andy Walsh		
Approve the agenda for this December 18, 2019 meeting: Sup. Benish made a motion to approve the December 18, 2019 agenda. Sup. Butteris seconded the motion. Motion carried.		
Approve the minutes of the November 14, 2019 meeting: Sup. Nankee mad a motion to approve the November 14, 2019 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 articles about the state’s livestock siting rule update, which was tabled; aging dams and efforts to upgrade dams and reevaluate floodplains; the groundwater study. Mr. Bunker shared an article about no-till being the best practice for conserving water. Sup. Meyers mentioned he is working with attorney Rebecca Roker to look at legal options for dam ownership		
NRCS update: Mr. Walsh provided updates. Sign-ups are on hold pending Farm Bill rules, which has delayed projects about six months. The CRP general sign-up runs through February 28, Jake at FSA is the contact. Discussion of program options, buffers, rental rates, DNR fisheries easements, the Farm Bill rules, and MFL.		
Blackhawk Lake Commission update: During the recent meeting with DNR they discussed the park and dams, including options for ownership, and raised some additional questions. Overall it was a good meeting. Discussion of county liability and responsibilities, risks/benefits of different scenarios and approaches, and how to best maintain public benefit with minimal liability.		
Approve Farmland Preservation Program Notices of Non-compliance: Ms. Abbott presented the list of ten landowners who did not turn in their annual self-certification despite multiple reminders, and are therefore now out of compliance. Discussion of ability for landowners to come back into the program, and nutrient management planning. Sup. Benish made a motion to approve the Notices of Non-compliance if self-certifications are not received by December 20. Mr. Dax seconded the motion. Motion carried.		
Additional cost-share contract approval: Ms. Abbott provided two more cost-share projects, a manure storage abandonment and a nutrient management plan. Mr. Bunker made a motion to approve the projects. Sup. Nankee seconded the motion. Motion carried.		
Birch lake dredging update & siphon storage plan approval: Ms. Abbott passed around photos of the current storage of the Birch Lake siphon system and read an email from DNR about risks and considerations of winter storage. Discussion of pipe locations, liability, and monitoring. Sup. Benish made a motion to approve the siphon storage plan with three conditions: Mr. Bierke will work with the FOBLA to looking to an insurance policy or liability agreement, more anchors are added to hold the pipes, and FOBLA commits to weekly monitoring, including keeping a log. Sup. Gollon seconded the motion. Motion carried.		

Groundwater study update: August 2019 sampling results: Ms. Abbott handed out the summary of August microbial source well testing, which was the second round of four planned sampling events. The 34 wells tested had been found to be contaminated earlier in the study. 25 of them tested positive for a fecal source: 14 from human, 7 from cow, and 1 from pigs (some wells had more than one contaminant). 19 of the wells had pathogens like salmonella or cryptosporidium. Discussion of timing, well design, contamination rates, homeowner practices, and awareness.

Land Conservation Department updates:

- a) 2019 annual report: Ms. Abbott presented the 2019 annual report
- b) UW-Platteville dam effectiveness project: Ms. Abbott passed around slides from the UWP student team's recent presentation, and discussed key points.
- c) Updates on WI conservation legislation: Ms. Abbott provided updates that the DNR scoping document for new nitrate standards was approved, so that rule will be opened for revision over the next year or two. The Water Quality task force will be releasing their report and legislative package soon, which includes increased funding for County conservation staff.

Agenda items for future meetings: 2020 work plan, poster judging, groundwater study agreement, extension requests

Motion to set the next meeting date and adjourn. The next meeting date was set for Wednesday January 22 at 1:00pm. Sup. Benish made a motion to adjourn. Sup. Nankee seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:27 pm.