

APPROVED MINUTES LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday February 17, 2021 at 1:00 PM HHS Building, Community Room 303 W. Chapel St. Dodgeville, WI 53533

Iowa County Wisconsin

Remote attendance option:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83439280358
Conference call #: 1-312-626-6799
Meeting ID: 834 3928 0358

Meeting was called to order by Chair Dave Gollon at 1:03 pm.

Roll Call. Members present: Rod Anding (via Zoom), Ron Benish, Bob Bunker, Kevin Butteris, Dave Gollon, Jason James (via Zoom), Don Leix, and Dan Nankee. Others present: Katie Abbott, Landon Baumgartner (via Zoom), Larry Bierke, Brent Clark (via Zoom), Roger Dax, Mark Hodgson (via Zoom), David Lee (via Zoom), Laurie Makos (via Zoom), Dave Terrall.

Approve the agenda for this February 17, 2021 meeting: Sup. Benish made a motion to approve this February 17, 2021 agenda. Sup. Nankee seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approve the minutes of the January 20, 2021 meeting: Mr. Bunker made a motion to approve the January 20, 2021 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 discussed the Department's NMP and cover crop/no-till programs and an article about a Federal office to oversee buying America products. Sup. Leix discussed the new DNR nitrate standards and opportunities for public comment. Sup. Gollon discussed a carbon capture program that may be included in the next Farm Bill and state legislation regarding labeling.

Welcome to Committee FSA Representative Jason James: Mr. James provided background and was welcomed by the Committee.

NRCS update: Ms. Abbott shared an update provided by Andy Walsh: The USDA building remains closed with no timeframe for reopening. They have tentatively filled the Soil Conservation Technician vacancy; the new employee should be in the office by late spring. The local acreage cap for CREP Grassland has been met.

Wildlife damage claims and harvest waiver approvals: Dave Terrall presented the list of 13 participants and 3 claim adjustments, with two needing harvest waivers. Discussion of harvest efforts and challenges. Sup. Benish made a motion to approve the wildlife damage claims, and approve the harvest waivers for Limmex and Meyers. Sup. Leix seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FPP Notice of Non-compliance appeal by Brent Clark: Landon Baumgartner provided background information and Mr. Clark explained his situation and request. Sup. Leix made a motion to reverse the Notice of Noncompliance. Sup. Nankee seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FPP Notice of Non-compliance appeal by Mark Hodgson on behalf of Irene Baker: Landon Baumgartner provided background information and Mr. Hodgson explained his situation and request. Sup. Leix made a motion to reverse the Notice of Noncompliance if all paperwork is received by March 15. Sup. Benish seconded the motion. Aye- 7 Nay-1. Mr. Bunker voted against the motion. Motion carried.

FPP Notice of Non-compliance appeal by David Lee: Landon Baumgartner provided background information and Mr. Lee explained his situation and request. Sup. Leix made a motion to reverse the Notice of Noncompliance if all paperwork is received by March 15. Sup. Nankee seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Blackhawk Lake Commission update and operations agreement: Sups. Benish and Leix reported that the Commission approved of the proposed agreement changes except they wanted changes to the language regarding the dam fund. Discussion of the dam fund, a resolution to establish a Blackhawk-specific fund, and matching amounts. Corp. Counsel and Mr. Bierke will review and revise the Agreement and bring back for the March meeting.

Twin Parks #6 dam repair contractor decision: Ms. Abbott presented two bids received for the TP6 dam repair: \$5,800 from KR Trucking LLC and \$3,800 from Rule Construction. Sup. Benish made a motion to accept the bid from Rule Construction. Sup. Butteris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Land Conservation Department updates:

- a) **Special announcement**: Mr. Dax and Sup. Benish presented WI Land+ Water Association's Outstanding Supervisor Award to Dan Nankee.
- b) **Birch Lake update**: Ms. Abbott reported that she received updates from Doug Carden of Friends of Birch Lake. Their DNR permit was extended to 2024. Mr. Carden plans to proceed with the lake drawdown this spring. The Village of Barneveld purchased all of the land around Birch Lake from DNR and will create a Birch Lake Park Committee.

Agenda items for future meetings: Farmer awards program, Blackhawk Lake Agreement, possible fees for FPP extension requests.

Motion to set the next meeting date and adjourn. The next meeting date was set for Wednesday March 17, 2021 at 1:00pm. Sup. Benish made a motion to adjourn. Sup. Leix seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:20pm.