

	APPROVED MINUTES LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday March 17, 2021 at 1:00 PM HHS Building, Community Room 303 W. Chapel St. Dodgeville, WI 53533 Remote attendance option: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81695901738 Conference call #: 1-312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 816 9590 1738	Iowa County Wisconsin
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) and Dan Nankee (via Zoom). Excused: Don Leix Others present: Katie Abbott, Craig Hardy		
Approve the agenda for this March 17, 2021 meeting: Sup. Butteris made a motion to approve this March 17, 2021 agenda. Mr. Bunker seconded the motion. Motion carried.		
Approve the minutes of the February 17, 2021 meeting: Mr. Bunker made a motion to approve the February 17, 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. Mr. Bunker shared an article in WI Agriculturalist about improving soil health by minimizing erosion first. Sup. Nankee complimented LCD on the NMP trainings and was grateful for his Outstanding Supervisor award, and mentioned other 2021 Land & Water award winners.		
Blackhawk Lake Road Maintenance MOU draft: Mr. Hardy presented the draft MOU with the Park Manager, which clarifies in writing how a previous resolution will be carried out and won't be signed until the full Operations Agreement is approved.		
NRCS update: Ms. Abbott shared an update provided by Andy Walsh: the CRP General signup has been extended indefinitely; CREP has renewed interested and several applications; CREP grassland reached it acreage cap; CSP signup deadline is March 26; EQIP has continuous signup and landowners should apply as soon as they have interest to provide more time for planning. Discussion of CRP rental rates and loss of acres.		
Blackhawk Lake Commission: update, operations agreement, and dam fund resolution draft: Discussion of financial goals for dam fund, County match ratio and annual maximum. Sup. Benish will contact Larry Bierke to determine the ratio and maximum for the resolution. Sup. Benish made a motion to accept the changes to the operations agreement proseed by Corp. Counsel, and change paragraph 4 to add “__% of profits or \$__ minimum” for the Commission to contribute annually, and send to the Commission for their April meeting. Sup. Butteris seconded the motion. Motion carried.		
Farmer award program: Ms. Abbott presented challenges of the current award process and proposals for changes. The Committee agreed they would like the voting to remain with the Committee, but were supportive of developing a form with criteria so we can receive more information with each nomination. Staff will bring a draft criteria form to the next meeting.		

Streamlining the FPP extension request process: To streamline the process and save Committee time, staff proposed that LCC pre-approve staff to provide one-time extensions for Tier 1 violations (per policy 1202) for up to 9 months due to weather, agronomist availability, or financial difficulty. All other extension requests will still go to the Committee. Sup. Benish moved to accept the proposal. Sup. Butteris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Land Conservation Department updates:

- a) **Staff update:** Ms. Abbott provided an update that Sarah Hovis (Conservation Technician) received additional job approval from NRCS.
- b) **WI Land+Water Association Conference recap:** Ms. Abbott provided highlights of the 2021 conference, which was held virtually. Next year's conference is planned for March 2-4, 2022 in Wisconsin Dells.
- c) **DNR targeted nitrate standard update:** Ms. Abbott provided an update and DNR handout on the proposed nitrate rule and public comment periods.
- d) **State budget updates:** Ms. Abbott shared an email from WI Land+Water asking Committee members to contact their representatives to support additional funding for conservation staff.

Agenda items for future meetings: FPP fee for extensions/late compliance, CRP questions, Blackhawk Lake agreement & resolution, Farmer award criteria

Motion to set the next meeting date and adjourn. The next meeting date was set for Wednesday April 21, 2021 at 1:00pm. Sup. Benish made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bunker seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:35pm.