

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Conference Room 3, County Annex  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
January 6, 2015

Members present: Roger Bacon, Bo DeDeker, Allen Haga, Jr., Barry Jacowski, Dale O'Brien, Jerry Walters

Others present: Kaycie Stushek, Golden Sands RC&D; Tyrone Larson and Roy Diver, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land Conservation Division.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair B. Jacowski.

B. Jacowski read the Public Notice statement: Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order. No one registered to speak.

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of December 2, 2014

Motion by OBrien, second by DeDeker to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Correspondence

Bradley received a memo from Lisa Trumble, DATCP, providing an order of approval for the Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plan through December 31, 2019. The approval maintains Portage County's eligibility for DATCP funding to implement the activities in the LWRM Plan. The work plan must be updated as changes are made and annual reports must be filed to remain eligible. Bradley noted the work plan has been updated and he submits annual accomplishment reports.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20140996, 20141031, purchases, and procurement card charges for CWWP in the amount of \$341.26 were reviewed. Special meeting attendance approvals were given for: Walters attending the Lions Lake management plan meeting at the Lions Camp, Rosholt, on November 24, 2014, and the Groundwater Citizens Advisory Committee meeting at the County Annex on November 25, 2014; Walters and Haga attending the Springville Pond lake management plan meeting at the Plover Village Hall on December 9; Haga attending the Little Plover River Work Group meeting at the County Annex on December 11, 2014; and O'Brien and Jacowski attending the Portage County Drainage District Annual Meeting on December 18 at the Buena Vista Town Hall.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Tyrone Larson, NRCS Area Conservationist, reported he has been working with State Conservationist, Jimmy Bramblett, to replace Melissa Knipfel, who accepted the District Conservationist (DC) position in Taylor and Price Counties. A decision was made to have Roy Diver, Wood County DC, cover Portage County as well. Larson said this option has left a vacancy. They plan to advertise for a Soil Conservationist to work in both counties, requiring at least three to five years' experience. For office coverage, the DC and Soil Conservationist will alternate between the Stevens Point and Wisconsin Rapids offices. With the addition of a Soil Conservationist, Diver feels

the arrangement will work well. Larson added there will be some savings budget wise. The offices also share a UWSP student intern with Waupaca County. Diver distributed information on himself and the NRCS programs. The LCC welcomed Diver. Bradley asked Larson about the NRCS office move and how sharing of files will be handled. Larson said the move date is the beginning of March. He suggested meeting to discuss the issue.

#### 6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No plans presented.

#### 7. Committee Representative Reports

- a. Lakes Management District - Walters – Walters attended the Springville Pond and Lions Lake meetings to update the lake management plans. As a lake surrounded by private land, Lions Lake has documentation of past efforts and can make future plans with a bit more freedom. Haga attended the Springville Pond meeting also. There was discussion on duck weed, Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM), weevil population, and shoreline restoration and buffers. The group discussed how to provide new residents with information on caring for waterfront property. Bradley said the Register of Deeds office may be asked to pass on information on waterfront land transfers, which will be shared with GIS and zoning. When a resident comes in for a permit, they can be given a packet of information. Bradley read a letter addressed to Lake Jacqueline property owners regarding running aerators during the winter months to prevent fish kills. The letter informs lake residents that rather than barriers, warning signs will be posted to alert lake users of open water hazards. Residents are responsible for notifying anyone they give permission to access the lake through their property. B. Jacowski asked about the turnout at the lake meetings. Bradley replied some were well attended and some had few attendees. Stushek said she attended some of the meetings, but she provided a summary for each meeting on what has been done on the lakes, which have Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) present, and recommendations for lake groups. She mentioned they are looking for volunteers for Collins Lake to help pull EWM. Bradley noted the UWSP staff that attended each meeting reported that lake residents are hopeful that RC&D continues to be involved. Some lake residents are concerned about fish habitat and were referred to a DNR fisheries biologist.
- b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) - Bacon/Haga-Alternate – The next meeting is scheduled for January 22.
- c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Assn (NCLWCA) - B. Jacowski/DeDeker-Alternate – No report.
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership Group (CWWP) - B. Jacowski/Walters-Alternate – The last meeting was held on December 15. Dick Colby, Adams County, filled the Chair position due to the death of Joe Piechowski in December. Hugh O'Donnell, Wood County, was elected Vice Chair. Regarding the Limited Term Employees (LTEs), the three year agreement between Golden Sands RC&D, CWWP, and Portage County is beginning its second year. At their last council meeting, RC&D approved increasing their administrative fee from 15%, as written in the agreement, to 18%. The CWWP Board asked for Portage County Corporation Counsel's opinion regarding the agreement. Bradley was asked to investigate hiring LTEs through Portage County. The LTE's \$2 bonus paid at the end of the season was discussed. Portage County does not pay bonuses. The issue will be discussed at next Board meeting in early March.
- e. Portage County Drainage District - O'Brien/Bacon-Alternate – Jacowski and O'Brien attended the annual meeting. The financial report, ditch restorations and improvements were reviewed. There have been issues with culverts installed at improper depths. State Statutes require that townships notify the Drainage District when working on drainage ditches. Towns have been asked to inform the Drainage District when putting in culverts. The Drainage District falls within the Towns of Buena Vista, Grant, Pine Grove, and Plover.
- f. Mill Creek Watershed - O'Brien/DeDeker-Alternate – No meeting.

g. Little Plover River (LPR) - Haga/Walters-Alternate – Haga reported that Ken Bradbury did a presentation on the Little Plover River project. He explained how the science works and is created, what information is used, and how a baseline is determined. A monitoring well model showed water levels, creek flow, and the effects of pumping. When the model is complete, it will help in making decisions on where water withdrawals may have less of an impact. Well information can be input into the model to help determine the best time for farmers to irrigate. Bradbury is interested in assistance from farmers gathering well information and past history. Bradley said Bradbury will have more specific information in April. LCC members commented that Bradbury has been a good asset to the project, presenting information neutrally.

#### 8. Discussion/Possible Action – Tree Planter Fund

Lyle Eiden was unable to attend. He will present at the February or March meeting.

#### 9. Discussion/Possible Action – Portage County 2014 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Report

Stushek distributed copies and reviewed Portage County Activities 2014. She reported they only received approximately 1/3 of their funding and therefore, hours were cut. They were able to get a UWSP intern to help with projects. Despite the cuts, they accomplished a lot. A grant application was submitted on December 10. They will find out whether the grant is awarded and the amount by February 1. Taylor County has joined Golden Sands RC&D. Stushek will work mainly in Portage, Waupaca, and Waushara Counties, but will also assist a new hire that will work in Marathon, Taylor, and Wood Counties. She summarized and explained the following activities: Purple loosestrife, Little Plover River Days, Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) booth, Jordan Pond EWM survey, weevil experiment, Lime Lake, Sunset Lake, and Collins Lake EWM manual removal, fundraising brat fry at Trig's, Green Circle/Wisconsin River Academy riparian invasive species removal, and phragmites surveys.

#### 10. Discussion/Possible Action – AmeriCorps Volunteer Application for CWWP

Benedict requested approval to submit an application for an AmeriCorps team of 8-10 volunteers to help the CWWP with windbreak installation and maintenance for one week in June and one week in August. The request will go to the Finance Committee for approval at their January 12 meeting. Motion by Haga, second by O'Brien to submit the AmeriCorps volunteer application. Motion carried by voice vote.

#### 11. Discussion/Possible Action – Special Meeting Attendance Approvals

B. Jacowski said questions have been raised by other committees he is on regarding receiving per diems at meetings. He feels anyone from the LCC should be allowed to attend any meeting that they feel is important to the LCC and/or their constituents. Motion by O'Brien, second by Haga to allow and approve attendance at meetings pertaining to the LCC and/or members' constituents. Motion carried by voice vote.

#### 12. Discussion/Possible Action – LCC Role in Future Groundwater Issues

B. Jacowski would like this item to continue to be on future agendas. He feels Portage County will be a leader in the State on this hot topic. The more informed LCC, Planning and Zoning, Ag and Extension Committees, and staff, the better to solve this issue. All parties must work together, with open minds and lines of communication. Bradley said the last listening session is scheduled for January 13. A final summary meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 4.

#### 13. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – Bradley reported the Skinner project is finished and went well. The manure transfer system at Peterson's is done, but the entire project is not complete. There are concerns with

manure stacked near the road ditch. During a thaw, there is potential for the manure to channel to Spring Creek. Peterson has been made aware of the concerns.

b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts – No cost share contracts presented.

14. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is Tuesday, February 3 in Conference Rooms 1 and 2. The poster and speaking contests will be first on the agenda.

15. Adjournment

Motion by O'Brien, second by Haga to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at February 3, 2015 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

/Barry Jacowski/  
Barry Jacowski, Chair

/absent/  
Bo DeDeker, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Conference Room 1 and 2, County Annex  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
February 3, 2015

Members present: Roger Bacon, Bo DeDeker, Allen Haga, Jr., Barry Jacowski, Jerry Walters

Member excused: Dale O'Brien

Member absent: Bo DeDeker

Others present: Barry Benson, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services; Annika and Michelle Waltenberg; Mary Case and Katy Bailey, Toastmasters; Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land Conservation Division.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair B. Jacowski.

2. Speaking Contest and Poster Contest Results

Benedict announced the results of the poster contest. Students from three schools and one home school student participated. She introduced speaking contest judges, Katy Bailey and Mary Case, Toastmasters, and Annika Waltenberg, Tomorrow River School, performing her speech entitled "Save Our Planet". Following her speech, B. Jacowski presented Annika with a Certificate of Participation.

3. At Approximately 6:15 p.m. Adjourn into Closed Session as Specified in Section 19.85(1)(c) of the Wisconsin Statutes to Discuss Performance Evaluation of the County Conservationist

Motion by Bacon, second by Haga to adjourn into closed session. Motion carried by voice vote, all ayes, no nays.

4. At Approximately 6:30 p.m. Return to Open Session for Action on Above Performance Evaluation

Motion by Walters, second by Haga to return to open session. Motion carried by voice vote, all ayes, no nays. No action was taken on the performance evaluation.

B. Jacowski read the Public Notice statement: Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order. No one registered to speak.

5. Review/Approval – Minutes of January 6, 2015

Motion by Haga, second by Bacon to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

6. Correspondence

No correspondence presented.

7. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20150040, 20150071, purchases, and CWWP procurement card charges in the amount of \$174.57 were reviewed.

8. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

No report.

9. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No conservation plans presented.

#### 10. Committee Representative Reports

- a. Lakes Management District - Walters – No report.
- b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) - Bacon/Haga-Alternate – Bacon attended the meeting on January 22. Water quality and manure spray irrigation were discussed. Adams County has placed a moratorium on manure spray irrigation. Bradley noted a grant was submitted for an Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) educator position in the Village of Rosholt. Bacon stated Jennifer Glad is no longer working at RC&D. Karen (Sakata) took over Glad's position. Bradley added RC&D submitted a grant to continue funding the grazing educator working in the Mill Creek Watershed in Wood and Portage Counties.
- c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Assn (NCLWCA) - B. Jacowski/DeDeker-Alternate – The area poster and speaking contests will be held February 20. Registration is due February 13. Jacowski or Bradley will attend.
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership Group (CWWP) - B. Jacowski/Walters-Alternate – The next meeting is March 5 at 9:00 a.m. at the Hancock Ag Research Station.
- e. Portage County Drainage District - O'Brien/Bacon-Alternate – No report.
- f. Mill Creek Watershed - O'Brien/DeDeker-Alternate – The Annual Meeting is February 16. John Eron will present on irrigation techniques.
- g. Little Plover River (LPR) - Haga/Walters-Alternate – No report.

#### 11. Discussion/Possible Action – Tree Planter Report

DNR Forester, Lyle Eiden, was unable to attend. A report on 2014 revenues and expenses was included in members' packets. No action taken.

#### 12. Discussion/Possible Action – Purchase from Tree Planter Fund

B. Jacowski reported the sprayer is in need of parts for repairs and upgrades. There was discussion regarding sharing sprayers between the Tree Planter Fund and CWWP. No action taken.

#### 13. Discussion/Possible Action – 2014 Wildlife Damage Claims

Benson distributed a summary of all 2014 participants, including the number of deer harvested and amounts of claims. Seven participants submitted claims. Benson noted he forgot to include Jeff Kuzma on the summary, who harvested five deer. Benson stated the three highlighted landowners did not meet their harvest objectives and recommended denying the claims. The total amount of claims less the denied claims and deductibles is \$9,528.11. Motion by Haga, second by Walters to approve all claims except Albert Kaminski, Michael Omernik, and Leonard Wiza. Motion carried by voice vote.

#### 14. Discussion/Possible Action – Update of Wolf Status

Benson reported wolves were put back on the endangered species list in December 2014, which means no hunting season, no depredation, no control trapping. The only time it is legal to kill a wolf is when a person's life is threatened, livestock and pets are excluded. Benson said the U.S. Congress may consider removing wolves from the endangered species list. Animal rights groups have proposed giving wolves threatened status, which does not allow hunting, but problem wolves can be dealt with. He is unsure when the proposal will be acted upon, but would like action prior to calving season in the spring. Benson said wolves are very active in the spring. If still on the endangered species list, Benson will respond to calls and if wolf activity is confirmed, the state will pay damages. If the wolf status is changed to threatened, trapping can take place. Benson said he has been in contact with the landowner that had calves killed by wolves last fall. He has not received a check from the DNR yet. Bradley asked about the wolf issue west of the river. Benson said he believes it was one large wolf and it is no longer an issue. He added there were a few harvested during the season just north of that location. He will be doing winter track surveys in the areas wolves have been sighted.

#### 15. Discussion/Possible Action – Appointment to Farmland Preservation Ad-Hoc Committee

Motion by Haga, second by Bacon to appoint Dale O'Brien to the Farmland Preservation Ad-Hoc Committee. Motion carried by voice vote. Motion by B. Jacowski, second by Walters that anyone from the

LCC wishing to attend the Farmland Preservation Ad-Hoc Committee for informational purposes as a County Board Supervisor and/or for their constituents is eligible for per diem. Motion carried by voice vote. Benedict will add an agenda item under Committee Representative Reports for the Farmland Preservation Ad-Hoc Committee. B. Jacowski added that the committee plans to meet every two weeks. The next meeting is February 12.

16. Discussion/Possible Action – WI Land+Water Conference Attendance

Motion by Haga, second by Walters for B. Jacowski to attend the WI Land+Water Conference at the Radisson Paper Valley, Appleton, March 9-11. Motion carried by voice vote. Benedict will handle registration and hotel reservations.

17. Discussion/Possible Action – Enforcement Issue

As a follow up to a discussion held at the last LCC meeting, Bradley reported there has been no change at the Peterson farm. A stack of manure has been placed in a location that may be cause for concern during snow melt and spring rains. Bradley explained the process followed in these situations. Corporation Counsel is notified of the situation. Bradley has met with Town of Lanark officials and Planning and Zoning staff, who requested assurance of management improvements. The Peterson's responded with an outline of improvements to the farm site management, which they propose to implement through summer of 2015. Bradley read from the letter. He assured the LCC that the LCD will keep watch on the manure stack. At this point, it was decided no action is necessary; however, if a violation occurs, Bradley will refer the issue to the LCC for possible action from Corporation Counsel. The LCC asked Bradley to personally visit and speak with the Petersons. B. Jacowski will also speak with them. The discussion will continue at the March LCC meeting.

18. Discussion/Possible Action – LCC Role in Future Groundwater Issues

A summary of the listening sessions will be held on Wednesday, February 4, at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Rooms 1 and 2.

19. Watershed Projects

- a. Updates – No update.
- b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts – No cost share contracts presented.

20. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is Tuesday, March 3, 6:00 p.m. in Conference Rooms 1 and 2.

21. Adjournment

Motion by Haga, second by Bacon to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at March 3, 2015 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

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Barry Jacowski, Chair

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Bo DeDeker, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Conference Room 1 and 2, County Annex  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
March 3, 2015

Members present: Roger Bacon, Bo DeDeker, Allen Haga, Jr., Barry Jacowski, Dale O'Brien, Jerry Walters

Others present: Roy Diver, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land Conservation Division, Derrick Raspor, UWSP.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair B. Jacowski.

B. Jacowski read the Public Notice statement: Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order.

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of February 3, 2015

Motion by Walters, second by O'Brien to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Correspondence

Benedict reported Lyle Eiden, DNR Forester, plans to order the following parts for the sprayer: one manual sprayer control with three switches and solenoids, one regulating valve, and one power cable. Funds are budgeted for repairs and maintenance for the sprayer.

Bradley said Barry Benson, Wildlife Damage Technician, contacted him with an update on the wolf issue at Wes Weller's. Benson reported Weller is satisfied with the outcome. No further wolf activity has been noticed.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20150101, 20150133, 20150134, purchases, and CWWP procurement card charges in the amount of \$132.53 were reviewed. Special meeting attendance approvals were given for B. Jacowski and O'Brien attending the Friends of Mill Creek Watershed annual meeting on February 16 at the Eau Pleine Town Hall, and Roger Bacon attending the Golden Sands RC&D Council meeting on January 22 at the RC&D office, 1100 Main Street, Stevens Point.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report

Diver reported the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and NRCS offices have moved out of the Annex building. They are waiting for telephone and computer connections. He is waiting for notification on the 2015 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) sign up and the amount of funding available. He anticipates funding approximately 13 projects. The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) sign up deadline was extended to March 13. There are six applications. There are seven 2011 CSP contracts being offered five year renewals. Diver has sent letters and will follow up, as contract holders must sign up by March 31. A recommendation has been made to the State Conservationist for hiring the Soil Conservationist position, which they hope to have occupied within six weeks. Diver explained NRCS services are available to any landowner signing up for their programs, i.e. EQIP, CSP, Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), wetland determinations, highly erodible land (HEL), etc. Because Diver covers two counties, B. Jacowski asked how often he plans to attend LCC meetings in person. Diver replied he will attempt to attend every other month and/or provide written reports.

## 6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

Bradley suggested taking this item off of monthly agendas. Diver said LCC signatures are no longer necessary on conservation plans. He offered to make a list of contracts and practices and present to the LCC for informational purposes. The LCC agreed to remove this item.

## 7. Committee Representative Reports

- a. Lakes Management District - Walters – No report.
- b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) - Bacon/Haga-Alternate – No report.
- c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Assn (NCLWCA) - B. Jacowski/DeDeker-Alternate – Bradley attended the meeting on February 20 in Rhinelander. The area poster and speaking contests were held. Annika Waltenberg, Portage County's speaker, took fourth place.
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership Group (CWWP) - B. Jacowski/Walters-Alternate – The next meeting is March 5.
- e. Portage County Drainage District - O'Brien/Bacon-Alternate – No report.
- f. Mill Creek Watershed - O'Brien/DeDeker-Alternate – B. Jacowski and O'Brien attended the annual meeting on February 16. John Eron, a landowner in the Town of Carson, gave a presentation on how he irrigates his land. He has tiled the wet property and directed the water to a series of clay lined ponds. During dry conditions, he pumps from the ponds to irrigate crops. B. Jacowski said the first pond acts as a sedimentation pond, limiting the amount of fertilizers and chemicals leaching into the watershed. O'Brien reported the same officers were elected. Updates were given on RC&D's grazing grant and possible availability of county cost sharing. A stream monitoring grant application may be submitted for next year. Monitoring must be done without grant funding the first year in order to qualify.
- g. Little Plover River (LPR) - Haga/Walters-Alternate – No report.
- h. Farmland Preservation Ad-Hoc Committee – B. Jacowski/O'Brien – B. Jacowski reported the Ad-Hoc Committee has been meeting every two weeks and working on setting criteria for developing a map for Farmland Preservation participants. The next meeting is March 12. B. Jacowski invited members to share questions/comments, or attend the meeting. The plan must be completed by September/October to be presented to the Planning and Zoning Committee and County Board, and must be certified by the State by December 31.

8. Discussion/Possible Action – Golden Sands RC&D and NCLWCA Dues Increases – Bradley reported that RC&D increased their 2015 dues from \$250 to \$350 and NCLWCA increased their dues from \$150 to \$200. Neither increase was budgeted. Motion by Haga, second by Bacon to overspend the budget by \$150. Motion by Haga, second by Bacon to amend the motion to overspend the budgeted amount for dues for RC&D and NCLWCA. Amended motion carried by voice vote.

9. Discussion/Possible Action – Funding for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Classroom Lessons – Bradley explained RC&D applied for grants to fund AIS programming. They were not awarded one of the grants. One of their programs is doing classroom AIS presentations in fourth and fifth grade classrooms. They have requests from a couple of Portage County schools. Without securing other sources of funding, they will be unable to do the presentations. RC&D estimates the cost for each presentation is \$150. Bradley noted the LCD budget line items for information and education and stewardship are very tight. Bradley suggested RC&D contact the Izaak Walton League or lake districts/associations for funding. Motion by B. Jacowski, second by O'Brien to postpone a decision until RC&D can pursue other funding sources. Motion carried by voice vote.

10. Discussion/Possible Action – CWWP LTE Agreement – In the recent past, Bradley explained the CWWP Board considered hiring the Limited Term Employees (LTEs) through Portage County to save on some administrative fee costs. It was noted that Portage County receives a 3% fee for

administration of the CWWP. The CWWP Board decided to continue hiring LTEs through RC&D and entered into a three year agreement between Portage County, CWWP, and RC&D, where RC&D will provide services including human resource and benefits for a 15% administrative fee. At the last CWWP Board meeting, Amy Thorstenson, RC&D Executive Director, stated their administrative fee is increasing from 15% to 18%. The agreement may be amended if agreed upon by all parties. Bradley said the CWWP Board meets on March 5 and if they choose to break the agreement, LCC must approve creating new LTE positions through Portage County. Because the LTEs must start work in April, action must be taken at this meeting to begin the new position process as soon as possible. B. Jacowski noted CWWP LTEs are currently paid a bonus of \$2 per hour if they complete the season. Portage County Human Resources (HR) staff originally said bonuses cannot be paid; however they now believe some type of an incentive payment may be possible. B. Jacowski asked Bradley to verify with HR staff prior to the CWWP Board meeting how an incentive payment would be handled. Walters believes the three year agreement should be upheld. Haga noted if the agreement is dissolved, the administrative fee would drop from RC&D's 15% to 3% received by Portage County. Haga believes if the incentive payment cannot be made for LTEs, the agreement should remain intact for the remainder of the term. Motion by B. Jacowski, second by O'Brien that the LCC allows the CWWP to hire their LTEs through Portage County if agreed upon by the CWWP Board. Motion carried by voice vote. Bradley noted another discussion the CWWP Board will have is regarding unemployment compensation. If Portage County hires the LTEs, any unemployment compensation claims will be charged to CWWP.

11. Discussion/Possible Action – Wisconsin River Basin Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) – Bradley referred to the handout included in members' packets. The DNR program is a watershed plan focused on reducing phosphorus. The Wisconsin River Basin covers the western 2/3 of the county. The eastern 1/3 of Portage County is in the Fox-Wolf River Basin. Three sources of phosphorus are: point sources - municipal wastewater treatment plants; nonpoint sources – originating mainly from cropland, residential lawns construction sites; and legacy phosphorus – phosphorus currently in the system. Walters said phosphorus use in municipalities is getting very tight. Bradley explained phosphorus in surface waters causes algae, and is a reason for attempting to reduce phosphorus. This program is voluntary. Bradley noted the LCD has, and will continue to work with agricultural producers and municipalities to reduce phosphorus. A possible benefit for the agricultural community is that it could bring more funding for conservation staff and cost sharing. The goal is to reduce phosphorus levels from point sources. For wastewater treatment plants to lower phosphorus levels, they would likely have to do very expensive upgrades. Rather than spending several million dollars on upgrading municipal plants, some believe the same amount of reduction could be achieved, at significantly less cost, by targeting funding toward LCDs to work with the agricultural community. There was discussion on requiring phosphorus free fertilizers. B. Jacowski said phosphorus is necessary for plant growth, but added that people need to be aware of how much is applied. Because of their costs, farmers apply only what is needed. He added the LCD works with farmers to install buffers, manure pits, and barnyards to reduce phosphorus. Fertilizer use on golf courses was discussed. Bradley believes golf courses are required to have nutrient management plans. He is unaware of the amount of phosphorus allowed for turf grass. For the TMDL process, Bradley said municipalities may choose to work with golf courses, the agricultural community, or upgrade their wastewater treatment plant; whatever they believe will produce the greatest reduction in phosphorus. Haga said the cost of upgrading the Village of Plover's wastewater treatment plant is \$4 million. He said everyone, not just municipalities, needs to work toward reducing phosphorus. Walters said municipalities do everything they can to meet standards. Bradley noted that message was received at a Wastewater Operators Association meeting he attended. He will update the LCC as more information is available. No action taken.

12. Discussion/Possible Action – Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) RC&D Support Resolution – Bradley said the Golden Sands RC&D Council put forward a resolution for increased funding for AIS throughout the state. RC&D asked their member counties to consider passing a resolution, which

was included in members' packets. Bradley also referred to correspondence regarding concerns for future conservation funding. LCD budgets have been reduced. He cautioned forwarding a resolution requesting additional funding without identifying a mechanism for the funding. There was discussion on adding a fee to boat trailer registrations; however, it is unlikely a new tax would be approved. Motion by O'Brien, second by Walters to reject the resolution. Motion carried by voice vote, no nays.

13. Discussion/Possible Action – WI Land+Water Resolutions – Bradley stated there is one resolution to be presented at the WI Land+Water conference and asked the LCC for direction on how he and B. Jacowski should vote, noting amendments can be made on the floor. The resolution is asking for more research on liquid manure irrigation systems. B. Jacowski said he has received comments that the resolution is accusatory toward farmers. Bradley said an article appeared in Country Today regarding a study by the State. Preliminary reports showed odor was present, but the pathogen drift did not exceed a level of concern. Haga asked if it is an issue in Portage County. Bradley said the issue is more of a concern in the northeastern part of the State. Motion by Bacon, second by Haga to support the resolution. Motion carried by voice vote, O'Brien opposed.

14. Discussion/Possible Action – Conservation Camp Scholarships – Benedict explained there are two conservation camps – Camp Bird, Marinette County, \$80 registration fee, for students entering grades 6 through 8; and Youth Conservation Camp, at Trees for Tomorrow, \$225 registration fee, for students entering grades 9 through 12. After expenses for the poster and speaking contests, Benedict estimates there is \$150 remaining for camp scholarships in the budget. Motion by B. Jacowski, second by DeDeker to award a Camp Bird scholarship to speaking contest participant, Annika Waltenberg. Motion carried by voice vote. The remaining funds will be used to award full or partial scholarships if there is interest.

#### 15. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – No report.

b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts – No cost share contracts presented.

#### 16. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for April 7 at 7:00 p.m., Conference Rooms 1 and 2, County Annex.

#### 17. Adjournment

Motion by O'Brien, second by Bacon to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at April 7, 2015 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

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Barry Jacowski, Chair

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Bo DeDeker, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Conference Room 5, County Annex  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
April 7, 2015

Members present: Roger Bacon, Bo DeDeker, Barry Jacowski, Dale O'Brien, Jerry Walters

Member excused: Allen Haga, Jr.

Others present: Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land Conservation Division, Kathy Schneider.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair B. Jacowski.

B. Jacowski read the Public Notice statement: Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order. No one registered to speak

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of March 3, 2015

Motion by Walters, second by O'Brien to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Correspondence

No correspondence presented.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20150193, 20150247, 20150293, purchases, and CWWP procurement card charges in the amount of \$215.72 were reviewed.

5. Committee Representative Reports

- a. Lakes Management District - Walters – No report.
- b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) - Bacon/Haga-Alternate – Bacon attended the March 19 Council meeting. A grazing grant has been submitted, but they have not heard whether it is funded. Green Lake County has joined Golden Sands RC&D.
- c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Assn (NCLWCA) - B. Jacowski/DeDeker-Alternate – No report.
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership Group (CWWP) - B. Jacowski/Walters-Alternate – The last meeting was held March 5. After a lengthy discussion, Bradley reported the Board voted to continue with the existing three year Limited Term Employee (LTE) agreement with RC&D at the administrative fee rate of 15%. If it becomes necessary to hire LTEs through Portage County in the future, B. Jacowski asked whether the wage and classification plan is workable. Bradley replied yes; however, it would take some time to create new positions, advertise, and hire.
- e. Portage County Drainage District - O'Brien/Bacon-Alternate – O'Brien said one Drainage District Commissioner position is due for appointment. An advertisement is currently being published for the position. The deadline for applications is April 20. Interviews will be conducted by the Agriculture and Extension Education Committee on April 27 and a recommendation will be made to the judge for appointment.
- f. Mill Creek Watershed - O'Brien/DeDeker-Alternate – A meeting is scheduled for April 14.
- g. Little Plover River (LPR) - Haga/Walters-Alternate – Bradley said the next meeting will be scheduled for future date when Ken Bradbury has updated information to present.
- h. Farmland Preservation Ad-Hoc Committee – B. Jacowski/O'Brien – B. Jacowski reported the Committee has completed their work for the time being. Staff is putting together draft documents. Map

criteria established for tax credit eligibility includes land within the Drainage District, Conservancy and A1 zoning districts, irrigated farmland, and productive agricultural soils, covering a large portion of the county. The map will be shared with towns for their review.

#### 6. Discussion/Possible Action – Funding for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Classroom Lessons

This item was discussed at last month's LCC meeting. Bradley noted RC&D did not receive a grant to fund classroom Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) lessons. The cost per class is \$125 and Bradley estimated there may be three or four, fourth and fifth grade classes. Bradley noted Kaycie Stushek, who presents the lessons, will be leaving RC&D, but is planning to help train a replacement this summer. B. Jacowski asked Bradley to keep the LCC informed. B. Jacowski mentioned the possibility of combining funding resources with the UW-Extension. There was discussion about training high school students to present the lessons. Bradley will pass on the suggestion to RC&D.

#### 7. Discussion/Possible Action – DNR/DATCP Staffing and Cost Share Grant Application

Bradley stated the grant allocates funds for staff and cost sharing for conservation activities contained in the Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plan. He explained the formula for the staffing grant is supposed to fund 100% of the first position, 70% of the second position, and 50% of each remaining position. However, DATCP does not have adequate funding. Based on the formula, Bradley will request \$251,989 for staff; however, he noted just over \$136,000 was allocated for staff in 2015. Due to State budget reductions, it has been estimated that the grants will be cut approximately 10% for 2016. He will request \$100,000 for cost sharing conservation practices for 2016; however, \$62,500 was allocated in 2015 and he expects that figure will also be reduced. The grant application must be signed by the LCC Chair. Motion by O'Brien, second by Bacon to approve the grant application. Motion carried by voice vote. B. Jacowski signed the grant application.

#### 8. Wisconsin River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Presentation

The video will be viewed at the end of the meeting.

#### 9. WI Land+Water Annual Conference Report

Bradley reported attendance at the conference was good. He felt some sessions were informative, some were repetitive. Bradley and B. Jacowski shared information from a session focusing on cover crops and soil health. They also attended a session on manure irrigation, sharing results of a study on pathogen drift. Bradley will report on the results of the resolutions at the May LCC meeting.

#### 10. Discussion/Possible Action – Conservation Camp Scholarship Recipients

Benedict reported Annika Waltenberg is not able to use the scholarship approved by the LCC at the March meeting. One of the students that entered the poster contest, Samantha Carlson, indicated interest in attending the conservation camp. The LCC agreed to transfer the scholarship to Carlson. Benedict also sent an email to all Portage County schools allowing teachers the opportunity to recommend students for the remaining scholarship funds. There was one response for a Tomorrow River Charter School student that lives in Waupaca County. Motion by Bacon, second by Walters to approve both scholarships. Motion carried by voice vote.

#### 11. Discussion/Possible Action – LCC Role in Future Groundwater Issues

Bradley reported the County Executive is setting up the next phase, seeking volunteers for an Ad Hoc Committee, looking for a diverse mix of stakeholders. Bradley accepted an invitation to be a team leader. He said the County Executive has a draft list and is reaching out to various groups, i.e. conservation groups, WPVGA, municipalities, etc.

#### 12. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – Bradley reported there were no issues this spring at the Wayne Peterson farm. Peterson has been in contact with the LCD indicating he will continue to work on the projects at his farm.

b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts – Bradley said Karl Flaig, Town of Carson, is interested in a year round watering system for rotational grazing. Estimated total cost is \$4,900, cost sharing at 70% is \$3,430. Motion by Bacon, second by O'Brien to approve cost sharing for the Flaig project. Motion carried by voice vote. Bradley explained a possible project for Tom Justmann, Town of Amherst, for water and sediment control basins. He estimated cost sharing around \$15,000. Motion by B. Jacowski, second by Bacon to approve cost sharing for Justmann not to exceed \$15,000. Motion carried by voice vote.

#### 8. Wisconsin River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Presentation

Bradley played a video created by the DNR using air photos, giving the effect of a flyover, beginning at the headwaters of the Wisconsin River and ending where it flows into the Mississippi River. Information is provided along the route, such as: Where dams are located, water quality monitoring data, land use, phosphorus levels in the river and the tributaries flowing into the River. Bradley referred to a handout provided at the March LCC meeting, which indicated streams coming in from the east have lower phosphorus levels and those coming in from the west have higher levels. He also noted the Big and Little Eau Pleine River have two of the highest levels. The area has clay soils and dairy farms that winter spread manure. Bradley said knowing the phosphorus levels will help determine where to focus resources. There are areas where readings are high in the tributaries, but when drained into the river, levels are diluted. The YouTube video can be accessed online – Wisconsin River Flyover (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gErYKD--M3U>). Bradley said the planning phase of the TMDL project includes the DNR holding meetings with counties to review water quality monitoring data and phosphorus levels. Each area will have a goal for phosphorus reduction. One of Portage County's challenges is the Mill Creek watershed. B. Jacowski noted the headwaters of Mill Creek is near the Marshfield wastewater treatment plant in Wood County. Bradley said levels have been established along Mill Creek, which is broken down into several sub watersheds. Levels from point sources have been determined. The LCD and DNR have done modeling on the various types of agricultural land and farms. The amount of phosphorus already in the stream, called legacy phosphorus, was also studied. The DNR will determine a reduction goal and the LCD will decide how to work with landowners, on a volunteer basis, to reach the goal. There was discussion on amounts of phosphorus from various contributors, i.e. municipal wastewater treatment plants, farms, lawn fertilizers, septic systems, etc. Bradley said the capability exists to consider groundwater inflow when locating septic systems to have the least effect on surface waters. Bacon asked whether community manure digesters on farms are beneficial. Bradley said the idea can be workable and cost effective if there are several medium sized farms within three miles of one another. He added the solids produced contain phosphorus and could be used for bedding, or could be marketed as a valuable product for gardens.

#### 13. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. Benedict noted the meeting will take place in Conference Room 3.

#### 14. Adjournment

Motion by DeDeker, second by O'Brien to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at May 5, 2015 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

/Barry Jacowski/  
Barry Jacowski, Chair

/Bo DeDeker/  
Bo DeDeker, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Conference Room 3, County Annex  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
May 5, 2015

Members present: Roger Bacon, Bo DeDeker, Allen Haga, Jr., Barry Jacowski, Dale O'Brien

Member excused: Jerry Walters

Others present: Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land Conservation Division.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair B. Jacowski.

B. Jacowski read the Public Notice statement: Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order. No one registered to speak.

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of April 7, 2015

Motion by O'Brien, second by Bacon to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Correspondence

Bradley reported the 2015 Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) grant contract has been forwarded to the Finance Department and County Executive for signatures.

Benedict reported the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) grant submitted in the amount of \$1,000 for youth education programs was not awarded. She passed around the letter, indicating there were over \$600,000 in requests, with only approximately \$300,000 available to award. Significant cuts are proposed in the state budget for WEEB.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20150310, 20150350, purchases, and CWWP procurement card charges in the amount of \$51.70 were reviewed.

5. Committee Representative Reports

- a. Lakes Management District - Walters – No report
- b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) - Bacon/Haga-Alternate – A meeting will be held in May.
- c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Assn (NCLWCA) - B. Jacowski/DeDeker-Alternate – No report.
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership Group (CWWP) - B. Jacowski/Walters-Alternate – The next meeting is scheduled for June 11.
- e. Portage County Drainage District - O'Brien/Bacon-Alternate – O'Brien reported the Ag and Extension Committee conducted Drainage District Commissioner interviews. Kiley Stucker was their first choice recommended to the Judge for appointment. Former Commissioner Don Hamerski has offered to mentor Stucker. O'Brien explained the makeup of the Commission as well as the operations and maintenance of the Drainage District.

- f. Mill Creek Watershed - O'Brien/DeDeker-Alternate – O'Brien attended a meeting on April 14 and reported there was discussion regarding their budget. In order to save postage costs, they are attempting to develop an email list. Discussion took place on pesticides being used that are killing bees. A suggestion was made to plant wildflowers in the corners of fields to attract bees. There was also discussion on conducting a study to detect pharmaceuticals in Mill Creek, as the headwaters are near the Marshfield Clinic. To possibly qualify for a grant for the study, the Friends of the Mill Creek Watershed (FOMC) would have to perform testing on their own for a year. Bradley mentioned a summer tour is being planned at Bulgrin Farms and John Eron's farm. Eron is looking into the possibility of using windmills to power pumps for his pond irrigation system.
- g. Little Plover River (LPR) - Haga/Walters-Alternate – The next meeting will take place when Ken Bradbury has updated information to present on the Little Plover River study.
- h. Farmland Preservation Ad-Hoc Committee – Jacowski/O'Brien – Planning and Zoning Department staff continues to work on the draft document.

#### 6. 2014 Final Budget Report

Bradley reviewed summary spreadsheets with the LCD and CWWP 2014 final budget figures. He noted the LCD came in under budget, with 37% of the total budget coming from tax levy. The CWWP had a surplus of \$28,057.83, which is deposited into the equipment reserve account.

#### 7. WI Land+Water Annual Conference Resolution Results

Bradley referred to the article in WI Land+Water's publication, The Note, which summarized the resolutions approved at the annual conference. One resolution was presented in advance of the conference, and there were four floor resolutions. The LCC had further discussion on the resolution regarding high capacity well permitting. Bradley mentioned all of the resolutions are on the WI Land+Water website.

#### 8. Discussion/Possible Action – LCC Role in Future Groundwater Issues

B. Jacowski noted many county committees throughout the State are titled Land and Water Conservation Committees, and suggested changing the name. Members noted a great deal of the topics on agendas have to do with water. A Water Resources Specialist (WRS) will be hired soon and members believe having the position under Land and Water Conservation is a better fit. Bradley will check into what is involved in changing the Committee's name and ask Jeff Schuler, Planning and Zoning Department Director, to attend the next meeting to discuss the WRS position. The Committee was in agreement.

B. Jacowski reported the County Executive held a Groundwater Summit on April 29. Several County Board Supervisors and members of the public attended. Bradley also attended. He said several groups of four to five people, including representatives from conservation organizations, agriculture and related organizations, UWSP, etc., were chosen by the County Executive and submitted ideas and different perspectives. Suggestions were made for more monitoring of wells, and public education, especially regarding irrigation technology. O'Brien noted the economic impacts associated with limiting irrigation for farming were not discussed. At the close of the summit, Bradley said the County Executive took the groups' suggestions, with a plan to share with a variety of organizations, groups, and industries to get their viewpoints.

#### 9. Stewardship Report

Benedict reported Stewardship Week activity booklets were distributed to requesting teachers at four schools each in grades K-1, 2-3, and 4-5. Booklets were ordered for each second grade student in the Stevens Point School District, and will be distributed when the classes visit the Boston School Forest. Total cost is \$503.10.

10. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – Bradley reported Senior Conservation Technician, Dan O’Connell, has been overseeing the manure pit installation at the Dave Eron farm. Conservation Technician, Randy Slagg, has been working with Karl Flaig on a watering system for rotational grazing. Bids for Tom Justmann’s water and sediment control basin project are expected to go out before the end of the month.

b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts – Bradley referred to a handout listing proposed cost share projects. Motion by O’Brien, second by DeDeker to approve the windbreak cost share projects. Motion carried by voice vote.

11. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for June 2 at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Rooms 1 and 2.

12. Adjournment

Motion by O’Brien, second by Haga to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at the June 2, 2015 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

/Barry Jacowski/  
Barry Jacowski, Chair

/Bo DeDeker/  
Bo DeDeker, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Conference Rooms 1 and 2, County Annex  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
June 2, 2015

Members present: Roger Bacon, Bo DeDeker, Allen Haga, Jr., Barry Jacowski, Dale O'Brien, Jerry Walters

Others present: Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land Conservation Division, Reid Rocheleau.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair B. Jacowski.

B. Jacowski read the Public Notice statement: Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order. Rocheleau requested to speak.

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of May 5, 2015

Motion by Haga, second by O'Brien to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote, all ayes.

3. Correspondence

Bradley shared a newsletter from the North Central Conservancy Trust (NCCT). He explained that NCCT is a nonprofit based out of Stevens Point, working with counties in Central Wisconsin. On a voluntary basis, the NCCT works with landowners interested in donating property development rights, and allowing land to remain in conservancy for perpetuity. Bradley estimates 12 landowners in Portage County have donated approximately 1,000 acres. He suggested members visit the NCCT website for further information.

Benedict received an email from AmeriCorps indicating they are not able to provide teams to assist the CWWP with windbreak maintenance. O'Brien suggested contacting the Sheriff's Department and inquire about utilizing work crews.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20150310 and 20150350, purchases, and CWWP procurement card charges in the amount of \$51.70 were reviewed.

5. Committee Representative Reports

- a. Lakes Management District - Walters – No report.
- b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) - Bacon/Haga-Alternate – Bradley attended the May 21 meeting. The business meeting covered the treasurer's report, and it was announced that Ruth Moody, a Council representative from Wood County, has resigned. Eric Olson, UW-Extension Lakes program, talked about available grant opportunities.
- c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Assn (NCLWCA) - B. Jacowski/DeDeker-Alternate – Bradley received registration information for a meeting to be held Tuesday, June 23 in Vilas County. A business meeting will be conducted as well as a tour of the conservation camp held at Trees for Tomorrow.

- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership Group (CWWP) - B. Jacowski/Walters-Alternate – The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 11.
- e. Portage County Drainage District - O'Brien/Bacon-Alternate – O'Brien reported Judge Eagon confirmed the appointment of Kiley Stucker as a commissioner on the Drainage District Board. O'Brien pointed out the DATCP report, which was included in LCC packets, mentioned training for drainage district board members in summer or fall of 2015 and suggested Stucker attend. Bradley will forward the dates and times of the training to Stucker.
- f. Mill Creek Watershed - O'Brien/DeDeker-Alternate – No report.
- g. Little Plover River (LPR) - Haga/Walters-Alternate – No report.
- h. Farmland Preservation Ad-Hoc Committee – Jacowski/O'Brien – No report.

#### 6. Discussion/Possible Action – Resolution to Change Land Conservation Committee (LCC) to Land and Water Conservation Committee (LWCC)

Bradley read the resolution, drafted with assistance from Corporation Counsel. Because the LCC is involved with water resources as much as soil/land, the LCC feels the name change is justified. Attached to the resolution are Chapters 3.1.17, listing committee structures, and 7.10, the Animal Manure Storage Ordinance and Nutrient Management Standards, of the Portage County Code of Ordinances, changing LCC to LWCC and Land Conservation Division (LCD) to Land and Water Conservation Division (LWCD). Motion by O'Brien, second by Walters to approve the resolution. Motion carried by voice vote, all ayes. The resolution and documentation will be presented to the County Board of Supervisors at their June 16 meeting.

#### 7. Discussion/Possible Action – Placement of Water Resources Specialist (WRS) Position Under LCC/LWCC

B. Jacowski feels the LCC/LWCC should have oversight over the WRS position. He spoke with Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Department Director, Jeff Schuler, who feels strongly the position should remain under the oversight of the P&Z Committee. Haga asked what procedure is followed to make the change. B. Jacowski believes the LCC/LWCC can draft a resolution and present to the County Board. He noted protection of water resources goes hand in hand with land conservation practices. O'Brien feels the timing works well with a new person being hired for the WRS position. There was discussion regarding the P&Z and Land Conservation Division (LCD/LWCD) supervisory and staff structure. Haga noted a large part of the LCC/LWCC agenda has to do with water related topics. Members agreed supervision of the WRS position is the responsibility of the P&Z Department Director, but believe it is appropriate to have that person report to the LCC/LWCC on their activities. Bradley stated the Groundwater Management Plan (GMP) is the guiding document for the WRS position. He noted there is some groundwater related overlap between the GMP and the Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plan, the guiding document for the LCD/LWCD. He explained that the LCD/LWCD works one on one with landowners to implement conservation practices to improve water quality. The WRS position provides information and education to the public and is more community based. Bradley explained County Conservationists are expected to have knowledge in both land and water related issues. Funding for LCD/LWCD staff is provided by the State; however there is not enough money allocated to fully fund all staff as directed in State Statutes, 100% of the first position, 70% of the second position, and 50% for each position thereafter. O'Brien said there are six counties in Wisconsin, including Portage County, that have a water resource staff person. The remaining counties depend on their County Conservationist, and/or other LCD/LWCD staff, to provide expertise in water related matters. Motion by B. Jacowski, second by O'Brien to request that Corporation Counsel draft a resolution to have the LCC/LWCC as the oversight committee for the Water Resources Specialist position. Motion carried by voice vote, all ayes. B. Jacowski will meet with Corporation Counsel to discuss how to proceed.

8. Discussion Possible Action – LCC Role in Future Groundwater Issues

B. Jacowski had nothing to report, but asked to continue to have this item on the agenda.

9. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – Bradley reported Senior Conservation Technician, Dan O’Connell, is on an extended leave. He completed project designs as much as possible beforehand. The DATCP engineer from the Appleton office will assist as much as possible with project oversight and approvals. Bradley said survey work for a manure pit expansion at Keith Wroblewski’s farm will begin soon. Bids for the Justmann water and sediment control basin project are expected to go out in June. Work will begin for Flaig’s watering system for rotational grazing. Staff will assist with a survey and designing a rip rap project for a landowner on the Biron Flowage, close to the Wood County line. No cost sharing is involved. Bradley reported he spoke with Wayne Peterson recently and it appears issues have been, or are in the process of being worked out.

b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts – No cost share contracts presented.

10. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 7 at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Rooms 1 and 2, County Annex.

11. Adjournment

Motion by O’Brien, second by Walters to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at July 7, 2015 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

/Barry Jacowski/  
Barry Jacowski, Chair

Bo DeDeker/  
Bo DeDeker, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Conference Room 5, County Annex  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
July 7, 2015

Members present: Roger Bacon, Bo DeDeker, Allen Haga, Jr., Barry Jacowski, Dale O'Brien, Jerry Walters

Others present: Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land Conservation Division.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair B. Jacowski.

B. Jacowski read the Public Notice statement: Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order. No one registered to speak.

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of June 2, 2015

Motion by O'Brien, second by Bacon to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Correspondence

No correspondence presented.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Vouchers, purchases, and procurement card charges were reviewed.

6. Committee Representative Reports

- a. Lakes Management District - Walters – No report.
- b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) - Bacon/Haga-Alternate – No report.
- c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Assn (NCLWCA) - B. Jacowski/DeDeker-Alternate – Copies of emails were included in members' packets.
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership Group (CWWP) - B. Jacowski/Walters-Alternate – The LCC requested to have Shannon Rohde, Project Manager, attend the next LCC meeting. Bradley reported Rohde has been busy with plantings and weeding sites. The goal of planting 15.5 miles was exceeded.
- e. Portage County Drainage District - O'Brien/Bacon-Alternate – No report.
- f. Mill Creek Watershed - O'Brien/DeDeker-Alternate – Bradley reported he spoke with John Eron, who is planning a tour and promoting to Farm Bureau members, tentatively scheduled for July 29 at his farm. In addition to the tour featuring his operation, recycling and pond irrigation efforts, he plans to show a video promoting farmers. B. Jacowski encouraged LCC members to attend. Bradley will forward the invitation to LCC members and plans to attend.
- g. Little Plover River (LPR) - Haga/Walters-Alternate – No report.
- h. Farmland Preservation Ad-Hoc Committee – Jacowski/O'Brien – The vacant positions in the Planning Section have been filled. Work on the Farmland Preservation Plan should be resuming.

6. Discussion/Possible Action – Resolution to Change Land Conservation Committee (LCC) to Land and Water Conservation Committee (LWCC) and Land Conservation Division (LOC) to Land and Water Conservation Division (LWCD)

B. Jacowski noted the LCC acted on the resolution at the May 7 meeting; however, a change was subsequently made by Corporation Counsel in the attachment 3.1.17(d) to now read "Term of two years coinciding with the term of the County Board of Supervisors, ending the Monday before the third Tuesday of April of the designated year." Motion by B. Jacowski, second by O'Brien to approve the resolution with the corrections made by Corporation Counsel. There was discussion regarding the term for the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Committee representative. There are three FSA Committee members that serve three year terms with one representative elected each year. It was determined by Corporation Counsel that term for the LCC representative is two year terms, with appointments/reappointments at the direction of the FSA Committee. Motion carried by voice vote, all ayes.

#### 7. Discussion/Possible Action – LCC Role in Future Groundwater Issues

Copies of two draft resolutions were distributed: A joint resolution with the Agriculture and Extension Education Committee (Ag/Ext Comm) and Land and Water Conservation Committee (LWCC) to have those committees review and recommend the Groundwater Management Plan (GMP) before it is presented for final approval to the County Board, and a resolution designating the LWCC as the oversight committee for the Water Resource Specialist (WRS) position. Regarding the WRS position resolution, Walters stated he asked several times at the LCC meeting whether there were going to be changes in the reporting structure of the department, which he did not want to happen. He was informed at a Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Committee meeting that (should the resolution be adopted) the WRS will report to the County Conservationist rather than the P&Z Department Director. He said he continues to be fervently opposed to the change. Bradley explained that, after the LCC meeting, B. Jacowski requested that Corporation Counsel Mike McKenna draft the resolution. Walters asked to be put on record stating he does not favor the resolution. It was not what was discussed at the LCC meeting. Bradley pointed out that action cannot be taken on the resolutions as they are not on the agenda, but edits can be suggested. B. Jacowski said there are disagreements whether any changes will take place in the reporting structure. Bradley said P&Z Director, Jeff Schuler, suggested changes to Corporation Counsel and believes the resolution was based on those suggestions. At the LCC meeting, there was discussion to have the WRS report to the LCC, but after the meeting there was communication between Schuler and the County Board Chair, the County Executive, Human Resources, and Corporation Counsel. Walters feels the matter should have been taken to the P&Z Committee. B. Jacowski said it does not have to go to the P&Z Committee, LCC does not report to the P&Z Committee. Bradley explained that the LCC is a statutory committee, separate from the P&Z Committee, but all P&Z staff, including the LCD, reports to the P&Z Director. DeDeker said the employee reporting structure does not affect how the committees work. Walters questioned why the LCC should be the oversight committee for the WRS. B. Jacowski replied most of the LCC agenda deals with water topics. Walters replied the WRS does not serve the LCC only. B. Jacowski said the WRS would also report to the P&Z Committee. Walters disagreed; according to the organizational chart, if the LCC is the oversight committee, the WRS will report to Bradley as the County Conservationist. Bradley said that Schuler feels if the resolution passes, it makes sense to have the WRS report to the County Conservationist. Haga pointed out that the WRS will report to Bradley, and Bradley reports to Schuler, so Schuler will still supervise the WRS position. Walters does not agree with transferring the reporting chain from the P&Z Director to the County Conservationist. Motion by B. Jacowski, second by O'Brien to have the resolution stay as written. Motion carried by voice vote, Walters opposing. There was discussion whether the resolution should be presented to the P&Z Committee. B. Jacowski believes the resolution should stand on its own.

B. Jacowski stated a joint meeting with the Ag/Ext Comm must be scheduled regarding review of the GMP, also a special LCC meeting regarding the WRS position, in order to forward the resolutions for the July County Board meeting. O'Brien said, because of the economic contribution of agriculture and the educational resources available, it is felt the Ag/Ext Comm should be involved in the GMP process. At the groundwater listening sessions held by the County Executive, B. Jacowski said the

importance of groundwater education was stressed. He added UW-Extension can provide the educational component more so than the P&Z Department. The resolution directs that all three committees, P&Z, Ag/Ext, and LWCC, review and approve the GMP before it is presented to the County Board. The Ag/Ext Comm approved the resolution at their last meeting, but because changes were made to the document, members were unable to sign. DeDeker feels the more people that have input into a plan, the better. There was further discussion regarding the WRS position, with most LCC members feeling the LCC is the logical committee to report to, share knowledge, and disperse information. It was suggested to amend the resolution to read "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Groundwater Management Plan should be routed through the Planning and Zoning Committee, the Land and Water Conservation Committee, and Agriculture and Extension Education Committee for review and approval before it goes to the county board;". Motion by Walters, second by Bacon to approve the change to the draft resolution. Motion carried by voice vote.

Bradley referred to the resolution regarding the WRS position, noting a change may be necessary to the statute reference to 92.04 in the second whereas. Bradley will consult with Corporation Counsel.

#### 8. Watershed Projects

DeDeker mentioned he heard a news report about a father and son that fell into a manure pit and died. He asked whether the LCD provides education to farmers on this subject. Bacon said there are fewer covered tanks now than in the past. B. Jacowski noted current regulations require fencing, locked gates, and posting warning signs. Bradley stated most pits constructed now are open pits, so gases are not as much of an issue. He estimated there are six to 10 closed tank pits in the County. Bradley will send a letter to those owners reminding them of the potential danger of gases. It was also suggested to include an article in the UW-Extension newsletter.

a. Updates – Bradley reported there were some issues with the survey instrument, and a portion of the survey must be redone for the water and sediment control basin at Tom Justmann's. The project will be delayed until the corn is off of the field.

b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts – No cost share contracts presented.

#### 9. Next Meeting Date

A special joint meeting with the Ag/Ext Comm will be scheduled for Monday, July 13 at 7:00 p.m. The room is yet to be determined. UW-Extension staff will be informed and send meeting materials to Ag/Ext Comm members. The next regular LCC meeting will be Tuesday, August 4 at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Rooms 1 and 2.

#### 10. Adjournment

Motion by O'Brien, second by Bacon to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at August 4, 2015 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

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Barry Jacowski, Chair

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Bo DeDeker, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Conference Rooms 1&2, County Annex  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
July 13, 2015

Members present: Roger Bacon, Bo DeDeker, Allen Haga, Jr., Barry Jacowski, Dale O'Brien, Jerry Walters

Others present: Matt Jacowski; Jeff Schuler, Planning and Zoning Department, Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Land Conservation Division.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Chair B. Jacowski.

B. Jacowski read the Public Notice statement: Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order. Jeff Schuler requested to speak on agenda item #2.

2. Discussion/Possible Action – Resolution Designating the Land and Water Conservation Committee as the Legislative Oversight Committee for the Portage County Water Resource Specialist Position and Water Quality Program and Concurrently Therefore Transferring the Reporting Chain from the Planning and Zoning Director to the County Conservationist

Motion by O'Brien, second by DeDeker to approve the resolution. Schuler stated there has been speculation on where he stands and how the proposal fits into the Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Department. He read an email he shared with the County Board Chair and County Executive on June 3 (summarized for these minutes), providing background and information on the discussions that have taken place to date. Regarding the realignment of the Water Resources Specialist (WRS) position, Schuler stated he has no problem with moving the WRS position under the Land and Water Conservation Division (LWCD). He expressed concern with the process of initiating and moving the changes forward. The process seemed spur of the moment and was absent any real discussion. He offered suggestions which may be beneficial to the County. For the realignment to be most effective, Schuler said the direct supervision of the WRS should shift to the County Conservationist, who will be responsible for the completion of the Groundwater Management Plan (GMP). The Groundwater Citizens Advisory Committee (GCAC) should be realigned to report to the Land and Water Conservation Committee (LWCC). The LWCC and P&Z Committees should be the official recommending bodies for the GMP, with LWCC being the primary review and recommendation committee. The On-Site Waste Specialist should be realigned to report directly to and supervised by the County Conservationist. These steps, taken together, represent a more comprehensive approach to realignment of resources related positions under the LWCD and logically, the LWCC. All water and resource related Department functions would be located together within a consistent work program environment. Schuler said he supports the realignment under these conditions, which would create more balance in supervisory responsibilities within the P&Z Department. The County Conservationist would be responsible for supervising five employees, the Assistant Director responsible for four employees, the Executive Assistant for three employees, and the Director responsible for the supervisory positions and all employees under their direction.

Schuler said the changes he outlined make the best sense for the department. As originally proposed, he feels the realignment of the WRS position only was superficial and would create confusion and inefficiency within P&Z's work program, having had no discussion and understanding of the work program and multiple sections working together within the Department. Schuler said he understands the LWCC wants more information shared at meetings; however, the consequences of the actions need to be considered. Schuler said he proceeded to think through what is best for the department and how to properly align resources to meet the LWCC's request. He noted he was not personally asked to talk about the impacts on the department, nor was the P&Z Committee chair consulted. In the future, Schuler asked to take other directly affected committees into consideration and encouraged discussions.

B. Jacowski thanked Schuler, stating he made valid points, and he believes the proposed reorganization creates a good situation. There was discussion regarding the supervisory chain of command, noting all department employees ultimately report to Schuler. Schuler agreed; however, he explained the logic of the department is based on properly functioning sections. He manages the different sections with different areas of expertise. At earlier LWCC meetings, Bradley pointed out that staff attends committee meetings as needed or directed. Schuler said this realignment request specifically directs the WRS will report to the LWCC, creating a new relationship. Logic dictates if you want to have a section that deals with common types of resource issues, then you realign it that way.

Schuler said conversations about groundwater have really gotten serious over the last several years. There are a lot of people talking about it with a lot of different perspectives. The County needs to think how to approach this, because it is a big issue. The Executive, County Board of Supervisors, citizen groups, residents are all trying to weigh in. Schuler believes the involved committees, through a facilitated session, need to talk about groundwater – fears, ideas about what can be done, and suggest policies to accommodate and balance all interests.

Referring to the WRS position, Schuler said any overlap or redundancy between the committees will have to be dealt with at the staff level. If the resolution is adopted, Schuler believes it can result in a really efficient approach. Jen McNelly, the WRS, needs to know the environment she is working in. If part of a resource focused team, there needs to be accountability within Bradley's program. As Bradley previously pointed out, through the Land Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plan, the activities of the LWCD are really more one on one, facility/landowner focused, to remediate situations through State programming. The WRS position has always been relatively independent of that type of structure. If that is to be the focus with this committee, it only makes sense that all operate together so Bradley is able to structure, and incorporate into the LWRM Plan. We are trying to get to the most basic level of planning and policies to address issues. Bradley, as the County Conservationist, will be responsible for resource related topics. Schuler will count on Bradley to make sure that groundwater quality or quantity issues that he has historically dealt with absolutely include the different aspects that the WRS works with, so they are the authority in the P&Z Department, and Bradley is accountable for the information provided regarding the resource. Schuler added the way the realignment was accomplished was not exactly how he understands the County Code of Ordinances is structured, relating to division of various units of the county government, but he believes the outcome is positive.

B. Jacowski feels it is a good start. Haga verified Schuler is in favor of having the WRS report to Bradley and the LWCC, and Schuler replied he supports it.

Because Bradley may have additional staff reporting to him, there were questions whether he would receive a salary increase. It was pointed out the Fiscal Note on the resolution indicates no appropriation is necessary to implement this resolution.

There being no further discussion, the motion passed, all ayes.

3. Adjournment

Motion by O'Brien, second by Haga to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at August 4, 2015 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

/Barry Jacowski/  
Barry Jacowski, Chair

Excused  
Bo DeDeker, Secretary

JOINT AGRICULTURE AND EXTENSION EDUCATION AND  
LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Conference Room 1&2, County Annex  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
July 13, 2015

Members present: Roger Bacon, Bo DeDeker, Charles Gussell, Allen Haga, Jr., Barry Jacowski, Matt Jacowski, Dale O'Brien, Larry Raikowski, Jerry Walters

Others present: Ken Schroeder, UW-Extension; Jeff Schuler, Planning & Zoning Department, Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Land Conservation Division.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Agriculture and Extension Education Committee (Ag/Ext Ed Comm) Chair O'Brien.

O'Brien read the Public Notice statement: Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order. Jeff Schuler requested to speak on agenda item #2.

2. Discussion/Possible Action – Resolution for the Agriculture and Extension Education Committee and the Land and Water Conservation Committee to Jointly Review and Recommend the Portage County Groundwater Management Plan Before it is Presented for Final Approval to County Board  
Motion by M. Jacowski to approve the resolution with the following changes: In the resolution title, strike recommend and replace with approve; in the second whereas, strike convened by the County Executive, and change education to educational; in the fourth whereas, strike agriculture (the first in the paragraph) and replace with economy; and in THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, add and approve after review. Motion seconded by B. Jacowski.

Schuler read excerpts (summarized for these minutes) from the Groundwater Management Plan (GMP) to give context to what the committees are considering and to share some history. In September 1984, the Portage County Board of Supervisors created a Groundwater Council charged with the primary task of developing a strategy and policy for addressing public concerns on groundwater protection and management for recommendation to the County Board. The County Board passed a resolution in December 1985 directing the Planning Department to prepare a countywide GMP in cooperation with other county departments. The GMP was adopted in 1988 and the responsibility for groundwater programs was assigned to the Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Committee. The Planning Department, Zoning Department, Land Conservation Department, and the groundwater related functions of the Human Services Department were consolidated to form the P&Z Department. The County hired a permanent Water Quality Specialist and the technical advisory committee was disbanded. The County Board ultimately decides what role the County will plan in groundwater management, but does not do so without a significant amount of advice and information. The Groundwater Citizens Advisory Committee (GCAC) was created following adoption of the GMP in 1988 and is made up of citizens from each of the municipalities, appointed by their town or village board or city council. Appointments are approved by the County Board. The GCAC's mission is to gather views and concerns regarding groundwater protection and management from citizens and municipal governing boards, and present recommendations to the P&Z Committee for consideration by the County Board.

Schuler said the excerpts give a history and present facts of the current process. The role of the P&Z Committee has been questioned in past discussions and Schuler said the committees will have to work out those issues. Comments were also made on how Schuler became involved and his role. Schuler explained that Corporation Counsel Mike McKenna asked him to provide insight into the statutory basis for the P&Z Department being involved with groundwater issues. Schuler read an email he sent to McKenna referencing Chapter 59.69, which includes P&Z's authority "to encourage the protection of groundwater resources" and allows the creation of a planning and zoning agency. Resolution 1966-4 created a P&Z Committee, with responsibilities to include concerning itself with short range and long range County planning, and in accordance with 31.21(g) Portage County Code of Ordinances, "To review all groundwater matters". Schuler felt the most direct line of authority for the recommendation of a long range planning document relating to groundwater would be through the P&Z Committee. He could not comment on reasoning or motives for adding additional official recommending bodies to the approval process, but requested that the P&Z Committee remains included.

As the committees consider the resolution, Schuler assured them it is not a matter of asserting control. From a staff level, he believes all committees should work together. He feels there has been a lack of communication between the committees, adding he has not heard discussion of what did not work with the previous process and what will better serve the topic and the people employed to carry out the work.

O'Brien said the intent is not to leave the P&Z Committee out, but to have more people involved to make a better plan. B. Jacowski said one of the reasons for the document is to work toward better communication and a better working relationship between committees.

Schuler said adding committees to change how things are adopted can be done through a resolution, but he feels there has not been a lot of thought given previously so staff can understand the proper flow of work. He believes the committees should have had that discussion up front. Moving forward, he suggests the three committees meet together and talk about what it means to have a GMP, the types of issues that are relevant to County Board Supervisors, and give input on what they believe needs to be in the GMP. Schuler noted there are a lot of topics relating to groundwater that are regulated by other entities. What control and impact the County Board of Supervisors can have must be determined to create a plan that achieves the desired level of groundwater sustainability.

Haga asked how often the GMP is updated. Schuler said the original plan was adopted in 1988, and updated in 2004. For this GMP update, Schuler believes having Supervisors weigh in and talk through the main concerns for everyone involved can result in an agreeable plan. A plan should be the shortest step. The basic facts must be understood, come to conclusions, create policies, and then implement the plan. Haga said the committees want to make sure they have a seat at the table and Schuler agreed.

Schuler expressed disappointment in the lack of understanding in terms of overall P&Z Department operations. He noted there is a document, which is provided to P&Z Committee members, serving as an operations manual for how department business is conducted. He believes the P&Z Department has a good setup in place to achieve everything the committees want to achieve. In the future, he asked for closer cooperation and reaching out to other committees with examples of what needs improvement or should be reassigned.

B. Jacowski said a lot of things have changed since the original GMP was adopted. The focus has changed over the years. There is a need to be concerned about quality as well as quantity, and believes the resolutions are a good place to start the change. Schuler said the committees are

posing solutions to problems that were never identified and discussed. He stated he is not speaking against the resolutions, he would like more communication.

O'Brien called for a vote from the Ag/Ext Committee. All in favor, none opposed. B. Jacowski called for a vote from the LCC. All in favor, none opposed. The changes were made to the resolution and signed by both committees.

3. Adjournment

Motion by B. Jacowski, second by M. Jacowski to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved by LWCC at August 4, 2015 Land and Water Conservation Committee meeting.

/Barry Jacowski/  
Barry Jacowski, LWCC Chair

Excused  
Bo DeDeker, LWCC Secretary

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Conference Rooms 1 & 2, County Annex  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
August 4, 2015

Members present: Roger Bacon, Allen Haga, Jr., Barry Jacowski, Dale O'Brien, Jerry Walters

Member excused: Bo DeDeker

Others present: Roy Diver, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Jeff Schuler, Planning and Zoning Department Director; Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land and Water Conservation Division; O. Philip Idsvoog, County Board of Supervisors Chair; Patty Dreier, County Executive, Christine Neidlein, Maija Stumbris.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair B. Jacowski. B. Jacowski called a recess. Meeting reconvened at 7:05 p.m.

B. Jacowski read the Public Notice statement: Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order. Idsvoog requested to speak under agenda item #3. Schuler requested to speak under agenda item #7.

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of July 7 and July 13, 2015 LCC Meetings and July 13, 2015 Joint LCC/Agriculture and Extension Education Committee Meetings.

Motion by O'Brien, second by Haga to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Correspondence

Idsvoog stated he and Schuler previously discussed Schuler's memo, included in members' packets, concerning the three committees', Planning and Zoning (P&Z), Land and Water Conservation (LWCC), and Agriculture and Extension Education (Ag/Ext/Ed), involvement in updating the Groundwater Management Plan (GMP). He stressed the importance for members to read the GMP prior to moving forward. He briefly reviewed the history of the GMP, adopted in 1988 and updated in 2004. He feels it is important to identify sources to provide input, and for the Water Resources Specialist (WRS) to engage the Groundwater Citizens Advisory Committee (GCAC), especially the Technical Subcommittee. Idsvoog stressed the importance of involving Corporation Counsel's office to identify statutorily what the County is able to do and then communicate findings to the public through the media. He suggested the committees decide what needs to be done in the plan, concentrate on the things that can be accomplished, and determine a timeline. He believes having the three committees weighing in on the GMP update is positive.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Vouchers, purchases, and procurement card charges were reviewed.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Diver distributed and reviewed his written report. He noted 13 contracts were funded through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). Practices are listed in the report. One Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) application was approved. Six 2011 contracts will be renewed for five years. The Soil Conservationist, Lisa Zamzow, started in May. Diver stated their new office location is easily accessed by farmers. He offered additional information on upcoming events – Cranberry Summer Field Day and Trade Show on August 5, and the NRCS WI Area 2 Soil

Health Field Day in Winnebago County on September 1 and 2. There was discussion on honey bee pollinator contracts. Diver said native prairie pollinator habitat plantings may consist of a mix of forbs and wildflowers, with varying blooming times through spring, mid-summer and later, which create good habitat and food sources for pollinators. He explained there is a special sign up promoted for honey bees.

#### 6. Committee Representative Reports

- a. Lakes Management District - Walters – No report.
- b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) - Bacon/Haga-Alternate – No report.
- c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Assn (NCLWCA) - B. Jacowski/DeDeker-Alternate – Minutes from the previous meeting and the agenda for the August 20 summer tour and meeting were passed around.
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership Group (CWWP) - B. Jacowski/Walters-Alternate – The next meeting is August 6 at 9:00 a.m.
- e. Portage County Drainage District - O'Brien/Bacon-Alternate – No report.
- f. Mill Creek Watershed - O'Brien/DeDeker-Alternate – Bradley reported between 60 and 70 people turned out each day at John Eron's farm for the Forage Council meeting on July 29 and the tour on July 30. There was discussion on Eron's use of irrigating ponds.
- g. Little Plover River (LPR) - Haga/Walters-Alternate – The next meeting is Tuesday, August 11.
- h. Farmland Preservation Ad-Hoc Committee – B. Jacowski/O'Brien – B. Jacowski reported there have been no meetings; however P&Z staff vacancies have been filled. The Farmland Preservation (FP) Plan must be certified by the State before December 31, 2015. Schuler explained maps with potential FP areas, allowing landowners to be eligible for tax credits, will be presented to the towns for their input. General policies and conclusions, based on background information, have been put together. He noted towns have the choice to participate.

#### 7. Discussion/Possible Action – County Executive Veto of Resolution 146-2014-2016 RE: Designating the Land and Water Conservation Committee as the Legislative Oversight Committee for the Portage County Water Resource Specialist Position and Water Quality Program and Concurrently Therefore Transferring the Reporting Chain From the Planning and Zoning Director to the County Conservationist

County Executive Dreier explained she vetoed the resolution in the interest of taking a step back and looking at future direction. Having discussions is important to ensure successful outcomes for staff, clear lines of oversight, reporting, and direction. There are different sets of skills and functions for which people are hired. Position descriptions describe those skills, and people are placed into positions to match those skills and functions. She noted the WRS is more of a peer with the County Conservationist. She pointed out that staff members may be directed to attend committee meetings to provide advice, perspective, and as a resource. She suggested making it part of the responsibility for the WRS to be present regularly at meetings and to interact with the LWCC. She stated one of the biggest reasons for having a WRS in Portage County is related to the planning aspect of the whole county. That is the kind of work the WRS has been hired to help lead, with the assistance of, and supervision through the Assistant Director and Director of the P&Z Department. She supports widening the circle for additional planning from the other committees related to groundwater, but recommends not changing the reporting chain. The WRS was hired and is paid at a certain level. The County Conservationist has different responsibilities. She believes the planning functions need to be supervised by planners, which is where the WRS position currently lies in the structure of the organization.

Haga said one of the key components that County Executive Dreier did not mention is education. He feels strongly that having the WRS present at LWCC meetings, communication and interaction with her, is essential. The information and education element is an important tool for pulling resources

together, having everybody moving in the same general direction, and making sure information is shared.

O'Brien agreed that education is very important, which is a reason for having the Ag/Ext/Ed Committee involved. The UW-Extension office has resources and staff to help dispense educational information. Regarding the chain of command, with the WRS position being refilled, O'Brien felt the time was right to get the WRS involved with the right committees. In hindsight, he said there should have been more interaction with the P&Z Committee.

Walters said he has read the GMP. When working on the plan revision, he suggests having at least two representatives from the P&Z, LWCC, Ag & Extension, and GCAC, with the WRS as an advisor. This structure brings all of the committees together, with two members reporting progress and their perspectives back to their respective committees. He feels having the WRS attend LWCC meetings is very important, but supervision should be through the Planning section.

Schuler referred to his memo, included in members' packets. The bottom line is that the GMP revision must be done. Moving forward, committees must meet and express opinions about what needs to be in the plan, understand what should and shouldn't be in the plan, what types of issues need to be covered, and start to work on it. Regarding the resolution, Schuler said realigning the WRS reporting structure would create a ripple in how the work is done in the department. He previously laid out various things that would need to be realigned in the department to have the change make sense. It could be doable, and Schuler said he could support the change, but it doesn't make the greatest sense because of the planning aspect. The WRS deals with more of a systems approach, whereas the LWCD activities are generally small group/individual landowner directed. Schuler said long range planning for the County is the statutory function of the P&Z Committee. He believes it makes the best sense to leave the reporting structure the way it is now. He noted the resolution stemmed from wanting the WRS to attend LWCC meetings to share and receive information. Schuler said he can require the WRS to have regular meetings with the LWCC, which doesn't require a resolution or a change in the reporting structure. One thing learned from the intent of the resolution, and the discussion about how to do the groundwater planning that led to the three committee approach, is there needs to be more sharing of information and coordination between committees. Groundwater issues span across a lot of different committees. Schuler said supervisors, staff, and leadership need to organize, make sure everyone's voice is heard, and come up with a strong plan based on all of those voices.

Walters reiterated he feels strongly that the GCAC is included with the three committees, as they were charged with developing the original plan. While reading the current plan, he said there are obvious sides and it is clear whose interests were addressed.

B. Jacowski feels a minimum of two representatives from each committee should take part in the plan revision process, but participation by anyone interested should be encouraged.

Schuler suggested a joint meeting for all committees to review the 2004 GMP, determine steps to move forward, and to set up a committee structure. At the first meeting, everyone will be encouraged to share their concerns about the current plan and important things to cover in the plan revision. Staff will assist to make sense of the numbers and logistics.

B. Jacowski feels the issue is where the WRS position currently lies. The County Board passed a resolution, which was vetoed by County Executive Dreier. He believes it is a good idea, with a new WRS, for the oversight committee to be LWCC. He asked LWCC members their opinions on pursuing a veto override.

O'Brien added that the P&Z Department was shorthanded when the resolution was drafted and until the department was staffed fully, it was felt the County Conservationist could direct the WRS, because everything that goes through the LWCD eventually goes through the P&Z in the reporting chain.

Haga asked if there is a timeline for a decision regarding responding to the veto. County Executive Dreier consulted with Assistant Corporation Counsel, David Hickethier, who indicated the statutes are vague. The matter will be investigated.

B. Jacowski asked LWCC members for direction to move forward with an override, or let the veto stand. Schuler restated a reason for the resolution was the LWCC felt there was a lack of service from the WRS. If the LWCC is not satisfied after having the WRS provide reports at meetings, Schuler suggested another resolution could be forwarded in the future. Walters said he supports the veto, believing doing otherwise is counterproductive for the county as a whole and all four committees in the interest of updating the GMP.

Motion by Walters, second by Haga to support the veto and keep the Water Resource Specialist under the Planning reporting chain and move forward with a productive Groundwater Management Plan. B. Jacowski said there is no deadline for completing the GMP. Walters feels there is urgency in updating the current plan, which he believes is narrow and tunneled. Haga suggested continuing with the current reporting chain at this time, and if the results are not satisfactory, reintroducing a thoughtful plan for reorganization. Schuler will direct the WRS to attend LWCC meetings. Motion carried, Walters, Haga, Bacon in favor, O'Brien, B. Jacowski opposed.

#### 8. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – No report.

b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts – No contracts presented.

#### 9. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be a joint meeting on Wednesday, August 26 at 5:00 p.m. with the P&Z, Ag/Ext/Ed, and LWCC. An LWCC meeting will follow adjournment of the joint meeting.

#### 10. Adjournment

Motion by O'Brien, second by Bacon to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at August 26, 2015 LWCC meeting.

/Barry Jacowski/  
Barry Jacowski, Chair

/Excused/  
Bo DeDeker, Secretary

MINUTES  
JOINT MEETING OF THE PORTAGE COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING  
AND  
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEES  
August 26, 2015

Call to Order

Chair Potocki called the meeting of the Portage County Planning and Zoning (P&Z) and Land and Water Conservation (LWCC) Committees to order at 5:04 p.m. in Conference Room 1 of the County Annex.

Roll Call

P&Z Members present: B. Jacowski, Raikowski, Potocki, Flood, and Walters

LWCC Members present: B. Jacowski, Bacon, O'Brien, and Haga. Excused: DeDeker

Staff present: Johnson, Bowers, Cummings, Schuler, McNelly, Bradley, Benedict, and Goffin, P&Z Department

Others Present

Joe Glodowski – Portage County Surveyor, O. Philip Idsvoog – Portage County Board Chair, Jeanne Dodge – Portage County Board Supervisor

**BUSINESS MEETING:**

1. Members of the Public Who Wish to Address the Committee on Specific Agenda Items Must Register Their Request at This Time, With Such Comments Subject to the Reasonable Control of the Committee Chair as Set Forth in Robert's Rules of Order

No one registered to speak.

2. Discussion / Possible Action – Resolution for Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership Group 2015 Budget Adjustment

Bradley stated the Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership Group (CWWP) had a great year, and would like to purchase a new 1 ton king cab pick-up truck. They currently have a 2009 F250 pick-up truck with about 60,000 miles, and that only has an extended cab, and with a crew of 5 it was pretty cramped. This will come out of the equipment reserve account which has approximately \$50,000 currently in it; we have not calculated the profit from this year as of yet, but it will be approximately \$35,000. A new truck will cost about \$40,000, and we will get about \$15,000 from the 2009 F250 on trade unless Portage County Purchasing auctions it off for more. Purchasing can also save us \$10,000 by using their fleet rate; therefore, we are looking at using \$20,000 out of the equipment reserve account. The revised resolution stated we are not to exceed \$40,000. O'Brien asked if other counties that CWWP works in helps contribute to this. Bradley replied no, because it is a self-sustained Portage County Project. All the revenue that is generated from windbreak sales funds the program so there is no need for other counties to pay for anything; not a levy item. Potocki asked what we do for other counties. Bradley replied if someone in another county wants to do a windbreak, Shannon Rohde works with the landowner and Land and Water Conservation Division to get cost sharing, typically 70% for a windbreak, and then Shannon plants the windbreak for the landowner; in the end the landowner owes 30%. 100% of the sale of windbreaks comes back to the project held in Portage County. B. Jacowski stated Shannon has done work from Antigo to Madison, and this new truck will help with pulling the trailer that has the tractor and supplies.

Flood moved to approve the budget adjustment for the Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership Group; seconded by B. Jacowski. Motion passed by voice vote, 5-0 for P&Z Committee.

Haga moved to approve the budget adjustment for the Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership Group; seconded by O'Brien. Motion passed by voice vote, 5-0 for LWCC.

3. Discussion / Review – 2015 Projected and 2016 Proposed Planning and Zoning Department Budget

Bradley read budget figures for LWCC (budget report on file). Walters asked why filing/recording fees went down. Bradley replied that happens when we do a cost share agreement with a landowner and it has to be recorded. We base it off the current year's expense, and it went down in 2015.

Potocki stated he is not happy with the new format of the budget report; hard to find the revenues. Cummings replied the revenues are before the expenses in each section of the budget.

Schuler stated the County Executive gives each department their target allocation for the year; tax levy she feels

they should operate with. Last year's budget was \$1.024833 million, and this year's challenge was to reduce that amount by \$80,000. Schuler apologized for not being able to create an excel sheet that is easier to read the budget, and stated hopefully he will be able to translate the new system into a legible excel document. Schuler stated 90% of our operations are employee expenses. The Land and Water Conservation Division brings in a lot of money from the State specifically set aside for Land Conservation operations, so they offset a large amount of their costs in the department; other than that we rely on revenues we can generate such as zoning and sanitary permits, onsite inspections, meeting fees, and map sales. As technology progresses and maps become available online we have less map sales every year. Therefore, we have a limited amount of options to generate more money to offset our costs. Schuler stated he looked at the overall Department operations and personnel, and seeing as how three people have onsite waste review/assessment experience, eliminating one of those positions seemed like the only choice. Two Assistant Zoning Administrators have onsite waste certification, and therefore, we will be eliminating the Onsite Waste Specialist position, and retooling the existing employees we have to make sure those duties are completely covered. This was a very painful and difficult process, and the only way we could maintain all of the functions we have while reducing our levy impact. B. Jacowski asked the seniority of the three individuals with the same credentials. Schuler replied there is no seniority system in the County; the individual's position that is being eliminated happens to be the one that has worked for the County the longest. Potocki asked how much money will be dropped by eliminating the Onsite Waste Specialist position. Schuler replied by removing that position it covered the amount we had to reduce our budget by. We came in with the current figures being slightly under allocation by approximately \$1,000. Potocki asked if it will be workable. Schuler replied it has to be, and we will have to have a reassessment of the zoning section functions. Schuler stated Assistant Director Bowers has a strong history as a Zoning Program Administrator; therefore, the distribution of our duties will be easier to handle. There will be a lot of changes of how we do things; we will probably bring back a list of our tasks, and how we approach them with the new set-up. You will find we will be doing the same thing, just a little differently and perhaps more efficiently. Walters asked with redistribution of tasks and adding more work, did you pass on the 12% increase on healthcare to the employees as well. Schuler replied all of those numbers were taken into account by Finance and the County Executive as we got our allocations. Walters stated there was no adjustment so that we can help the employees with the increases; therefore, they are going to make less money for the 7<sup>th</sup> year in a row. Schuler replied yes. Walters stated we are cutting people, adding duties, and still expecting them to take home less than what they did last year, and for the last 7 years. Not only are they going to take less home, they will have higher deductibles. Schuler stated there may be things we have to put at a lower priority, and it may come down to telling a town official we will be doing zoning enforcement on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of every month instead of a daily basis. Walters asked what we are doing to try and keep employees here; people came to the County for good benefits, and now we are taking that away from them along with wages. Walters stated he understands the levy is a levy, but there has to be some way to lessen some of this pressure on the employees. Every time we lose an employee we lose a piece of history that we will never get back. Schuler stated he encourages leadership to look at the future of service provision for the County then employees can plan accordingly; this is a County Board and County Executive discussion. B. Jacowski asked if the Onsite Waste Specialist has any cross training. Schuler replied no, it is a standalone position. Schuler stated if it were not for the budget, we would gladly keep that position; he does great work and is a very good person, he will be missed. B. Jacowski stated therefore, the other two positions will be pulled from their duties to complete the onsite waste duties. Schuler replied we will have to look at what we will benefit from in terms of new training, new software; this gives us a new opportunity to assess how we perform these functions. It is our job to be as innovative as we can, because you cannot just fill the bucket with more items. B. Jacowski stated he realizes he is asking Schuler to speculate, but he assumes this will delay a building project if the sanitary permit cannot be addressed quickly due to staff shortage. Schuler stated we will work with the plumbers, designers, and soil testers to make them aware of our schedule, and what they need to do in order to work with us to have a timely application. B. Jacowski stated we as a County live on taxable improvements, and every time a project is delayed it hurts us.

Potocki noted for the record that the 2016 proposed P&Z Department Budget has been reviewed.

#### 4. Discussion / Review – 2015 Projected and 2016 Proposed County Surveyor Budget

Glodowski stated his revenue is 25 cents a copy when surveyors come into the office; this has been dropping as more information becomes available online. Professional services dropped from \$12,200 to \$11,440; this includes projects for Global Positioning System (GPS) on section corners. Glodowski stated he maintained 56 corners in 2015, and would hate to see that number go down in 2016. The total budget for 2016 is \$31,390; which is \$334 less than 2015. B. Jacowski asked if Glodowski sees the revenue dropping more as technology progresses, and people can get things online. Glodowski replied yes. Flood stated Glodowski maintained 56 corners in 2015, and on the handout it says 65. Glodowski stated there were 65 corners checked by GPS; total number of corners in the County is 1,289 shot by GPS. B. Jacowski asked at the current rate, how long would it take for all the corners to be shot. Glodowski replied probably 30+ years; corners are currently \$180 a piece, and he is hoping to receive some grant

money to assist in the cost. Flood asked if there are original corner marker stones in place. Glodowski stated some were moved and replaced with cast iron by the previous County Surveyor; Glodowski stated he leaves the original stone.

Potocki noted for the record that the 2016 proposed County Surveyor budget has been reviewed.

5. Correspondence

None

6. Department Report

None

7. Next Meeting Date

The next P&Z Committee meeting date is tentatively set for Thursday, September 24, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. in Conference Rooms 1 and 2 of the County Annex.

8. Adjournment

B. Jacowski moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Walters, which passed by voice vote, 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amy Goffin, Recording Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stan Potocki, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

DRAFT

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
 Conference Room 1 & 2, County Annex  
 Stevens Point, WI 54481  
 August 26, 2015

Members present: Roger Bacon, Barry Jacowski, Dale O'Brien, Jerry Walters

Members excused: Bo DeDeker, Allen Haga, Jr.

Others present: Barry Benson, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services; Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land and Water Conservation Division.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair B. Jacowski.

B. Jacowski read the Public Notice statement: Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order.

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of August 4, 2015

Motion by O'Brien, second by Bacon to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Correspondence

Bradley referred to the budget report given at the previous joint meeting with the Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Committee, indicating an overall increase in the DATCP staffing and cost share grants for 2016. Other than increases to salaries and fringe benefits, other expense items basically remain the same as the 2015 budget.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Vouchers, purchases, and procurement card charges were reviewed.

6. Committee Representative Reports

- a. Lakes Management District - Walters – No report.
- b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) - Bacon/Haga-Alternate – Bradley reported RC&D is proposing increasing the annual membership dues from \$350 to \$1900. Bradley responded to Amy Thorstenson, RC&D Executive Director, that Portage County does not have funds in the budget to pay the increased amount. The topic will be discussed at the September RC&D meeting.
- c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Assn (NCLWCA) - B. Jacowski/DeDeker-Alternate – No report.
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership Group (CWWP) - B. Jacowski/Walters-Alternate – Funding was approved for a new truck at the joint P&Z Committee meeting. Bradley noted Shannon Rohde, Project Manager, will attend the October meeting.
- e. Portage County Drainage District - O'Brien/Bacon-Alternate – No report.
- f. Mill Creek Watershed - O'Brien/DeDeker-Alternate – No report.
- g. Little Plover River (LPR) - Haga/Walters-Alternate – B. Jacowski and O'Brien attended the meeting on August 11. Ken Bradbury gave a good presentation. Bradley reported the LPR Work Group plans to form a subcommittee, comprised of interested individuals, to suggest ideas and scenarios for Bradbury to input into the model and show results. Bradley will send information to Walters and O'Brien regarding the subcommittee.
- h. Farmland Preservation Ad-Hoc Committee – Jacowski/O'Brien – No report.

6. Discussion/Possible Action – Wildlife Damage Update

Benson reported wolf and bear issues have been quiet in comparison to last year. Some bears were reported near Bancroft in the spring, and a bear that was disturbing bee hives was trapped near Rosholt. He has not received any wolf complaints or sightings.

7. Discussion/Possible Action – Wildlife Damage Venison Donation Program

Benson said a response to the email sent to counties regarding participating in the venison donation program will suffice. Hunters wanting to donate can drop deer off at People's Meat Market, the only processor for Portage County. Benson doesn't believe a budget adjustment is necessary. Beginning in January, DNR is considering year round venison donation for those that have been issued ag tags. The venison is distributed to food pantries.

#### 8. Discussion/Possible Action – Conservation Poster and Speaking Contests

Benedict stated the local contests would take place at the February 2016 LWCC meeting and the area contest on February 12. Motion by O'Brien, second by Bacon to approve holding Conservation Poster and Speaking contests. Motion carried by voice vote.

#### 9. Discussion/Possible Action – Authorization to Apply for Izaak Walton League Grant for Youth Education Programs

Benedict requested authorization to submit grant applications to the Izaak Walton League as follows: \$200 for scholarships for each conservation camp, and \$200 for poster and speaking contest expenses. Motion by Walters, second by O'Brien to approve applying for the grants. Motion carried by voice vote.

#### 10. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – Bradley reported on work being done at the Eron Beef farm in the Town of Stockton. Eron is working to get the animals under confinement in a barn with a manure pit below. Two barns have been constructed. Bradley explained several ponds resulted from the concentration of cattle compacting the soil. Research has shown that hoof compaction can seal where water ponds, minimizing nitrate leaching. When abandoning the lots, Eron pumped the water from the ponds, applying to his corn crops, and stockpiled the remaining manure for land spreading when temperatures drop below 50 degrees. Bradley commended Eron, adding the DNR has been made aware of his efforts. Bradley added Eron is putting in a feed pad, using foundry sand as a base. A private engineer is designing the plan, with LWCD providing construction inspection this fall.

b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts – Bradley reported Tony Kostuch is abandoning a concrete manure pit. Estimated cost is \$7,000, with Kostuch receiving 70% cost sharing. Bradley explained the project. Motion by O'Brien, second by Bacon to approve cost sharing not to exceed \$7,000. Motion carried by voice vote.

#### 11. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for October 6 at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Rooms 1 and 2, County Annex.

#### 12. Adjournment

Motion by O'Brien, second by Walters to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/  
Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at October 6, 2015 Land and Water Conservation Committee meeting.

/Barry Jacowski/  
Barry Jacowski, Chair

/Bo DeDeker/  
Bo DeDeker, Secretary

MINUTES  
JOINT MEETING OF THE PORTAGE COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING,  
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEES,  
AGRICULTURE AND EXTENSION EDUCATION,  
AND GROUNDWATER CITIZENS ADVOSRY COMMITTEES  
August 26, 2015

Call to Order

Chair Potocki called the meeting of the Portage County Planning and Zoning (P&Z), Land and Water Conservation (LWCC), Agriculture and Extension Education (Ag/Ext), and Groundwater Citizens Advisory (GCAC) Committees to order at 5:45 p.m. in Conference Rooms 1 & 2 of the County Annex.

Roll Call

P&Z Members present: B. Jacowski, Raikowski, Potocki, Flood, and Walters

LWCC Members present: B. Jacowski, Bacon, Haga, and O'Brien. Excused: DeDeker

Ag/Ext Members present: Gussel, B. Jacowski, M. Jacowski, O'Brien, and Raikowski

GCAC Members present: Burns, Zimmerman, McKee, Burress, Isherwood, Warzynski, Hansen, Hinrichs, Neidlein, and Jakubek. Excused: Mallek

Staff present: Creighton, Nelson, Sandwick, Johnson, Bowers, Schuler, McNelly, Bradley, Benedict, and Goffin, P&Z Department

Others Present

O. Philip Idsvoog – Portage County Board Chair, Jeanne Dodge – Portage County Board Supervisor, Jim Gifford – Portage County Board Supervisor, Barb Gifford, Tim Karcheski, Mike Langlois, Matt Saloun, Jerry Kirschling, Rita Kirschling, Michele Bjella, Jim Pollock, Maija Stumbris, and Katrina Shankland –71<sup>st</sup> Assembly District

**BUSINESS MEETING:**

1. Members of the Public Who Wish to Address the Committee on Specific Agenda Items Must Register Their Request at This Time, With Such Comments Subject to the Reasonable Control of the Committee Chair as Set Forth in Robert's Rules of Order

No one registered to speak.

2. Discussion / Possible Action – Planning Process to Update the 2004 Portage County Groundwater Management Plan

Schuler stated what we are trying to do today is understand what is going on with the previous groundwater planning, and to figure out the best process for moving forward. McNelly introduced herself as the new Water Resource Specialist, and stated she came from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. Schuler asked all members and staff present to introduce themselves, what committee they are on, and how long they have been on the committee.

Schuler stated the P&Z Department prospective of the Groundwater Management Plan from 1988 to 2004 is that it is a good technical document, and there is a lot of in depth descriptions on certain aspects of issues related to the groundwater resource; but not a lot of change in content from the 1988 plan to the 2004 plan. There was no discussion of quantity in the 1988 plan and a small reference in the 2004 plan. The one thing we all recognize is there needs to be a more simplified discussion of how water works in the County in both quantity and quality. One question raised is how the Groundwater Management Plan fits in with the rest of the long range planning the County does. Schuler stated to keep in mind that we can look at things in new ways in terms of plan structure, conclusions, and the resource of groundwater. McNelly stated we are looking at a simplified discussion on water in the County, and we really want people who use this plan to understand what groundwater looks like, how it is being used, who uses it, and what are the issues we are facing. Our situation today is very different from 2004 which makes this the perfect time to look at reevaluating the Groundwater Management Plan. McNelly encourages members to not only look at the current groundwater situation, but the future of groundwater as well; what do we want this resource to look like in the future, and how we can work towards it with this plan.

Schuler asked for committee members to share their thoughts on the 2004 Groundwater Management Plan. Walters stated he was President of the Village of Whiting and that is how he got involved in this. Walters stated after reading the 2004 plan he realized there are a lot of specific references (example: nitrates in Whiting well), but we need to do better than that. Walters would like to see the Water Resource Specialist be an advisor to a continuous group that will draw information from GCAC, LWCC, P&Z, and Ag/Ext regarding all municipalities' water quality and quantity. Walters feels the Wellhead Protection Plan needs to be broadened Countywide. Walters stated we need to have a variety of people's input; such as potato/vegetable growers, manufacturers, and municipalities. We need a good collective group with possibly 2 individuals from each committee as well.

Schuler passed out an outline of what he planned to cover. B. Jacowski stated we need to find out statutorily what the County can regulate so when we work through the plan we do not waste time on what we cannot regulate. Schuler stated that is something that will be in the initial draft. Schuler asked Zimmerman his prospective of how effective the

plan has been since he was there when the plan was created. Zimmerman stated a lot of focus was on groundwater, and not by the County itself; some of which is political and/or monetary. Zimmerman stated we talk around issues instead of finding resolutions; what is the County's resolution to spend money to alleviate these problems, or establish whose problems they truly are (town, individual, farmers, etc.). Schuler replied the one thing missing is the County Boards perspective/discussion on those topics. Hinrichs stated the Groundwater Management Plan Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) spent 2 years rewriting sections of the plan, from 2011 to 2013, and asked what happened to those changes. Schuler replied the process was started, and they tried to update the 2004 plan to make it more user friendly, and then there were changes to staff which stalled this project. Over the last 2 years there has been an amazing increase in discussion on groundwater quantity and quality, along with staffing changes; therefore, we need to figure out what we want in the plan. Burns asked if we can still use what was drafted in 2013. McNelly replied yes; the 2013 draft is still relevant, and she has reached out to some members of TAC for their opinions. Potocki stated Schuler did a great job outlining the steps; and stated he would like to see a sub-committee created from current committee members, farmers, and staff. Potocki asked if McNelly would be available to attend all committees as needed to keep everyone informed. Schuler replied yes.

Schuler stated the Groundwater Management Plan was originally passed as a standalone document, and we plan to incorporate it into the County Comprehensive Plan so that it has the weight of the document to support its inclusions and policies. The County Comprehensive Plan is the State statute designated document where you put what you think on paper. The document as it exists has a lot of parallel information that was included in the Groundwater Management Plan; therefore, part of the process would be to strip it down and make it nicer. Staff will assist with correcting the format, but it will still accomplish everything the previous document did. Burns stated the initial goal was to incorporate the Groundwater Management Plan into the County Comprehensive Plan.

Schuler stated we need to have a process that takes advantage of GCAC, is open to the public, includes public opinion/questions, and then have a way for the committees responsible to take action. GCAC was put in place to generate ideas, and gather as many issues as possible. Staff will work with GCAC to create an initial draft and once finalized, the preliminary recommendation gets passed onto the committees that will meet jointly for official supervisor review for action to recommend to County Board. Once staff puts together the draft based off of GCAC's recommendations/input there should be an open house/public event to share with the public for questions and comments; then staff will incorporate public comments into the preliminary draft.

Potocki asked if there were any committee members present that were for or against incorporating the Groundwater Management Plan into the County Comprehensive Plan. Burress stated incorporation is a great idea, but he feels this will marginalize GCAC, and asked if it was good or bad and if GCAC will still continue. Schuler replied that is a good question; we need to talk with GCAC and validate what their function is, and establish bylaws. Schuler stated in the past there had been a lack of connection between GCAC and P&Z, and now LWCC. We need to find a way to make GCAC more aware of their relevance as a committee, and much more assured of where their conclusions and comments will go. B. Jacowski stated GCAC is the backbone of the Groundwater Management Plan; the work that has been done over the years is invaluable. Schuler stated one of the good outcomes he sees from this update process, is that the entire County Board is made aware of GCAC, and how valuable they are to this plan. Hinrichs asked if there is someone available to coordinate between GCAC and P&Z. Walters replied we finally have a person that is responsible for reporting to all of the committees for updates and input, and that will help move the County forward. Burns stated there has been a lot of information provided at GCAC meetings that you cannot get elsewhere. B. Jacowski stated one reason they felt Ag/Ext should be included was because some of the best work done on groundwater has been done by Ag/Ext at the State level; they're good educators as well.

Schuler stated steps 1-6 in the outline would be an efficient way to take advantage of the great work GCAC can do to get the public involved to establish a complete product to the committees for discussion. Schuler reminded everyone that GCAC meetings are open to the public, and everyone is welcome to attend, and take part in the creation process. We really feel that GCAC's role is to complete the first draft of the Groundwater Management Plan, and bring their complete draft to committees jointly for consideration. Potocki asked how we get the information out to the citizens of Portage County. Neidlein stated the journal does have a section that they post the committee meeting date, time, and brief description. Schuler stated the Portage County website is in transition, and that is the ideal place for it to be posted. We will figure out a way to post drafts that allow for comments from the public. Potocki stated we should be able to get our agenda in the Buyers Guide, Gazette, and/or City Times. Walters stated GCAC is the correct place for this discussion/plan to start, and asked if the P&Z, LWCC, and Ag/Ext Committees can be given updates after GCAC meetings. Schuler replied yes; it will be a standing agenda item. B. Jacowski asked if State Statutes have been shared with GCAC members. Burns replied no; in 2004 plan it stated what the Department of Natural Resources/State's authority was. Schuler stated that has changed over the last few years, but we will get that information. Part of the discussion is the best way to tell the story of groundwater, what the natural/manmade impacts are to the resource, and all the different types of uses to come to a general conclusion about what the resource means to the County, and what our needs are to make it sustainable. B. Jacowski stated the scientific aspect of the plan has not changed since 2013, and asked if that work has already been done. McNelly replied yes, but some changes have been made. McNelly

stated the 2013 draft spoke about what the groundwater in Portage County looked like, and now we need to address the issues. Schuler stated staff will bring sections of the 2013 document for revision/comment. It will tell you what you think is important; the trends, conditions, and situations that are positive or negative as being the primary concerns about the resource. Based on what you identify as issues or concerns, then you will think about recommendations for improvement. Once you understand what you are looking at, then you can draw conclusions, and discuss what you can do to affect that. Schuler stated our recommendation is to follow the 6 steps from the outline, and have staff work with GCAC at their next meeting in October.

Potocki asked if there were any further questions/comments. Kirschling stated he agrees with needing to know where the State stands and where the County can step in. We need to look at what people have invested on their properties, or what they plan on doing. We need to have scientific evidence to support everything you are doing so that it can be defended in a court of law. Stumbris stated in regards to #4 in the outline; she believes GCAC should be involved in the public meeting and presentation. Schuler replied all committees would be encouraged to be present for comments and questions.

Walters moved to approve the 6 step planning outline for updating the Groundwater Management Plan; seconded by Raikowski. Motion passed by voice vote, 5-0 for P&Z Committee.

O'Brien moved to approve the 6 step planning outline for updating the Groundwater Management Plan; seconded by Bacon. Motion passed by voice vote, 5-0 for LWCC.

B. Jacowski moved to approve the 6 planning step outline for updating the Groundwater Management Plan; seconded by Gussel. Motion passed by voice vote, 5-0 for Ag/Ext Committee.

Hinrichs moved to approve the 6 step planning outline for updating the Groundwater Management Plan; seconded by McKee. Motion passed by voice vote for GCAC.

### 3. Correspondence

None

### 4. Department Report

None

### 5. Next Meeting Date

The next GCAC meeting date is tentatively set for Thursday, October 15, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Rooms 1 and 2 of the County Annex.

B. Jacowski stated staff and supervisors are available for questions/concerns, and encouraged people to call.

### 6. Adjournment

B. Jacowski moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by O'Brien, motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Goffin, Recording Secretary                      Barry Jacowski, P&Z Vice Chair      10/27/2015

Barry Jacowski, LWCC Chair                      Bo DeDeker, LWCC Secretary      11/3/2015

Dale O'Brien, Ag/Ext Chair                      11/5/2015

Amy Goffin, Recording Secretary                      Ed Burns, GCAC Chair                      10/15/2015

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Conference Room 1&2, County Annex  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
October 6, 2015

Members present: Roger Bacon, Bo DeDeker, Allen Haga, Jr., Barry Jacowski, Jerry Walters

Members excused: Dale O'Brien

Others present: Barry Benson, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services; Shannon Rohde, Project Manager, Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership (CWWP) Group, Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land and Water Conservation Division; Wendy and Samantha Carlson.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair B. Jacowski.

B. Jacowski read the Public Notice statement: Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order. Samantha Carlson registered to speak.

Agenda Item #6 was moved up in the agenda.

6. Conservation Camp Report

Samantha Carlson presented a report on Sand Lake Conservation Camp in Marinette County, which she attended in June. Members thanked Samantha for her report.

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of August 26, 2015 and Joint Meeting – Planning and Zoning and Land and Water Conservation Committees

Motion by Walters, second by Bacon to approve both sets of minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Correspondence

As requested by the LWCC, Bradley read the letter sent to all manure pit landowners regarding safety measures. Bradley received a letter from the Town of New Hope regarding discontinuation of Oak Lane. A public hearing will be held by the Town on October 21. B. Jacowski asked Bradley to contact adjacent landowners, and relay any opposition to him. Benedict referred to the October DATCP report, included in members' packets. On page 1 under the Farmland Preservation heading, in the second bullet, the number of AEAs should be 31, not 313.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Bradley stated Planning and Zoning is the official governing committee overseeing department expenditures. LWCC members expressed that they wish to continue to receive reports as in the past.

5. Committee Representative Reports

- a. Lakes Management District - Walters – No report.
- b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) - Bacon/Haga-Alternate – Bacon was unable to attend the September 17 meeting.

- c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Assn (NCLWCA) - B. Jacowski/DeDeker-Alternate – No report.
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership Group (CWWP) - B. Jacowski/Walters-Alternate – Rohde reported 2015 was extremely busy. He explained the number of miles of windbreak installations needed to break even is approximately 14.3; however, CWWP's goal is to install 15.5 miles. He reported 115,530 linear feet, or 21.9 miles were installed in 2015, the second most since 30.4 miles were installed in 2004, Rohde's second season with the CWWP. He noted they did plantings near Manawa - 2,750 trees, and Hancock - 500 trees. No fabric or maintenance was provided for these plantings. The 21.9 miles installed receive three years of maintenance – hand weeding, mowing, and replacing missing plants. Along with Field Supervisor Stan Ewan, Rohde stated they evaluated all of the projects, measuring average heights, counting dead/missing plants, noting deer damage, etc. The weather cooperated for the most part, with adequate precipitation. In recent years, he said the CWWP has become more involved with installing living snow fences (LSF) for the State DOT and county highway departments. He explained the LSF projects installed along Highway 10 in Portage and Wood Counties, noting the unusual design and site conditions complicated planting. Numerous trips to the site from Hancock were necessary. The engineer from the DOT insisted on three rows with three foot spacing between the plants and rows, which is much tighter than normal CWWP plantings. Clay soils and heavy rains further complicated the fabric installation. Rohde stated the LSFs look great now and are growing, with the exception of one shrub species that did not do well. He said over 14,000 shrubs were planted along the Highway 10 right of way in Portage and Wood Counties. Rohde stated he has built a good relationship with Portage County's Highway Commissioner, who plans to incorporate LSFs in future highway project designs. Because of the number of miles, extra man hours were necessary. The LTEs and student interns worked almost until the end of August. He will be sending out customer invoices and working on 2016 windbreak sales. B. Jacowski asked whether costs will be recouped for added trips. Rohde replied he increased the normal maintenance fee and included an equipment moving charge. For future DOT projects, it was suggested that Rohde point out that using CWWP's normal spacing between plants and rows is more economically sensible, and allows for adequate plant growth while creating an effective LSF/windbreak. Walters asked where Rohde gets tree and shrub stock. Rohde said he has ordered stock from out of state nurseries in the past, either sharing delivery costs with nearby counties or paying substantial shipping charges. For 2016, he proposes to order as much stock as possible from a local nursery, making it possible to pick up the stock when he is ready for it, eliminating shipping costs, and supporting the local economy. In addition to Ewan and one other LTE, Rohde stated he had two UWSP student interns that worked out very well. Due to the additional labor needed this season, Benedict reported a budget adjustment must be done to transfer funds into the account for LTEs and interns. The Planning and Zoning and Finance Committees approved a resolution for a \$15,000 budget adjustment at their last meetings, which will be presented at the next County Board meeting.
- e. Portage County Drainage District - O'Brien/Bacon-Alternate – No report.
- f. Mill Creek Watershed - O'Brien/DeDeker-Alternate – No report.
- g. Little Plover River (LPR) - Haga/Walters-Alternate – The next meeting is scheduled for October 27 at the Aging and Disability Resource Center (Lincoln Center).
- h. Farmland Preservation Ad-Hoc Committee – Jacowski/O'Brien – Meetings will resume in October.

#### 7. Discussion/Possible Action – 2016 Wildlife Damage Program Budget

Benson distributed copies of the budget. He explained the line items, noting that funding comes mainly from DNR, with USDA providing a small portion. The total proposed budget is \$29,074.19, nearly \$10,000 less than 2015. If necessary, a budget amendment can be done. Benedict suggested increasing the County Administration line from \$500 to \$1,500, which would increase the

bottom line total to \$30,074.19. Motion by Haga, second by Bacon to approve the Wildlife Damage Program budget, with an additional \$1,000 for county administration. Motion carried by voice vote.

Benson reported bear activity has been quiet. A landowner east of I-39 near County Road BB has had several calves missing or injured. Benson suspects coyotes and will stay involved.

8. Discussion/Possible Action – Amendments to Land and Water Conservation Division (LWCD) Bidding Procedures

Bradley explained these are procedures followed for projects involving cost sharing. The division name was updated to Land and Water Conservation throughout the document. Language to exclude field windbreaks from bidding procedures has been added. Motion by Haga, second by DeDeker to approve the amendments to the LWCD Bidding Procedures. Motion carried by voice vote.

9. Discussion/Possible Action – LWCC Role in Future Groundwater Issues

Bradley reported Jen McNelly, Water Resource Specialist, reconvened the Groundwater Citizens Advisory Committee’s (GCAC) Technical Advisory Subcommittee. McNelly, Bradley, Ken Schroeder and Nathan Sandwick, UW-Extension, and Lindsay Benaszkeski, Health and Human Services, met and reviewed updates made to the Groundwater Management Plan. The updated Plan will be presented at the GCAC meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 15.

10. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – Bradley stated an animal manure storage permit was issued to Ken Feltz to add onto his Slurrystore. Five bids were received for Tony Kostuch’s manure pit abandonment, ranging from \$5,700 to \$12,000. Bradley feels Kostuch will choose the low bid and the project should begin soon.

b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts – No cost share contracts presented.

11. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for November 3 at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Rooms 1 and 2.

12. Adjournment

Motion by Bacon, second by Walters to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at November 3, 2015 Land and Water Conservation Committee meeting.

/Barry Jacowski/  
Barry Jacowski, Chair

/Bo DeDeker/  
Bo DeDeker, Secretary

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Conference Room 1&2, County Annex  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
November 3, 2015

Members present: Roger Bacon, Bo DeDeker, Allen Haga, Jr., Barry Jacowski, Jerry Walters

Member excused: Dale O'Brien

Others present: Barry Benson, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services; Planning & Zoning Department - Jen McNelly, Water Resources Specialist, Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Land and Water Conservation Division; Britt Ball and Ahna Butt, UWSP Students.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair B. Jacowski.

B. Jacowski read the Public Notice statement: Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order. No one registered to speak.

2. Review/Approval – Joint Meeting of Planning and Zoning, Land and Water Conservation, Agriculture and Extension Education, and Groundwater Citizens Advisory Committees August 26, 2015 Minutes; and October 6, 2015 Land and Water Conservation Committee Minutes

Motion by Walters, second by Haga to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Correspondence

Benedict distributed copies of the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) November report. Under the Drainage District heading, she pointed out the annual meeting of the Wisconsin Association of Drainage Districts is in Portage, not Stevens Point. She also handed out copies of an email from Chris Schlutt, WI Land+Water, soliciting nominations for awards to be given out at the annual conference in March. An explanation of the award categories and nomination forms can be found at wisconsinlandwater.org. There was discussion on possibly nominating a Portage County farmer for an award. There will be further discussion at the December LWCC meeting.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Vouchers, purchases, and procurement card charges were reviewed.

5. Committee Representative Reports

- a. Lakes Management District - Walters – No report.
- b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) - Bacon/Haga-Alternate – No report.
- c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Assn (NCLWCA) - B. Jacowski/DeDeker-Alternate – Benedict noted Portage County will be hosting the Area Poster and Speaking contests in February. She is trying to find ample space. It was suggested to check out Jackson School.
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership Group (CWWP) - B. Jacowski/Walters-Alternate – The next meeting is in December.
- e. Portage County Drainage District - O'Brien/Bacon-Alternate – B. Jacowski noted a tour will not be held this year.

- f. Mill Creek Watershed - O'Brien/DeDeker-Alternate – A meeting is scheduled for November 17 at John Eron's shop. Discussions will include the pollinator and invasive plant projects. B. Jacowski asked Bradley to provide information as the date nears.
- g. Little Plover River (LPR) - Haga/Walters-Alternate – The last meeting was postponed. When Ken Bradbury is available, a meeting will be scheduled for his final summary report. At the last meeting, there was discussion on using the model to input real scenarios, which has not been done yet.
- h. Farmland Preservation Ad-Hoc Committee – Jacowski/O'Brien – A meeting was held for town officials on October 29, providing information to take back to their towns for input on Farmland Preservation mapping. The Ad-Hoc Committee will meet in December.

#### 6. Discussion/Possible Action – Wildlife Damage Program Crop Prices

Benson distributed copies of the 2015 Crop Price Proposal. Crops with damage claims are alfalfa, field corn, soybeans, sweet corn, peas, and potatoes. Benson noted there are no claims yet, but there may be claim(s) for apiaries. Motion by Haga, second by DeDeker to approved the proposed prices. Motion carried by voice vote.

Benson also reported the contracts for three permanent deer fences built 15 years ago have expired. He explained DNR pays for 75% of the cost of the fence and the landowner pays the remaining 25%. The landowner must show a need and the value of the crop is considered. If damage continues after using shooting permits for at least a year, a permanent fence may be justified. Benson said the 2015 damage claims may be ready to present at the December LWCC meeting.

#### 7. Groundwater Section Report

McNelly reported the Groundwater Management Plan (GMP) is being drafted. The section of the plan containing land use and groundwater quantity background information will be presented at the Groundwater Citizens Advisory Committee (GCAC) on November 12. Lake level and stream flow monitoring is being wrapped up for the season. She has also been keeping an eye on legislation. After reviewing monitoring reports, she said it appears some lake levels have dropped slightly over the last month. Stream flows have been holding fairly steady, maybe a little higher, depending on when the monitoring was done. McNelly will provide a report with the season's numbers to LWCC members. She stated she attended the last Little Plover River meeting for Ken Bradbury's presentation. B. Jacowski asked McNelly to research what the county is able to regulate statutorily pertaining to groundwater. She said the standard to be followed (Summary of Wisconsin's Groundwater Law) was provided by Corporation Counsel, but she can investigate further. She has talked with the DNR, who referred her to the standard. Walters suggested contacting Representative Katrina Shankland's or Scott Krug's office, and request they assign staff to do additional research.

#### 8. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – Bradley reported the manure storage abandonment project for Tony Kostuch is near completion. The pit has been filled in and test holes showed no evidence of contamination. Kostuch plans to seed the area. Project costs are approximately \$5,600. There was discussion regarding manure containment at Wayne Peterson's farm. Bradley said Peterson is aware of the issue and would like to take further steps to contain and manage the manure.

b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts – No cost share contracts presented. Bradley noted funding for Justmann's water and sediment control basin project, originally planned for 2015, will be carried over to 2016. The cost share allocation for 2016 is \$67,500.

#### 9. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 1, at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Rooms 1 and 2. Walters is unable to attend.

10. Adjournment

Motion by Haga, second by DeDeker to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at December 1, 2015 Land and Water Conservation Committee meeting.

/Barry Jacowski/  
Barry Jacowski, Chair

Excused  
Bo DeDeker, Secretary

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Conference Rooms 1&2, County Annex  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
December 1, 2015

Members present: Roger Bacon, Allen Haga, Jr., Barry Jacowski, Dale O'Brien

Members excused: Bo DeDeker, Jerry Walters

Others present: Planning and Zoning Department- Jen McNelly, Groundwater Section; Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Land and Water Conservation Division.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair B. Jacowski.

2. At Approximately 6:05 p.m. Adjourn into Closed Session as Specified in Section 19.85(1)(c) of the Wisconsin Statutes to Discuss Performance Evaluation of the County Conservationist

Motion by Haga, second by O'Brien to adjourn into closed session. Motion carried by roll call vote, all ayes. Adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

3. At Approximately 6:20 p.m. Return to Open Session for Possible Action on Above Performance Evaluation

Motion by Haga, second by O'Brien to return to open session. Motion carried by roll call vote, all ayes. Meeting reconvened at 6:18 p.m. No action taken.

B. Jacowski read the Public Notice statement: Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order. No one registered to speak.

4. Review/Approval – Minutes of November 3, 2015

Motion by Haga, second by Bacon to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

5. Correspondence

Bradley reported he had a meeting with Bill Horvath (retired from the National Association of Conservation Districts/NACD). Horvath assisted Golden Sands RC&D in securing a grant for \$250,000 to write forestry stewardship plans for private landowners. He proposes having County Conservationists set up an initial meeting with their NRCS District Conservationist, DNR game manager, RC&D's staff person (to be hired for) writing forestry plans, DNR foresters, and other professionals that can help identify large blocks of acreage, 500 or more, to manage forestry and wildlife habitat improvement areas. Bradley plans to include Barry Benson, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Damage Technician. Once potential areas for suitable habitat are identified, the group of professionals will meet and discuss approaching the landowners to determine whether they are interested in participating. Eligible landowners may receive technical assistance, i.e. determining age of deer, setting appropriate wildlife harvest levels, species of trees to establish, etc. Participation is voluntary. Bradley feels it will be similar to the Managed Forest Law (MFL), except participants will not receive tax breaks and are not obligated to follow required cutting schedules. Grant funds will be used to hire RC&D staff to write the plans, and develop materials and press releases. Bradley said he has not seen a budget for the grant. Members questioned whether there

may be funds for LWCD staff time, and possibly utilizing the DNR foresters versus hiring new RC&D staff. Bradley will contact RC&D to get more information.

#### 6. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Vouchers, purchases, and procurement card charges were reviewed.

#### 7. Committee Representative Reports

- a. Lakes Management District - Walters – No report.
- b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) - Bacon/Haga-Alternate – Bradley and Bacon attended the November 17 RC&D Council meeting. Discussion was mainly about finances. Legislators were invited to give an update on groundwater legislation, but none attended.
- c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Assn (NCLWCA) - B. Jacowski/DeDeker-Alternate – Benedict reported she toured the Professional Development Center at Jackson School, and it would have worked nicely for the poster and speaking contests; however, the school district is not ready to schedule the space for outside groups at this time. Conference Rooms 1 and 2 have been reserved and will hopefully be a large enough space to accommodate the contests.
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership Group (CWWP) - B. Jacowski/Walters-Alternate – The next meeting is December 8.
- e. Portage County Drainage District - O'Brien/Bacon-Alternate – O'Brien reported a tour was not held this year.
- f. Mill Creek Watershed - O'Brien/DeDeker-Alternate – O'Brien and B. Jacowski attended a meeting on November 17. There were discussions on habitat for pollinators, invasive species control, and engaging farmers in water protection issues. Work has been done in the watershed installing buffers, fencing to keep cattle out of streams, filter strips, and enrolling land in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Providing pictures to help with identification of invasive species was suggested. Leafy spurge and wild parsnips were two invasive species mentioned. If harvested with hay in a particular stage of development, leafy spurge may sicken livestock when eaten. Bradley said there is interest in working with towns, providing maps, and tracking invasive locations using Geographic Information System (GIS). Roadside cutting by Town and County road crews can prevent further spreading. The next meeting will be held at the Marshfield Treatment Plant, date to be determined.
- g. Little Plover River (LPR) - Haga/Walters-Alternate – Bradley said he has not gotten any updates from DNR.
- h. Farmland Preservation Ad-Hoc Steering Committee – B. Jacowski/O'Brien – A meeting is scheduled for the week of December 7. The draft plan has been provided to Steering Committee members for review and comment. Suggested changes will be made and the revised draft presented at a public forum for feedback. Interested parties will be invited to participate in a discussion. B. Jacowski encouraged LWCC members to attend the forum. He requested meeting information for the forum is sent to the Planning and Zoning, Agriculture and Extension Education, and Groundwater Citizens Advisory Committees.

#### 8. Discussion/Possible Action – 2015 Wildlife Damage Claims

The claims were not ready. This item will be put on the January LWCC meeting agenda.

#### 9. Discussion/Possible Action – Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) Cost Share Extension

Bradley stated \$15,509.29 remains for the 2015 allocation. Contracts signed in 2015 for Justmann and Flaig will be extended to 2016. Additional project possibilities are windbreaks for Guth Farms, Warzynski Paradise Farms, Portage County, and Jacowski Farms. Cost share contracts must be signed before December 31. Motion by B. Jacowski, second by Bacon to work with any eligible

landowner interested in a cost share project in 2016 utilizing 2015 carryover funds. Bradley stated he will put together a list of interested landowners. Motion carried by voice vote.

10. WI Land+Water Conservation Award Nomination

Bradley explained that income must be primarily from farming operations for nominees for the Conservation Farmer of the Year Award. He does not believe the farmer mentioned at the November meeting would be eligible; however, the Conservation Farm Steward Award may fit. Bradley suggested waiting until the 2017 conference, when progress for proposed projects is known. LWCC members agreed. No action taken.

11. Groundwater Section Report

McNelly reported the Groundwater Management Plan (GMP) is moving forward. The section on groundwater quantity was discussed at the Groundwater Citizens Advisory Committee (GCAC) meeting in November. Groundwater quality will be discussed initially by the Technical Committee on December 4, followed by GCAC on December 17. McNelly distributed copies of DNR pumping reports from 2011 through 2014, including the number of wells and gallons pumped each year from high capacity wells. She noted the figures are not limited to irrigation, but include anything pumped from a high capacity well. High capacity is defined as a well that is capable of pumping up to 70 gallons per minute. McNelly said, according to the DNR, properties with multiple wells capable of cumulatively pumping 70 gallons per minute are counted as high capacity wells. Discussion took place on water use for cranberry production, paper mills, public municipal, and golf course irrigation. McNelly was asked to find out which county has the highest groundwater usage.

12. Watershed Projects

- a. Updates – No update.
- b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts – Motion by B. Jacowski, second by O’Brien to approve contracts associated with the 2015 cost share extension funds. Motion carried by voice vote.

13. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 5, 2016, at 6:00 p.m.

14. Adjournment

Motion by Haga, second by Bacon to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at January 5, 2016 Land and Water Conservation Committee meeting.

/Barry Jacowski/  
Barry Jacowski, Chair

/Bo DeDeker/  
Bo DeDeker, Secretary