

**WAUPACA COUNTY LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes — July 2nd, 2018**

Chair Federwitz called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and gave the open meeting statement.

**Roll Call:** Chair DuWayne Federwitz, Vice-Chair Bob Ellis, Supervisors David Johnson, Jim Nygaard (FSA Rep.), & Bernie Ritchie. Others present: Brian Haase, Lisa Neuenfeldt, Amy Frye.

**Review and Approve Agenda:** Motion by Johnson, seconded by Nygaard to approve the agenda. Motion carried without a negative vote.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting, June 4th, 2018:** Motion by Nygaard, seconded by Johnson to approve the June 4th, 2018 minutes. Motion carried without a negative vote.

**Public Comment:** None

**Agency Reports:**

**NRCS Report —Lisa Neuenfeldt:**

Amy Frye, our intern, started June 25<sup>th</sup>. Amy will also be available to work with the LWCD staff.

Summary of Funding of the May 18<sup>th</sup> sign-up:

- Soil Health (cover crops & no-till): 8 applications – still waiting for funding
- Bear Lake National Water Quality Initiative: 6 applications – 2 funded so far
- Great Lake Restoration Initiative – Invasive Species: 1 – funded
- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative – Wildlife habitat: 1 – still waiting

Funding decisions should be made by the state office this week. Staff is trying to keep up with requests from new landowners for conservation assistance and making site visits. There is a large interest in rotational grazing. Staff is inspecting/certifying/cost-sharing completed practices. Some projects finished in June include: Brush management to control invasive species, one water and sediment control basin, three new pasture seedings for grazing and a large lighting improvement project and several Monarch butterfly seedings.

On June 26<sup>th</sup>, we attended a meeting about the expansion of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative project area – see map. This would make all of Waupaca County eligible for additional funding for conservation practices that address phosphorus and sediment pollution. The state office would like to start the process by establishing Demonstration Farm(s). Two other events of interest were attended where Derrick presented the Rainfall Simulator demonstration: Farmers for Tomorrow and a Pasture Walk/Demo at Justin Seeger's farm. Farmers for Tomorrow can incorporate involvement by Waupaca County operators in the Tomorrow/Waupaca River watershed and have a DATCP grant to offer incentives. The Waupaca/Winnebago Local Work Group meeting is August 16 from 10 am - noon at the Fremont Town Hall.

**FSA Report — Nygaard-** Nygaard stated there have been some improvements to the MILC program. There is also interest in the Livestock Indemnity Program since the April snowstorm. Crop reporting is due July 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Meeting Reports:**

**Lower Fox Demo Farms.** – Haase toured 2 of the Demo farms in June. One CAFO has converted to 100% no-till and 100% cover crops. Manure is spread by dribble bar onto living crops all the time. Another farm had USGS monitoring stations comparing field practices.

**NRCS Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Funding (GLRI)** – Waupaca hosted an area wide meeting to discuss NRCS moving GLRI funds into the Upper Fox-Wolf Basin by 2019. Included in that will be a desire to create a UF-W Demo Farm Network.

**Farmington Farmland Preservation** - Haase and P/Z Director Ryan Brown attended Farmington Town Board. Farmland Preservation was passed at the town level.

**Central Sands Water Action Coalition (CSWAC) – Phil Peterson-** Peterson, who is a member of the Chain Association BOD, is on a steering committee for CSWAC that is tasked with a new project that will look at the state of Conservation in the central sands. They are interested in 3 things: Issues of stakeholders in each county, activities that stakeholders are involved in and sharing information among the stakeholders. They will be looking at the whole picture of conservation and not just focusing on groundwater issues. CSWAC would like to move away from an adversarial perception and create positive relationships with partners and farmers. They will be including counties in those relationships.

**Waupaca County Well Testing Project-** 58 wells were tested in the first round of 2018 in Helvetia, Harrison and Wyoming. Round two is scheduled for July 23rd. Results are still pending.

**County Manure Storage & Agricultural Performance Standards Ordinance –** Haase passed out the latest updated copies. Haase and Counsel Meulemans continue to make minor changes. We anticipate being finished next month and will hold a public hearing at our next meeting. DATCP has also reviewed it and made some comments for consideration.

Discussion continued about additional notification to farmers above and beyond the public notice process which is often unseen. The committee requested that Haase do a targeted mailing, within financial reason, to the largest segment of farmers and landowners that may be impacted by the new ordinance. Haase said staff can create a mailing list to address that request.

**Land & Water Resource Management (LWRM) / Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Cost Share Agreements Approval –** None

**County Conservationist Report –** Haase reported submitting an NOD grant to DNR/DATCP for the violations at the Mike Wegener Farm. This application will use the economic hardship clause at the operator's request. Haase had a site visit with the Gasper farm and continues to work on that issue with DNR. No new complaints were made on runoff issues this month. No-till seeder use has been extremely high this season due to a high number of NRCS program participants. Haase presented the LWCD Capital Improvement Plan portion of the 2019 budget. There are no changes to the form. LWCD trucks, survey equipment and plotters remain on the schedule.

**Upcoming Meetings-** LWCC August 13th at 8:30 am. County Conservationist meeting July 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> in WI Rapids. NRCS Local Work Group meets in Fremont on August 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am.

**Adjourn:** Motion by Johnson, seconded by Ellis to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:05 AM.

Submitted by,

Brian Haase  
Recording Secretary

These minutes will be posted to the website prior to approval from the Committee and are considered to be in draft form until approved at the next scheduled meeting.