

Ashland County Land Conservation Committee
June 4, 2020
Ashland County LWCD Office

APPROVED Minutes 9-29-20

LCC Present: George Mika, Gerald Richardson, Caryl Peck, John Wiener, Charlie Ortman, Richard Pufall
(County Board Chairman)

Others: Clark Schroeder (County Administrator), Josh Rowley (Zoning), Dave Schultz, Mike Pero, Scott Caven, MaryJo Gingras, Gary Haughn

1. Call to order - Meeting called to order by George Mika at 9:00 am.
2. Introductions – NA
3. **Approval of Minutes - Motion to approve February 25, 2020 draft minutes by Ortman, second by Wiener. MC.**
4. Public Comments – None heard

5. **Action:** Election of Land Conservation Committee Chair and Vice-Chair

Nomination and Election of Land Conservation Committee Chair and Vice-Chair (County Board Chair)
Chairperson

Chairman Pufall called for nominations for LCC chairman.

Ortman nominated George Mika for chairperson.

Pufall called 3 times for other nominations for chairperson, and none were heard.

Motion by Pufall/Ortman to close nominations and cast unanimous ballot for George Mika. MC

**Meeting turned over to LCC Chair Mika*

Vice-Chairperson

Chairperson Mika called for nominations for Vice-Chairperson

Wiener nominated Charlie Ortman for vice-chairperson.

Mika called 3 times for other nominations, and none were heard.

Motion by Mika/Wiener to close nominations and cast unanimous ballot for Ortman. MC

6. **Action:** LCC appointment of Citizen Representative(s)

Motion by Ortman to appoint Gerry Richard and Ken Lindquist as citizen representative members of the Land Conservation Committee, second by Wiener. MC.

7. 2020-2022 Land Conservation Committee Handbook

Land Conservation Committee (LCC) members received handbooks in their packets. Gingras reviewed the handbook to inform the members of their role in natural resource protection in our county, and that the Department relies on them to assist in identifying resource issues, developing and maintaining programs, and establishing policy to address concerns. The Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WI Land+Water) developed the LCC Handbook to assist them in understanding their leadership role.

8. **Action:** LWCD appointment of NW Area WI Land+Water representative and alternate

Motion by Ortman to allow chairman to make the appointments for agenda items 8 and 9, second by Caryl Peck. MC. Mika stated that he will continue to serve at the NW area as LCC representative and MaryJo will serve as LCD representative.

9. **Action:** LWCD appointment of NW Area WI Land+Water representative and alternate
Combined with previous agenda item.

10. LWCD 2021 Staff and Support Grant Application and 2020 Work Plan to DATCP

Gingras reviewed Ashland County's 2021 DATCP Staff and Support Grant Application for \$239,499. This includes \$159,499 for staff and support, \$60,000 for cost-share practices, and \$20,000 for NM plans with producers. She stated that we submitted our 2020 Land and Water Conservation Work Plan which outlines activities and anticipated outcomes for our department this year.

Discussion ensued related to nutrient management. Gerald Richardson report concerns from 3 farmers regarding challenge in spring to spread manure from storage pits due to local road bans. Increased precipitation in recent years has added more material to manure storage pits, but spring road bans prevent spreading and have created a burden for farmers. Richardson asked for exemption or help from LCC. Requested topic be added to next meeting agenda.

11. **Action:** Resolution in Support of Feasibility Study of the Bad River to Determine Eligibility as a partnership Wild and Scenic River

Motion by Ortman to approve A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A FEASIBILITY STUDY of the BAD RIVER and its TRIBUTARIES to DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY and SUITABILITY as a PARTNERSHIP WILD and SCENIC RIVER and to forward on the Ashland County Board for approval, second by Wiener. MC.

12. **Action:** 2019 Land and Water Conservation Department Annual Report

Gingras reviewed 2019 Annual Report distributed to LCC members including that the Department provided \$90,459 DATCP cost-share to local landowners and installed 13 conservation practices. The Department distributed \$100,092 to landowners from other state & federal sources, including the WI Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. It utilized \$101,021 in DATCP staff funds and offered 40+ education events. In addition, a substantial amount of time was spent in 2019 updating the Ashland County Land and Water Resource Management Plan (2020-2029). It was approved by the WI Land and Water Board on August 6th and the Ashland County Board on October 10th. Goals were revised and updates included incorporating climate change adaptations into resource management, Aquatic Invasive Species, well water testing, and more.

Motion by Gerald Richardson to approve the 2019 Land and Water Conservation Department Annual Report, second by Wiener. MC.

13. Conservation Program Updates (Farmland Preservation, FEMA Grant and ACT 157)

Gingras provided update on the Farmland Preservation Program about a new funding opportunity from DATCP in 2021 to provide a \$2,000 incentive payment to farmers to develop new Farmland Preservation Agreements for up to 20 farmers. She updated the LCC on the \$200,000 FEMA Grant and \$150,000 ACT 157 funds that have been formally awarded to Ashland County.

14. Agency Reports – NRCS; Gary Haughn provided an update on the Farm Bill and EQIP enrollments in Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, and Iron Counties for the 2020 season.

15. LWCD Staff Reports

Scott Caven, Aquatic Invasive Species – gave report and provided written. He also introduced Kelly Pringle and Tim Ericson as the 2020 AIS Summer Staff.

Dave Schultz, Wildlife Damage – updated LCC on program and No-Till Planter; provided written report.

Mike Pero, Conservation Technician – gave report on projects this year; provided written report.

MaryJo Gingras, County Conservationist – gave report about NW Wisconsin Lakes Conference and Ashland Wastewater Treatment Overflow Committee; provided written report.

16. Other Business: NA

17. Next Meeting Date: August 6, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

18. Adjourned at 11:16 a.m. by George Mika.