

## MEETING MINUTES

### SOUTHEAST AREA LAND & WATER CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Meeting of December 10, 2020

#### REMOTE MEETING

1:00 p.m.

Attendees: Paul Sebo, Washington County LCD; Stephanie Egner, Washington County LCD; Perry Linquist, Waukesha County LCD; Alan Barrows, Waukesha County LCD; Brian Holt, Walworth County LCC; Shannon Haydin, Walworth County LCD; Brian Smetana, Walworth County LCD; Andy Holschbach, Ozaukee County LCD; Jeff Bell, Ozaukee County LCD; Stevan Keith, Milwaukee County; Monte Osterman, Racine County LCC; Chad Sampson, Racine County LCD; Penny Pohle, WI Land & Water; Jesse Bennett, WI DNR.

Shannon Haydin called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

#### Approval of Previous Minutes:

At 1:06 p.m. a motion was made by Alan Barrows, seconded by Andy Holschbach, to approve the minutes from June 2, 2020 meeting. **ALL AYES; MOTION CARRIED.**

#### Treasurer's Report:

Andy Holschbach submitted the Treasurer's Report by email. There was no discussion or changes on the report. At 1:09 p.m., a motion by Alan Barrows, seconded by Paul Sebo to approve the Treasurer's Report. **ALL AYES; MOTION CARRIED.**

#### Agency (DATCP, DNR) updates:

Jesse Bennett, DNR, stated TRM grants open on January 15<sup>th</sup>. The joint allocation was recently approved. If you have interest in a large scale TRM grant, please contact Jesse. Andy H. asked if DNR staff were allowed in the field to meet people. Jesse stated they are doing compliance inspections, but no indoor meetings.

Penny Pohle stated WI Land & Water is accepting nominations for awards. She continued to say the Conservation Partnership training is January 26 – 28 and is virtual.

#### Election of Southeast Area Association Officers:

Shannon Haydin asked for nominations to replace her as President. Perry Linquist nominated Alan Barrows, and Monte Osterman seconded the nomination. Shannon Haydin closed nominations. Alan thanked the group for the nomination. Shannon called for a vote for **Alan Barrows as President. ALL AYES; MOTION CARRIED.**

Shannon Haydin requested nominations for the Alternate for the Board of Directors. A motion by Monte Osterman for Andy Holschbach to be the Alternate, seconded by Paul Sebo. Shannon called for a vote for **Andy Holschbach as Alternate for the Board of Directors. ALL AYES; MOTION CARRIED.**

### **Conservation Poster Contest update:**

Shannon H. said Walworth County reached out to all teachers that may want to participate in the poster contest. She continued to say they are expecting over 300 posters for the contest. Shannon said they took Stephanie's advice and purchased paper for the posters. They were going to take photographs of the top posters and have the LCC vote for them.

Stephanie E. said the Southeast Area has more participation this year. Some schools were sending photos of the posters and some physically delivering posters. Gary K. has health issues and asked Stephanie to assist with the contest. Stephanie asked the best way to judge the area posters. Shannon said she liked the idea of emailing them. She thought all SE LCC's could vote. Stephanie needs everything to her by January 29<sup>th</sup>. Brian Holt said he felt that an email vote for all Southeast Area LCC's was a good idea. Shannon thought it was easier to go to a website link and vote. Stephanie suggested giving a week to vote.

Stephanie asked about spending for Southeast Area awards for the poster contest. Andy H. said the awards were any where from \$100 to \$160. Andy H. said the awards were from Geiger Inc. Alan B. stated they are right in Waukesha.

The State Contest will be voted on virtually.

### **Member County project/activity updates (roundtable):**

**Milwaukee County:** Steve Keith said they are working on the Oak Creek Watershed Restoration Plan with SEWRPC. An integral part of the plan is a dam in poor condition holding sediment.

Steve K. continued to say they are looking into PFA's at General Mitchell Airport. The DNR has asked to start to eliminate potential PFA's discharge areas.

Steve K. said stormwater outfall discharges are being tested for human waste, but results are sporadic. This may be potentially the result of homeless people living in the watershed.

**Ozaukee County:** Andy Holschbach stated they recently had their Land and Water Plan approved. Andy H. said they are promoting soil health. They have an inter-seeder planter and crimper to utilize.

Andy H. continued to say Rick Clark is speaking on February 11 as part of their Clean Farm Families workshop. They were able to get discount on subscription prices of the No-Till Farmer Magazine.

Andy H. stated they have two Nine Key Element Plans approved within the County. The DNR is currently working on the Sheboygan River Basin TMDL. They are working on purchasing two properties in the Milwaukee River Floodway.

**Racine County:** Chad S. stated it has been one the busiest years Racine County has had regarding bond, SEG and Producer Led contracts. The Producer Led group did receive another grant for 2021. The group, the Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County, invited Rick Clark to speak at their Winter Workshop on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Also, the Producer Led group is potentially leasing County owned cropland for the purpose of demonstration plots and educational Field Days.

Chad S. mentioned a hotter topic, regarding the opening of a new sand and gravel operation in Racine County. There have been many phone calls and questions with a lot of opposition, but the site was approved. Covid may have prevented larger opposing crowds.

**Walworth County:** Shannon H. said Brian Holt brought forward a budget amendment to hire a person to assist a Producer Led group. Hopefully, they are applying for grants next year and the group gains momentum. The Delavan Lake Improvement Association has been working with Brian S. as is the Geneva Lake Conservancy. The groups give donations to get more conservation on the ground.

Shannon said the permit numbers in Walworth County are as high as prior to the recession. The thought process is people are not going on vacations during the pandemic, so they are spending money on their homes.

Shannon said a permit for sand and gravel was denied in Spring Prairie. Ultimately, the amount of prime farmland being rezoned from A-1 to M-3 was the reason for denial. This is currently in litigation.

Brian Smetana said the outside groups from Delavan and Geneva Lakes want to promote cover crops and field days. Brian said Walworth County also had their Land and Water Plan approved.

Brian Holt stated the idea of new employee is to integrate some outside funding through website to show more acceptability to be in the programs. There may be an area to show what might be available by entering your acreage into the website. Shannon followed up the idea with a GIS application to track areas that are eligible.

Shannon H. said she took a job at the WI DNR in Madison as a Stormwater Section Chief.

**Washington County:** Paul Sebo said their Land and Water Plan was approved last fall. Paul S. said their numbers might be a little down this year. He said they did have a large streambank restoration project this summer.

Paul S. said they are writing the MDV watershed plan to write for the Rock and Milwaukee River. They are doing MS4 modeling to update the Watershed Plan. They did have a busy year on erosion control and stormwater. Paul S. is now covering Land Conservation, Sanitation and Shoreland Zoning.

Paul S. said they have a producer group that is quite active. A new 9 Key Plan is moving forward for the Menomonee River.

Paul S. said they planned a PFA collection event to remove PFA's from the firefighting foam on 14 firefighter trucks.

**Waukesha County:** Perry L. said the stormwater permits started slow but finished with a normal number this year.

Perry stated they are looking at starting a farmer led group.

Perry said there are looking to adopt a storm drain program. Citizens can adopt a storm drain and clean them periodically and report it on an interactive website.

Some of the staff were directed to contact tracing in the summer and early fall on top of their normal duties.

Perry developed the final intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Mukwonago to implement their Adaptive Management Plan that was recently approved.

Perry is retiring February 15<sup>th</sup> and put together a list of intergovernmental agreements and long terms contracts. He said the current number of agreements and contracts is 156.

Perry is trying to wrap up the School Section Lake dam to complete a dam failure analysis.

Perry said the Legislative Administrative Committee wanted to improve the resolution process. The two existing processes are being looked at to work together. County Resolutions can be sent to the legislative committee and this process will work better than Areas throwing out Resolutions at an annual meeting.

Monte O. stated this will be more work and interaction between the Area Associations and the Legislative Administrative Committee. Resolutions will also be shared more often between the Areas.

Monte said WI Land + Water is working on streamlining a new budget process. Monte stated that a workplan has been approved. Monte said a subcommittee has been formed to put together a financial management policy.

Monte stated there are NACD grant opportunities available. The urban grants are being renewed up to \$50,000 each. The grants are competitive and there were about 40 applications last year. There is a by laws change regarding electronic voting. The Coastal Committee is doing nationwide interviews to talk about some project successes and outcomes. Monte asked Andy, Steve and Jesse to possibly provide input during the interviews.

**Other Business:**

None.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made at 2:12 p.m. by Paul Sebo, seconded by Andy Holschbach to adjourn. **ALL AYES; MOTION CARRIED.**

Minutes prepared by Chad Sampson