

MEETING MINUTES

SOUTHEAST AREA LAND & WATER CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION Meeting of June 2, 2021 REMOTE MEETING 1:00 p.m.

Attendees: Paul Sebo, Washington County LCD; Stephanie Egner, Washington County LCD; Tanner Schmidt, Washington County LCD; Carroll Merry, Washington County LCC; Alan Barrows, Waukesha County LCD; Jim Rose, Waukesha County LCD; Brian Holt, Walworth County LCC; Brian Smetana, Walworth County LCD; Andy Holschbach, Ozaukee County LCD; Stevan Keith, Milwaukee County LCD; Monte Osterman, Racine County LCC; Chad Sampson, Racine County LCD; Mark Jenks, Kenosha County LCD; Penny Pohle, WI Land & Water; Chris Schlutt, WI Land & Water; Tony Reali, Calumet County LCD; Travis Tulowitzky, Bayfield County LCD; Heather Palmquist, Iron County LCD; Jesse Bennett, WI DNR; Bart Chapman, WI DATCP; Ryan Glassmaker, WI DATCP; Josh Odekirk, USDA NRCS.

Alan Barrows called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

Approval of Amended Agenda:

At 1:02 p.m. a motion was made by Andy Holschbach, seconded by Paul Sebo to amend the order of agenda items. **ALL AYES; MOTION CARRIED.**

Approval of Previous Minutes:

At 1:04 p.m. a motion was made by Monte Osterman, seconded by Brian Holt, to approve the minutes from December 10, 2020 meeting. **ALL AYES; MOTION CARRIED.**

Treasurer's Report:

Andy Holschbach submitted the Treasurer's Report by email. Andy H. gave a short explanation of the report, only Walworth County had not submitted dues. Brian Smetana assured the SE Area Association that the check was in the mail. At 1:06 p.m., a motion by Mark Jenks, seconded by Brian Smetana to approve the Treasurer's Report. **ALL AYES; MOTION CARRIED.**

Area Coordinator Update:

Alan Barrows had reached out to Gary Korb to inform him about this meeting and received an email indicating Gary had retired. Alan reached out to Stephanie Egner to be the interim Area Coordinator. Stephanie said she would take on the role in 2021 until the next elections take place.

Penny asked why SEWRPC had representation in the SE Area Association. Alan Barrows asked for any of the background or history. After some discussion about the history of SEWRPC being part of the Area, Brian Holt agreed to reach out to SEWRPC to see if they still had any interest in representation with our SE Area Association.

Inland Lakeshore Property Owners Assistance:

Alan Barrows introduced Heather Palmquist and Travis Tulowitzky to discuss their Shoreline Stabilization Guide. Travis asked everyone to look at the draft publication that was emailed with the

agenda. There are ten County Land Conservation offices, Pat Goggin a UW Extension Lake Specialist, and Stacy Dehne from WI DATCP involved with the project. The publication was a request from Lake Associations about stabilization methods. Penny assisted with a funding source for graphics. Elliot Meyer from WI Land & Water put together most of the information.

Heather Palmquist stated she applied and received \$5,000 for a surface water grant from the WI DNR to pay for printed copies of the final document. She said the match is roughly \$3,200. Iron County donated \$500 in kind to administer the grant. They are trying to come up with \$2533 cash to pay for the printing.

Heather has found a low-cost printer that will print 17,000 copies for \$8,000. Heather asked all of the Areas for a donation. All Areas have committed \$500 or more for the publication. Heather continued to say each Area will receive copies of the document.

Monte Osterman asked about the distribution of the documents. Heather was hoping Area Coordinators could get the documents to each County in their Areas or even delivered at an in-person Land & Water Conference. Monte suggested the shipping could be done by the printing company. Travis stated the delivery process is not finalized, but they are still taking ideas.

Monte Osterman asked the ownership of the document. Heather said the document copyright is owned and written by WI Land & Water Conservation. Monte Osterman stated the last page indicates KJE Design, LLC is listed as claiming copyright. Heather stated she owns her drawings, but we can only use her designs with this document. Heather stated the other copyright is Gregory Sass, WI DNR. He allowed two of his photos to be used in the document. SSOP Team is the group that developed the document.

Heather said there are three different resolutions of the document. A high resolution for printing, medium resolution for websites, and lower resolution for emails.

Paul Sebo asked how many copies would be distributed to each county. Heather said that has not been discussed yet. Paul said 17,000 copies divided by 72 counties is a little over 200 copies per County. Travis said the goal is to get the document distributed Statewide.

Alan Barrows asked about DNR permitting for designs within the document. The DNR water regulation permit person in that Area of the State said all practices are permissible.

Paul Sebo asked if other counties requested a certain number of copies. Heather said many of the northern counties had a very large interest in getting many copies. Paul said he would consider a motion for the \$500 if he knew every County would receive 100 copies.

At 1:41 p.m., a motion by Monte Osterman, seconded by Andy Holschbach to donate \$500 to the Shoreline Stabilization Guide. **ALL AYES; MOTION CARRIED.**

Professional Improvement Committee (PIC) update:

Chris Schlutt and Tony Reali are asking for new membership on the PIC for some new faces with new ideas. Both the LCC and LCD are represented in the Southeast Area.

Tony Reali introduced himself as the Calumet County Conservationist as well as the PIC Chair. Tony said the largest duty of the PIC is planning the Annual Conference and the breakout sessions. They request a lot of input from many different Areas. There are about 4 to 5 meetings per year and one large in person meeting. They are always looking for good ideas and assist with the raffle.

The PIC reviews and judges the conservation award nominations. Also, one PIC member sits on SITCOM.

Monte Osterman asked which LCC members are on PIC. Tony said Kathy Zeglin from Trempealeau County and Brian Holt from Walworth County.

Wisconsin Land & Water update:

Penny Pohle started with the State Budget update. The JFC is currently building the State's Budget. Wisconsin Land & Water has met with, and will continue to meet with the Governor's office. The legislators and JFC members have some bi-partisan support for the proposed Conservation funding. One motion is for \$12.5 million per year and the other for \$13 million per year. Both are expected to be permanent increases in future budgets, as opposed to one-time funding. It is very important to demonstrate wide support for this. The ask for WI Land & Water is for us to contact our JFC members and ask for their support for the \$13 million. Penny then listed the JFC members in Southeast Wisconsin. The motion is going to occur within the next couple weeks and WI Land and Water will let us know the specifics and timing of the motion.

Technical Committee update:

Brian Smetana said he is technically not on the Committee yet. Friday will be his first Technical Committee meeting. Direct runoff from feedlots guidance and verification to bedrock are two topics currently on the agenda. The inter-seeding of cover crops is on the agenda as well. Anyone is welcome to join the zoom meeting on June 4th at 9 a.m.

Youth Education Committee update:

Stephanie Egner said the Committee held the virtual Envirothon in April. There were 14 teams and the Slinger FFA (Washington County) won the event and will participate in the National Event in July. They are also representing Wisconsin at the National FFA Conference in October. There are 20 individuals on the Committee that worked hard to keep this event going.

The 2022 Envirothon is requesting financial sponsorship from the Counties. The Committee is also looking for more funds from the Areas. The updated flyer is attached.

The Conservation Camps were canceled this year.

Stephanie is the Vice Chair and the SE Representative on the Committee. If you need further information regarding any events, please contact Stephanie.

The Fall Poster Contest is coming soon. The theme will be released this summer.

Alan Barrows mentioned he heard in the past that buying the poster board and getting it to the schools helped increase participation. Stephanie said seems to help and the teachers really appreciate it.

A motion was made by Alan Barrows, seconded by Brian Smetana to make a \$250 donation to the Youth Education Committee. **ALL AYES; MOTION CARRIED.**

Member County project/activity updates (roundtable):

Kenosha County: Mark Jenks stated FEMA has given Kenosha County a Class 5 Community Rating which allows eligible citizens to receive a 25% discount on flood insurance.

They are working with the ACOE to do a stream restoration on the south branch of the Pike River. Kenosha County has contracted the wetland delineation. ACOE is coming to the County this Friday to tour the area.

Kenosha County has purchased one house this year to be razed from the floodplain along the Fox River.

The County may be transferring ownership of a dam, but those talks are just starting.

The Lake County Stormwater Group wants to coordinate with Kenosha County on a potential stormwater planning project.

Milwaukee County: Steve Keith said they are presenting their 5-year Land and Water Plan in October.

Steve said they are working on the Oak Creek Watershed Restoration Plan with SEWRPC.

Racine County: Chad Sampson stated the 10 year LWRM plan update is coming due next year. A Citizen's Advisory Committee is being put together and draft planning has begun. Monte is the Chair of the Citizen's Advisory Committee.

The Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County is planning a field day in September.

Chad said terraces are being rebuilt on some cropland as part a SWRM bond project. The site is the headwaters to Eagle Lake and will be appreciated by the Eagle Lake groups that the County has a positive relationship with.

Walworth County: Brian Smetana said they hired a new Deputy Director / County Conservationist. Her name is Lindsey Motto and is starting on June 14th. She will be attending an LCC meeting her first day.

Brian said it has been a nice construction season and they are getting a lot of projects completed.

He said the Farmland Preservation Plan is due next year. The Committee wants it completed by April of next year. A Citizen Advisory Committee is meeting at the end of the week.

Washington County: Paul Sebo said 2000 feet of riprap was done on a golf course in Kewaskum and another 2000 feet of riprap is planned at another site.

There are also some waterways and WASCOB's being installed.

They are part of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program for the entire Milwaukee River Watershed which is being headed by the MMSD. Paul said they are looking for projects on the east side of the County.

The Producer group is planning a field day in September. The farmer hosting the field day is a steer operation and they are planning on serving steak. (Side Note: Chad Sampson will attend.)

The Producer Group is meeting with the City of Cedarburg, which is writing an adaptive management plan.

Waukesha County: Alan Barrows stated Perry Lindquist retired in February and he was promoted to the position in March. Other staffing changes include a new AIS coordinator. Waukesha County hired 7 interns for the AIS program for the summer. There are 2 vacancies in the office. A Senior Conservation Specialist and the recycling group has a vacancy.

Waukesha County requested an extension from the State for their Farmland Preservation Plan update.

Alan stated they have begun the planning process for the 10-year Land & Water Resource Management Plan update. This includes a Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting in a few weeks. Jim Rose is working on drafting the plan, maps, and charts.

Alan said there are issuing many erosion control and stormwater permits.

Waukesha County is working on a riverbank restoration project that Ryan Glassmaker from DATCP designed.

They have signed an IGA with the Village of Mukwonago to work on restoration projects.

Southeast Area Tour (Kenosha County):

Alan asked what we should do with the tour.

Penny said the Southern Area is going to meet at one site in Dane County as opposed to getting a lot of people on a bus. A separate Area is considering a bus tour.

Steven Keith asked if we could have a list of events that might conflict with the Tour.

Penny said she could assist with a list of events recognized at WI Land and Water.

Mark Jenks said he can put something together, but not getting on a bus makes this a little more difficult. He suggested a stop at the Amazon Distribution Center, but he said he believes the tours are on hold.

Alan asked to continue the dialog and asked Mark to look into putting something together.

Agency Updates:

WI Land & Water: Penny asked all staff to fill out the "Training Needs" survey.

A new website is being developed and will be introduced at the County Conservationist meeting in July.

NRCS Update: Josh Odekirk said the NRCS has not sent the training needs survey yet.

Josh said over one million has be dedicated to CSP in Area 4. EQIP's first sign-up was in November. The second EQIP sign-up ended last week and \$3.3 million was dedicated to the Area.

Josh said field offices are currently doing compliance checks and field days. There have been many requests for the rainfall simulator. NRCS staff may be available to attend or present at events. This will be decided on a case-by-case basis. Josh said there are many new hires at NRCS.

DATCP Update: Bart Chapman said Weiping Wu retired and the position was filled by Taylor Hundley. Then, Taylor switched to the Southwest Area. The Southeast Area is currently vacant.

The Annual Report is on the available on the WI DATCP website.

The schedule of rewards was sent on April 14th.

There are some reserve funds for eligible farm discharge projects. Applications are needed by June 30th.

Ryan Glassmaker asked to get the new engineer hired asap.

DNR Update: Jesse Bennett said the BITS module is up and running for TRM grants and MDV fund reporting. TRM grants are currently being scored and will be ranked by August.

Counties with 9 key element plans can request assistance from Jesse.

Set Future Meeting Dates:

Alan asked for suggestions. Paul Sebo suggested the October Tour and that is the plan.

Other Business:

None.

Adjournment:

A motion was made at 2:40 p.m. by Chad Sampson, seconded by Stevan Keith to adjourn. **ALL AYES; MOTION CARRIED.**

Minutes prepared by Chad Sampson