

**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

MEETING MINUTES – MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2020

REMOTE MEETING - EAU CLAIRE, WI 54703

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Gibson (arrived at 1:06), Robin Leary, Heather DeLuka, Missy Christopherson, Tami Schraufnagel, Ricky Strauch, Glory Adams (arrived at 1:23), Dean Solie

MEMBERS ABSENT: (none)

STAFF PRESENT: Greg Leonard, Amanda Peters, and Liz Fagen – Land Conservation Division

OTHERS PRESENT: Lyssa Seefeldt – UW-Extension

1) Call to order by Chair

Vice Chair Leary assumed the Chair and called the remote meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

2) Roll call

A roll call was taken; Leary, DeLuka, Christopherson, Solie, Strauch, and Schraufnagel were present. Gibson and Adams were absent (both arrived later). A quorum was present.

3) Confirmation of Compliance with Open Meetings Law

Leary confirmed compliance with the open meetings law.

4) Public Comment Period

None.

5) Review/Approval of November 16, 2020 meeting minutes – Discussion/Action

ACTION: Motion by Schraufnagel to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried, 6-0-0.

6) Review Vouchers and Ledger Update

The November expenditures and revenues were reviewed. The deposit of \$1,000.00 for Land Stewardship is a donation towards Lowes Creek Park.

(Gibson arrived)

7) Approval of new and/or previously authorized Cost-Share agreements – Discussion/Action

No Cost-Share agreements were previously authorized. The following Best Management Practice (BMP) Cost-Share applications were presented for approval:

Calla Ville Dairy, LLC (Menno Otten)– Nutrient Management - \$9,474.00 (DATCP-SEG funds)

Steven Rindal – Nutrient Management - \$3,720.00 (DATCP – SEG funds)

ACTION: Motion by Christopherson to approve the Best Management Practice cost-share applications. Motion carried on a roll call vote, 7-0-0.

8) Extension request for SWRM grant (Bond and SEG funds) – Discussion/Action

Leonard reported that staff are finalizing grant fund contracts to submit the extension request to DATCP for the 2020 Bond and SEG funds. The Bond request will be for \$26,700.00 and the SEG request will be for \$9,474.00.

ACTION: Motion by Leary to approve the SWRM grant extension request. Motion carried on a roll call vote, 7-0-0.

9) Extension request for MDV funds – Discussion/Action

Leonard reported that staff are preparing to submit an extension request to DNR for the 2018 MDV funds. The program does not have an extension request form, but only requires an email request.

ACTION: Motion by Solie to approve MDV extension request. Motion carried on a roll call vote, 7-0-0.

10) Watershed-based plan (TRM) implementation funding request – Discussion

The DNR had sent out a Call for Proposals for Watershed based plan implementation funding. These funds are designated to existing Large-Scale TRM projects with previously approved 9-Key element plans. Eau Claire County is eligible to apply. There was a quick turnaround, and a funding request of just over \$10,000 was submitted on Friday, December 18, 2020.

11) Approve County Membership to WI Land+Water and contribution to Wisconsin Envirothon – Discussion/Action

Annual WI Land+Water Conservation Association dues have been received for continued membership in the organization. Dues for 2021 are \$1,776.00 which are similar to last year. For 2020, Eau Claire County also contributed to the Wisconsin Envirothon. Leary asked if a decision has been made by WI Land+Water to host Envirothon in 2021. Staff have not yet heard.

ACTION: Motion by Leary to approve payment of 2021 dues. Motion carried on a roll call vote, 7-0-0.

(Adams arrived)

12) Wildlife Damage Program Cooperative Service Agreement with USDA-APHIS – Discussion/Action

The cooperative service agreement with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) for 2021 is due with the agreement total of \$1,000.00. This is for the black bear damage program.

ACTION: Motion by DeLuka to enter into the agreement with USDA-APHIS for the black bear damage program. Motion carried on a roll call vote, 8-0-0.

13) Conservation Awards Considerations (Conservation Farmer, Water Quality Leadership, Special Recognition) – Discussion/Action

Further suggestions for award considerations were discussed. Doug Burrows, member and previous Chair of the Land Stewardship who was a member until his passing in January 2020, was selected to receive a Special Recognition last month.

ACTION: Motion by Christopherson to recognize Doug Graff with the Conservation Farmer Award. Motion carried on a roll call vote, 8-0-0.

ACTION: Motion by Schraufnagel to recognize Mark Hagedorn, former UW-Extension Ag Agent, with a Special Recognition Award. Motion carried on a roll call vote, 8-0-0.

ACTION: Motion by Gibson to recognize Mike Lea, Lake Eau Claire Lake Protection District Chair, and Lori Bechtel, Lake Eau Claire Association President, with the Water Quality Leadership Award. Motion carried on a roll call vote, 8-0-0.

Members asked staff to check with Administration to see if an in-person award presentation at a County Board meeting may be possible in the near future. Leonard suggested if not, doing award presentations during Soil Stewardship Week may be appropriate.

14) Committee, Staff and Agency Updates

Brief reviews and updates were provided.

- a) **West Central Land+Water Conservation Association:** The area speaking/poster contest is scheduled; Feb. 1st posters are due, Feb. 9th is the scheduled area meeting.
- b) **Eau Claire River Watershed Coalition:** The group continues to meet remotely.
- c) **Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) program:** No additional report.
- d) **Multi-Discharger Variance (MDV) program:** No additional report.
- e) **Water Quality Trading with the City of Augusta:** Planning on 2021 construction. Staff continue to reach out to Hi-Crush to include their land in the project.
- f) **Land Stewardship Subcommittee:** No additional report.
- g) **USDA-NRCS / FSA:** Ka Vang report was forwarded via email.
- h) **DNR-Forestry:** No report.
- i) **UW-Extension:** Seefeldt provided an update on Farm Technology Days, and upcoming meetings and workshops being hosted by Extension.

15) Future Agenda Items

Christopherson reminded members that January 11-15 is the Wisconsin Salt Awareness Week. Leonard mentioned that Rain to Rivers has salt awareness cups which he will try to place in each County Board Member's mailbox.

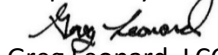
16) Set Date for next meeting

The next meeting was set for Monday, January 25, 2021 at 1:00 pm as a remote meeting.

17) Adjourn

Gibson adjourned the meeting at 2:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Greg Leonard, LCC Clerk