

**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY  
LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES – MONDAY, DECEMBER 20 2021**

**REMOTE MEETING - EAU CLAIRE, WI 54703**

Members Present: Gary Gibson, Robin Leary, Dean Solie, Glory Adams, Heather DeLuka, Tami Schraufnagel, Missy Christopherson, Ricky Strauch.

Members Absent: (none)

Staff Present: Greg Leonard, Chad Berge, Tim Wucherer, and Holly Kuhl – Land Conservation Division; Rod Eslinger and Jared Grande – Planning and Development

Others Present: KaYing Vang – USDA NRCS; Ryan Peaslee – WI DNR; Michele Skinner – Lake Altoona Protection & Rehabilitation District

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**1) Call to order by Chair**

Chair Gibson called the remote meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**2) Roll call**

Roll call was taken. A quorum was present.

**3) Confirmation of Compliance with Open Meetings Law**

Gibson confirmed compliance with the open meetings law.

**4) Public Comment Period**

None.

**5) Review/Approval of November 15, 2021 meeting minutes – Discussion/Action**

**ACTION:** Motion by Leary to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote with none in opposition, 8-0-0.

**6) Review Vouchers and Ledger Update**

The November expenditures and revenues were reviewed.

**7) Bond fund transfer to Chippewa County – Discussion/Action**

Chippewa County will be able to utilize the available extra DATCP Bond funds. Transferring these funds to Chippewa County will prevent penalization within the granting award system.

**ACTION:** Motion by Schraufnagel to approve the transfer of \$22,011.00 DATCP Bond funds to Chippewa County. Motion carried on a voice vote with none in opposition, 8-0-0.

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

The following Cost-Share applications were presented for approval.

- Douglas W. Farmer – Well Abandonment - \$300.00 (County Levy funds), \$300.00 (Landowner funds)
- Ryan & Sheanne Hediger – Well Abandonment - \$200.00 (County Levy funds), \$200.00 (Landowner funds)
- David & Patricia Hermundson – Subsurface Drains - \$4,092.52 (DATCP Bond funds), \$4,875.58 (MDV funds), \$2,950.00 (Landowner funds)
- Elk Creek Lake Rehabilitation & Protection District – Rock Lined Waterway - \$2,259.17 (MDV funds), \$93,740.83 (USDA and private funds)

The Elk Creek project is located on land within Dunn County. Dunn County Land and Water Conservation is assisting with design and installation of the project. The project will stop sediment from being deposited into Elk Creek Lake, which is in both Dunn and Eau Claire Counties.

**ACTION:** Motion by Christopherson to approve the cost-share agreements as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote with none in opposition, 8-0-0.

**9) Farmland Preservation Program signatory authority – Discussion/Action**

The Land Conservation Commission (LCC) has authority granted by ATCP 50.16 to determine conservation standards compliance for Farmland Preservation Program participants. In the past, the LCC has designated named staff members to be the designee to determine compliance. As staff members leave, new staff members must be reauthorized. DATCP is agreeable to the approach of designating staff positions.

**ACTION:** Motion by Solie to designate the Land Conservation Manager and the Conservation Technician-Agronomist positions to determine conservation standards compliance for Farmland Preservation Program participants. Motion carried on a voice vote with none in opposition, 8-0-0.

**10) Cost-share policy revision to incorporate economic hardship – Discussion/Action**

DATCP cost-share policies typically allow 70% cost-share for installation of Conservation Best Management Practices (BMPs). Eau Claire County policies allow up to 75%, which allows an additional 5% cost-sharing on top of the DATCP rate of 70%. ATCP 50.42(4) allows DATCP cost-share to increase to 90% for Economic Hardship if demonstrated as within ATCP 50.42. These specific requirements can be difficult for some landowners to meet. Staff are exploring the possibility to incorporate changes into the county policies to allow similar cost-sharing for proper closure of manure storage facilities. Funding could come from local levy or Multi-Discharger Variance funds.

**ACTION:** Motion by DeLuka to have staff work with Corporation Counsel to propose eligibility guidelines and bring proposed language revisions to the next meeting. Motion carried on a voice vote with none in opposition, 8-0-0.

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

**ACTION:** Motion by Leary to approve 2022 WI Land+Water \$1,784.00 dues, and \$55.00 for Wisconsin Envirothon and \$50.00 for the Great Lakes Committee, motion carried on a voice vote, 8-0-0

**12) Land & Water Resource Management Plan update: Discussion**

Staff have internally began organizing data for the plan update, with meetings to begin after the first of the year.

**13) Committee, Staff and Agency Updates**

Brief reviews and updates were provided.

- **Eau Claire River Watershed Coalition:** The Coalition continues to meet remotely.
- **Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) program:** No report.
- **Multi-Discharger Variance (MDV) program:** MDV funds were included in cost-share approvals.
- **Water Quality Trading with the City of Augusta:** Payment is being processed for completed portions.
- **Land Stewardship Subcommittee:** The subcommittee continues reviewing properties with Parks and Forestry.
- **USDA-NRCS / FSA:** Vang reported on Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).
- **DNR-Forestry:** Peaslee reported on activities with private lands.
- **UW-Extension:** No report.

**14) Future Agenda Items.**

Follow up on Cost-share policies.

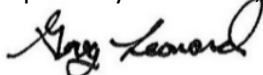
**15) Set Date for next meeting**

The next meeting was set for Monday, January 10, 2022 at 1:00 pm as a remote meeting.

**16) Adjourn**

Gibson adjourned the meeting at 1:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Greg Leonard, LCC Clerk