

**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

MEETING MINUTES – MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023

AG RESOURCE CENTER, RM. 103 & 104

227 – 1ST STREET WEST, ALTOONA, WI 54720

Members Present: Robin Leary, Tami Schraufnagel, Heather DeLuka, Jodi Lepsch, Glory Adams, Missy Christopherson

Members Absent: Jim Stensen, Ricky Strauch

Staff Present: Chad Berge, Christina Rauh, Holly Weigand, Zach Mohr (LCD), Charles Ellefsen (Corp. Counsel)

Others Present: Lyssa Seefeldt, Jed Kaurich, Candy Anderson, Charlie Ayres, Liz Osborne

1) Call to order by Chair

Chair Leary called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

2) Roll call

Roll call was taken. A quorum was present with 6 members in attendance.

3) Confirmation of Compliance with Open Meetings Law

Leary confirmed compliance with the open meetings law.

4) Public Comment Period

No comments.

5) Review/Approval of April 10, 2023, meeting minutes

DISCUSSION: The April 10, 2023, meeting minutes were reviewed.

ACTION: Motion by DeLuka to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote with no one in opposition, 6-0-0.

6) Review Vouchers and Ledger Update

DISCUSSION: The April 2023 expenditures and revenues were reviewed.

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

DISCUSSION: No cost-share applications were previously authorized. The following cost-share applications were presented for approval:

- Lyle Schlomer – NMP/Soil Sampling - \$456.00 (NMFE)

ACTION: Motion by Adams to approve the Schlomer cost-share agreement as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote with no one in opposition, 6-0-0.

8) Review the Mathy/Ayres land donation recommendation as proposed by the Land Stewardship Subcommittee and make a recommendation on how to move forward with the land donation.

DISCUSSION: Supervisor Lepsch, member of the Land Donation Special Committee, discussed the recommendation from the Land Stewardship Subcommittee. She reviewed the various management options the committee discussed, which were then broken down into minimalist, moderate and robust activities. Both the Land Donation Special Committee and Land Stewardship Subcommittee approved to have the Eau Claire County Parks & Forest Department manage the property with the vision of implementing minimalist activities and with appropriate time and funding, moving towards moderate management activities. The committees discussed the need to conduct a Hydrologic and Hydraulic (H&H) study, the cost of the study and the department that would be budgeting for the study in order to move the management of the property to moderate activities. Both committees agreed to refer the source of funding to the Parks and Forest Committee.

ACTION: Motion by Lepsch to recommend the Eau Claire County Parks and Forest Department manage the property with a goal of moderate uses, which also includes minimalist activities as outlined in the table. Moderate uses may be pursued, if feasible, based on an H&H study to be budgeted in 2024 and gaining access from the WI Department of Natural Resources. The following activities will be prohibited: hunting, buildings, motorized activities and camping, unless approved in the future. The LCC also recommends naming the property Red Flint Recreation Area and naming the lake, Fred Ayres Lake. Motion carried on a voice vote with no one in opposition, 6-0-0.

- ▶ Minimalist
 - ▶ Leave property as is
 - ▶ Natural surface hiking and biking trails
 - ▶ Fishing and swimming
 - ▶ Trees and vegetation to be managed by agency as they see fit
- ▶ Moderate
 - ▶ Portable toilets
 - ▶ Pavilion – open air structure
 - ▶ Boardwalk trail
 - ▶ Beach
 - ▶ Habitat improvement – Pollinator, Aquatic, and Wildlife
 - ▶ Non-motorized boats

9) Consideration to dissolve the Land Donation Special Committee.

DISCUSSION: The committee agreed that the Land Donation Special Committee was only put in place to put forth a recommendation, and that the Special Committee has no further authority.

ACTION: Motion by Lepsch to approve dissolving the Land Donation Special Committee. Motion carried on a voice vote with no one in opposition, 6-0-0.

10) 2023 Tree Sale Review.

DISCUSSION: Holly Weigand reviewed the tree sale expenses and revenue. Leary would like to see the generated revenue used to reimburse training opportunities for LCC Citizen Members.

11) LCC Conservation Tour.

DISCUSSION: The Committee suggested having a Conservation Tour in the Fall. More ideas for the conservation tour and a possible date will be brought back to the committee in July.

12) Committee, Staff and Agency Updates

Brief reviews and updates were provided.

a. Eau Claire River Watershed Coalition:

Next meeting is May 16, 2023.

b. Multi-Discharger Variance (MDV) program:

No new updates.

c. Land Stewardship Subcommittee:

Next meeting is May 24, 2023.

d. USDA-NRCS / FSA:

On June 22, 2023, from 4:00pm – 7:00pm they will be hosting a Bees, Trees, and Cheese event.

e. DNR-Forestry:

Jed Kaurich mentioned that their spring fire season is almost to an end. Their Tree & Shrub sale was April 20th and they sold 31,000 trees and shrubs. Wisconsin is part of the Trillion Trees Pledge, that has

a goal in Wisconsin that by the year 2030 to conserve 125,000 acres of forestland, plant 74 million trees in rural areas, and plant 1 million trees in urban areas.

Liz Osborne: Grants were due April 15th. The application pool is down with only 37 runoff grants applied for, for a total of \$3.8 million. Also doing a needs assessment for educational programs in the surrounding three counties: Eau Claire County, Chippewa County, and Dunn County.

f. UW-Extension:

Seefeldt provided a program update.

g. Beaver Creek Reserve

Breanne Klockzien new Lake Monitoring and Protection Network contact.

13) Future Agenda Items.

14) Set date for next meeting

The next LCC meeting was set for June 19, 2023, at 1:00 pm.

15) Adjourn

Leary adjourned the meeting at 2:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chad Berge".

Chad Berge, LCC Clerk