



GREEN LAKE COUNTY

Land Conservation Department

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Green Lake, WI 54941

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Land Conservation Committee Meeting Notice

Date: March 9, 2023 Time: 9:00 AM
County Board Room #0902, Green Lake County Government Center
571 County Rd A, Green Lake WI

AGENDA

Committee Members

- Robert Schweder-
Chairman
- Ken Bates-
Vice-Chairman
- Bill Boutwell
- Nancy Hiestand
- Arnold Dahlke
- Wesley Eisenga –
FSA Member

1. Call to Order
2. Certification of Open Meeting Law
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of the February 9, 2023 Minutes
5. Public Comments
6. Federal Agency Appearances
7. Lake Puckaway Association – Dustin Esselman
8. Department Activities Report
 - Staff Report
 - AIS Update
 - Lake and River Report
9. Annual Report Review
10. Arbor Day Celebration Update
11. Committee Discussion
 - Future Meeting Date: April 13, 2023 at 9:00 AM
 - Future Agenda items for action & discussion
12. Adjourn

This meeting will be conducted through in person attendance or audio/visual communication. Remote access can be obtained through the following link:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 274 535 288 858

Passcode: fUVzFY

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 920-515-0495,,789589973#](#) United States, Green Bay

Phone Conference ID: 789 589 973#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

Please accept at your earliest convenience. Thank you!

Kindly arrange to be present, if unable to do so, please notify our office.
All line items are subject to any and all action by this committee, unless noted.

“Our highest responsibility is to protect and enhance land and water resources that will sustain current and future generations.”

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Land Conservation Committee
March 9, 2023 Monthly Staff Report

February 2023 Projects

1. Inspect open erosion control permits and review new permit applications for erosion control and storm-water management.
2. Continue work on the design of a diversion and rock-lined waterway in the Town of Manchester to address erosion concerns.
3. Update COC's as landowners requested and mail/email copies to them per their request.
4. Assist other LCD staff with design questions and drawing plans for projects they are working on.
5. Attend a couple online trainings that address BMP design details that we deal with regularly.
6. Design waterway at a site in the Town of Green Lake.
7. Design waterway at a site in the Town of Brooklyn.
8. Design waterway at a site in the Town of Seneca.
9. Create maps for Farmland Preservation Program.
10. Write letters to landowners in Princeton AEA and Seneca AEA.
11. Attend relevant trainings.
12. Attend 2023 Annual CAFO Update Training in Fond du Lac.
13. Complete Soil Borings for Heavy Use Area Protection in the Town of Brooklyn.
14. Attend Nutrient Management Training in Green Lake.
15. Attend UAV in Local Government Workshop at the Wisconsin Land Information Association Conference at Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells.
16. Complete CNMP Farm Walkover for Waste Storage Facility Design in the Town of Princeton.
17. Continue Design of a Waste Storage Facility in the Town of Princeton.

March 2023 Project Focus

1. Attend Annual WI Land and Water Conference.
2. Continue designing waterways in Green Lake, Brooklyn, and Seneca.
3. Continue creating maps for Farmland Preservation Program.
4. Continue writing letters to landowners in Princeton AEA and Seneca AEA.
5. Continue to attend relevant trainings.

Lake and River Report

Puckaway – Construction is planned for spring of 2023. Monthly team meetings for the breakwater have reconvened in February in anticipation of spring construction. Working with the DNR, Ducks Unlimited, the contractor, Lake District, Village of Marquette, and highway department to coordinate construction schedules. District is continuing to work with WDNR and private consultants to develop a 2023 aquatic invasive species treatment plan.

Twin Lakes – Submitted revised water quality study report to WDNR for review. Replied to comment by WDNR on the updated water quality study report. Working with the Lake Association to update the 2018 Lake Management Plan in the summer of 2023 (5-year update).

Spring Lake – Working to update the 2018 Lake Management Plan in the summer of 2023 (5 year update).

Little Green – No Update

Green Lake – No Update

Grand Lake – Working with the Lake Association on grant progress for established plant control. Grant awards was denied by the Wisconsin DNR.



LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE February 9, 2023 - MINUTES

The meeting of the Green Lake County Land Conservation Committee was called to order by Robert Schweder, Committee Chairman, at 9:00AM on February 9, 2023 in the County Board Room #0902 of the Green Lake County Government Center in Green Lake, WI. The requirements of the open meeting law were certified as being met. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present:
Robert Schweder
Bill Boutwell
Ken Bates
Arnold Dahlke
Nancy Hiestand

Excused:
Wesley Eisenga, FSA Member

Staff Present: Todd Morris
Heidi Weishaar

Others Present:

MINUTES

Motion/second (Boutwell/Bates) to correct the Wildlife Damage 2022 Claims amount stated in the minutes from \$49,629.87 to \$49,815.99. Motion carried.

Motion/second (Bates/Hiestand) approve and file the January 12, 2023 meeting minutes with the correction to the Wildlife Damage 2022 Claim amount. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

FEDERAL AGENCY APPEARANCES

None

DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES REPORT

- **Staff Report**
Written report was reviewed.
- **Lake and River Report**
Written reports were reviewed

POSTER CONTEST UPDATE

Morris informed the committee of the contest winners and collages of the posters were shown.

ARBOR DAY PROGRAM DISCUSSION

Morris reminded the committee that the Arbor Day Celebration is scheduled for April 28th at the American Legion Hall in Green Lake again this year. A speaker is yet to be determined.

WELL TESTING PROGRAM DISCUSSION

Morris reported that the Finance Committee approved the \$10,515.00 in ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funds to support the program. The next step is County Board approval.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

- WI Land & Water Annual Conference March 1-3, 2023
- Future Meeting Date: March 9, 2023 at 9:00 AM
- Future Agenda items for action & discussion

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 9:19 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Weishaar
Recorder

DRAFT

GREEN LAKE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION
2022 ANNUAL REPORT
TO
COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Chapter 92 of the Wisconsin Statutes governs the Land Conservation Department. The Land Conservation Department provides engineering, technical design and conservation planning to landowners to help control soil erosion and protect water quality. The Land Conservation Department is under the supervision of the Land Conservation Committee. The mission statement of the Land Conservation Department is, "Our highest responsibility is to protect and enhance land and water resources that will sustain current and future generations."

Staff

Todd Morris, County Conservationist
Heidi Weishaar, Administrative Assistant
Jocelyn Pausma, Soil Conservationist I
Parker Richter, Soil Conservationist I
Jordan Dornfeld, Soil Conservationist II
Derek Kavanaugh, Soil Conservationist III



DATCP Grant Funding Received

The department received a \$189,822 grant from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) for departmental operations and program management.

Invasive Species Control and Education



In 2022, the Land Conservation Department signed a Lake Monitoring and Protection Network agreement with Golden Sand Resource Conservation & Development Council to provide technical assistance to communities, stakeholders, and volunteers within Green Lake County to prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), to provide education about AIS impacts and prevention, and to conduct lake monitoring. Activities completed through the network include thirty-two projects covering education and outreach, presentations, field work, and trainings. The Land Conservation Department also contracted with Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council to complete the following activities: Curly Leaf Pondweed Survey and mapping on Grand Lake, Point Intercept Survey on Grand Lake, and Clean Boats, Clean Waters LTE co-employment support to Green Lake. Chris Hamerla is our main point of contact for AIS in Green Lake County.

Planning for the Dodge Memorial Park boat wash station installation began in early 2022. The power wash unit was purchased, the well was installed, and agreements were signed for installation of the wash pad in early 2023. Planned installation is by May 1, 2023.

Outreach was done through the state's Clean Boats, Clean Waters program. The Green Lake Association sponsored four Clean Boats Clean Waters inspectors at all eight public boat launches around Green Lake. Watercraft Inspectors completed 816.5 hours at boat launches, contacting and inspecting 1,548 boats.

County Lakes



Green Lake – The Green Lake planning team consisting of Green Lake County Land Conservation Department, DNR, Green Lake Association, Green Lake Sanitary District, City of Green Lake, City of Ripon, Fond du Lac County, and several community members worked on updating the long-term lake strategy. We are in the first year of implementing its 9 Key Element Plan for the Green Lake Watershed. Staff attended lake planning meetings to discuss plans and projects for 2022, along with attending a watershed farmer meeting to get the farmer perspective on watershed issues. Plans were developed and implemented on a shoreline restoration project located at the Assembly Creek and Springs Conservancy Property. Plans were also developed to address repairing a gully that flows into the south side of Green Lake along Emerald Shores. Discussions on this project were held with the Green Lake Sanitary District and the Town of Green Lake, who owns the property. Two stream habitat restoration days were held at Dakin Creek with forty volunteers donating their time to create trout habitat. Land Conservation staff also collaborated with the Green Lake High School to conduct stream monitoring on four area streams. The Land Conservation Department in coordination with the Green Lake Association received five grants totaling \$50,000, to fund the installation and monitoring of a CAPTURE P recovery system. This project was installed on an existing grade stabilization structure to treat the captured runoff water and remove the soluble phosphorous from the system. This project was installed in 2022 and monitoring will begin in the spring of 2023 and continue through 2024.

Lake Puckaway – The 5-year comprehensive lake management plan (2017) is currently being implemented. The breakwater design/construction team reviewed the expanded plans and permits were submitted for the project. A second grant was received for the breakwater project. The Lake Protection District submitted a request to the county for ARPA funding for projects. Breakwater project was sent out for bids and Ducks Unlimited reviewed the bids, selected contractor, and set a work schedule for installation. Installation scheduled for June 15, 2022, and project is planned to take 6 – 8 weeks to construct. Construction was delayed due to low lake levels continuing through summer and fall. The plan is to construct in spring of 2023 if water levels are adequate to float the barges. The Lake Puckaway District is also working with the DNR and private consultants to develop a 2023 Aquatic Invasive Species treatment plan.

Twin Lakes - The Land Conservation Department is working with watershed landowners to implement best managements practices identified in the Lake Management Plan. The Land Conservation Department submitted the Water Monitoring Grant Report to the DNR for review. Land Conservation Department is waiting for final report approval and grant reimbursement. Staff from the Land Conservation Department attended the annual Lake Association meeting. The Lake Management Plan update is underway. The Twin Lake Association had submitted a milfoil chemical treatment application to the DNR, which was denied. They also submitted a nuisance milfoil and cattail treatment application which was granted. Nuisance plant spraying was scheduled for August 2022.

Spring Lake (Green Lake Township) – A comprehensive Lake Management Plan was completed 2018, which will guide future management actions. The Land Conservation Department is working with watershed landowners to implement best managements practices identified in the Lake Management Plan.

Grand Lake –The Lake Association is continuing water monitoring, and fundraising campaigns in order to fully implement the Lake Management Plan completed in 2017. Staff met with Lake Association to review Grand Lake LMP – AIS Dye Study Grand status. This project has been completed and grant reimbursement has been received. In 2022 Grand Lake hired Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development Council to complete a Point Intercept Survey. This survey was completed in June 2022 along with a drone vegetation survey. Golden Sands also completed an early season Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) survey. Members of the Lake Association, Land Conservation Department, Golden Sands, and DNR met to review future plans for AIS control and treatment. The Land Conservation Department submitted a Surface Water Grant Application on behalf of the Lake Association for 2023 Project funding for AIS control and treatment.

Little Green Lake - A long-term comprehensive Lake Management Plan was completed and approved in December 2018. A lake planning team comprised of lake property owners, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Green Lake County developed the plan over the course of 2018. Little Green Lake Association completed an Alum treatment survey. Land Conservation Department developed construction plans for basin inlet repair along Hwy 44. A site visit and review was conducted on a previously installed grade stabilization structure on private property which controls the runoff from a 31 acre watershed into Little Green Lake. The inspection found that even though the structure is over 20 years old it is still in good condition and functioning as designed.

Green Lake County Drainage Board

District 1 – Inspection completed by Mr. Gneiser. He spoke with Steve Smits, Double S Dairy on ditch. District corridor has a lot of trees and brush located in it, Mr. Smits would like the board to consider removing the brush and cleaning ditch.

District 2 – Inspection completed by Mr. Foust. Ditch remains in good working condition. The landowner keeps both District #2 and #3 in good order.

District 3 – Inspection completed by Mr. Foust. New 48” culvert has been installed, 48” galvanized pipe. Road above could use some fill and grade top. Owner will do this work after crop season.

District 4 – No issues with ditch maintenance. Spoke with Barry Mashuda regarding remaining as a drainage district, they are the only landowners in district and account balance keeps going further in the negative. Landowner is interested in dissolving District 4 and are aware that any outstanding debt must be paid to do this. Green Lake County Land Conservation Department will work with Mashuda to file a petition for dissolution of the district. This petition needs to be filed with the circuit court.

District 5 – Inspection completed by Mr. Sobieski. Mr. Sobieski had spoken with John Trochinski, landowner, about his concerns with tile blowouts. Stopped by house and nobody was home. Could not see any damaged areas. The driveway culverts were replaced with road construction, and it looks like the ditch was reshaped and seeded. There may be a few low spots in final grading that could be replaced.

Seneca-Warren – Inspection completed by Mr. Sobieski. Rodney Zietlow, landowner, had concerns that the ditch east of his house is backing up when flowing into the Town Ditch and feels that the center of the ditch needs some maintenance cleaning. During inspection there are areas that have brush growing along the ditch that needs to be removed. Past surveys have shown that the ditch bottom is 1.0’ – 1.5’ high and could be lowered to meet design specs. A couple culverts were never lowered to design specs, and this is also keeping the bottom about 1.5’ higher than design specs. Proposed repair is to clean out the center of ditch, do not touch sides, starting on DNR property at South Rd and work way to the north up to Hwy F. Remove/cut brush and treat stumps to prevent regrowth of box elder and buckthorn. Leo Souder would also like to clean the section of ditch west of Hwy EE, he will clean it at his cost and remove the brush from this area.

Land & Water Resource Management Plan Implementation (DATCP)

In 2022, \$72,257 in state DATCP cost sharing was paid to 20 participants to implement various Best Management Practices (BMPs). Cost-share rates for these programs range from 50%-70% depending on the practice. Conservation practices installed/implemented under these programs in 2022 were:



Practice	Total Units
Cover Crops	64 ac
Grassed Waterway	0.86 ac
Nutrient Management	1370.2 ac.
Subsurface Drain	1644 ft.
Stream Crossing	29 ft.
Well Decommissioning	3 no.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Approximately \$141,500 was paid to landowners who installed/implemented practices in 2022. Five new EQIP Contracts obligating \$64,000 were signed in 2022. Cost sharing for this program ranges from 50%-90% depending on the practice. Conservation practices installed/implemented in 2022 were as follows:



Practice	Total Units
Agricultural Energy Management Plan	1 no.
Brush Management	9.0 ac.
Cover Crops	1449.6 ac.
Fence	7898 ft.
Forest Management Plan	1 no.
Forest Management Practice Design	3 no.
Grass Waterway	0.7 ac.
High Tunnel System	7775 sq. ft.
Livestock Pipeline	1004 ft.
Mulching	0.7 ac.
Pasture and Hay Planting	39.5 ac.
Prescribed Grazing	43.9 ac.
Stream Crossing	1 no.

Wildlife Damage Program

The Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program is a program where, through local county implementation, farmers receive assistance with wildlife damage prevention and compensation for crops lost. This program is fully state funded with funds coming from a \$1 surcharge on hunting licenses.

2022 crop year deer damage claims of approximately \$49,815.99 was appraised for eight farmers. Thirteen farmers received abatement assistance. Shooting permits were issued to farmers where over \$1,000 of deer damage occurred or was likely to occur with a total of 172 total deer harvested. USDA Animal, Plant, Health, and Inspection Service – Wildlife Services (USDA-APHIS-WHS) handles day to day administration and field management with the Land Conservation Department having overall administrative and financial management. All staff and Land Conservation Committee time spent on this program is reimbursed 100% from the DNR.

In 2022, Green Lake County participated in the Deer Donation Program. This is the second year in which there was a specific drop off site established in the County. A total of 11 deer were donated to supply the Green Lake County food pantry with 250 pounds of processed venison.

Farmland Preservation Program

This program’s purpose is to preserve agricultural land and open space by promoting sustainable land use planning and development. A major component of the program requires landowners to comply with state soil and water conservation standards adopted by the Land Conservation Committee. Participants are eligible to claim a \$7.50 per acre income tax credit. 268 landowners received \$396,044 in state tax credits.

Green Lake County assisted landowners in the Town of St. Marie in establishing an Ag Enterprise Area (AEA). The AEA consist of contiguous agricultural in and around the St. Marie Township that promote the same standards as the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP). The St. Marie AEA was established on 01/01/2021 and to date there are seven (7) landowners with a total of 1065 acres that have signed Farmland Preservation Agreements. Signing the agreement acknowledges that the landowner’s intent is to keep their land in agricultural production for 15 years. The Farmland Preservation Agreement also makes them eligible for a tax credit of \$5.00 per acre.

In 2022 Green Lake County assisted landowners in the Town of Princeton in applying for the Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) designation. The Town of Princeton AEA was selected to be approved as and AEA and became established as of 01/01/2023.

Clean Sweep

On August 12, 2022, 193 residents participated in a one-day hazardous waste chemical collection. The collection netted approximately 9,220 total pounds of hazardous waste. Also collected were 900 gallons of waste oil, 425 gallons of anti-freeze, and 9282 fluorescent light bulbs. A list of disposal options for items not collected at the clean sweep was distributed as needed.

In our seventh year of Electronic Waste Collection, we contracted Resource Solutions Corp. D.B.A. RecycleThatStuff.com to collect our electronic waste. We collected 12,965 pounds of electronic waste.

In addition, 391 tires were collected for a minimal fee. Liberty Tire Recycling was contracted with to pick up and recycle the tires.

\$10,000 in revenue toward this event was received from Waste Management and \$11,234 in revenue was received from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, and \$2057 was received for tire collection/waste oil/auto batteries. Total cost of the event was \$33,658 with the Green Lake County cost after all revenues and expenses of \$10,367.



Land Conservation Ordinances



Construction Site Erosion Control and Storm Water Management Ordinance - In 2022, 14 Construction site erosion control and storm water management permits were issued, generating \$1,397 of revenue.

Animal Waste Management Ordinance – In 2022, 1 Animal waste storage facility permit was issued, generating \$400 of revenue.

Conservation Education Efforts

The annual Conservation and Environmental Awareness Poster Contest for county students in grades K-12 was held in January with 129 poster entries received. Cash prizes were awarded to 16 students in various contest divisions. The award-winning students were recognized during the April County Board of Supervisors meeting. Award winning posters were also displayed at the Green Lake County Fair.

The 2022 Arbor Day Breakfast celebration was held on April 28, 2022. This event was held at the Green Lake American Legion Post 306 with 98 participants. The featured speaker was Thomas Schultz who gave a talk on “Invaders in our Forests.”

The Land and Lake field day was held at Albright Family Farm on August 22, 2022. Topics included corn-soybean plots and variable rate nutrient applications, cover crops and soil health, using precision agriculture to farm the best and conserve the rest, and tour of White Creek stream restoration project. There was also a petting zoo and soil tunnel for everyone to enjoy. Various agencies cooperated to make the field day a great success for the 150 participants that attended.



No-till Drill Rental Program

In March of 2022 the Green Lake Association purchased a Great Plains No-till Drill. The Land Conservation Department leases the drill from the Association and rents the equipment to landowner in the county. The goal of this program is to promote the establishment of cover crops, small grains and forages, and native plantings. In the first year of the program the drill was leased to 28 landowners to use on a total of 564 acres. The various plantings were: 311 acres of native grass, 17 acres of overseeding pastures, 40 acres of forage planting (hayland), 120 acres of cover crops, and 76 acres of small grains. We are looking to build on the success of this program in 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Todd Morris".

Todd Morris
County Conservationist