



LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE May 11, 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 May 11, 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: Hannah Niewoehner
Cate Wylie
Jeffrey Mann

MINUTES

Motion/second (***Boutwell/Bates***) to approve and file the April 13, 2023 meeting minutes Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

APPEARANCES

- Federal Agencies
None
- Hannah Niewoehner, Watershed Coordinator, provided updates on the projects within the Green Lake Watershed that she is working on and then also included her involvements with the Green Lake Sanitary District and the Green Lake Association. See report attached.

DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES REPORT

- **Staff Report**
Written report was reviewed.
- **AIS Update**
Written report was reviewed from Chris Hamerla, Regional Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Coordinator.
- **Lake and River Report**
Written Report was reviewed, and Ken Bates gave an update on Little Green.

WELL TESTING PROGRAM -REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

Morris reported 138 participants in the well testing program. The water samples are currently at the lab in Stevens Point with a follow up meeting scheduled for June 5, 2023 to explain the test results.

REVIEW DISCUSSION ON FIVE YEAR REVIEW OF LAND + WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (LWRM) PLAN

Morris went over the written LWRM plan five-year review with the committee and informed them of the meeting and site tour set up with the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) on June 6, 2023.

DISCUSSION ON THE STATE OF WI FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF FARMLAND

After a brief explanation of this topic, the committee has decided they would like to discuss things further and move forward with a resolution regarding foreign ownership of farmland. Todd Morris and Jeff Mann will work together to develop a resolution to be brought back to the committee.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

- Future Meeting Date: June 8, 2023 at 9:00 AM
- LWLWCA Meeting Date: May 19, 2023
- Future Agenda items for action & discussion

TOUR OF THE LAKE PUCKAWAY BREAKWATER PROJECT

The committee made a site visit to Lake Puckaway to view the current breakwater project being installed. Derek Kavanaugh met the committee at the site to give a project update and answer questions.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Weishaar
Recorder

Green Lake Watershed Report

LCC Meeting

5/11/2023

GLSD Lake Update

A spring newsletter will be sent out to the district landowners/homeowners that provides updates on our annual spring cleanup event, lake levels, early algae growth, carp numbers, aquweed harvesting, future sewerage. The GLSD tried to convey the importance of aquatic plants in the newsletter. There have been issues in the past where lakefront homeowners request the harvester to "clean up" the area in front of their dock when it is not needed.

Carp – prepping for this year's carp harvest and working on designs for new carp barrier at Cty Rd K. Funding partners include DU and USFWS. Estimated to be a \$200,000 project.

Lake Water Quality – Several reports of filamentous algae on the lake and Sunnyside. Lisa reports that water clarity has been good this spring allowing light penetration for algae growth. There are some concerns with aquatic plant growth for the upcoming summer season. The DNR permit only allows the harvester to cut from June 1st to August 31st. GLA will be conducting water sampling in areas where blooms are possible/likely.

Fish – Lake trout were released in April. There were approx. 1,000 catchable rainbow trout released in the Ripon millpond. The trout fishing opener was held May 6th. This program provides fishing opportunities to all anglers in hopes of introducing newcomers and kids to fishing.

Walleye Wagon – The crew handled 343 walleye and harvested 11 million eggs. These will be released during the last two weeks in May.

Watershed Coordinator Update

Conservation Easements - We had our Conservation Easement partner meeting last week to start developing a streamlined process to assist landowners with developing easements. The various organizations involved have much to discuss with their boards before anything is developed. As a result of our CE meeting in early April with Shelly, we met with one prospective landowner who is interested in a CE. She is located in the watershed.

Grants - As a reminder, the GLSD holds 4 active grants for BMP implementation in the watershed. 2 will be closed out as soon as DNR approves the final invoices etc. The remaining two grants include the DNR Lake Protection grant for \$200,000 which covers FDL county. Not much has been spent on that grant to this point. Our other open grant is the DNR TRM for \$588,000 which covers the entire watershed. We have identified several projects already that will be implemented this year. The GLCD, GLSD, and GLA worked in conjunction to submit an application through EPA GLRI for Roy and Wuerches creek subwatersheds. I received an update from our DNR Nonpoint coordinator that it was moving along through DNR and EPA. Should hear back sometime this summer. It is a nearly \$600,000 grant and GLCD will hold the grant.

Events – Part of the Pheasants Forever Glacial Habitat Restoration Area (GHRA) planning group. The GHRA restores and creates habitat for waterfowl, pheasants, songbirds. The GHRA covers Columbia,

Dodge, FDL, and Winnebago counties. Part of this area overlaps the GL watershed. A field day will be held at the Wescott gunclub property in FDL county June 7th. I plan to attend and have information available for conservation opportunities in the GL watershed.

GLA

Boat Wash Station – Pollesch started working on the installation of the boat wash station at Dodge Memorial Park. Goal is to have it up and running by Memorial Day weekend and to have two billboards on HWY 23 and 73 to promote the station.

Roy and Wuerches Stream Inventory – Hired Inter-Fluve and the inventory was completed last week. They identified future stream erosion projects and potential upland BMPs. A full report and data will be completed by September.

CAPTure Structure – Structure is ready to start sampling.