



## LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE December 14, 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 December 14, 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  
Arnold Dahlke  
Nancy Hiestand

Excused:  
Wesley Eisenga, FSA Member  
Ken Bates

Staff Present: Todd Morris  
Heidi Weishaar

Others Present: Jeff Mann-Corp Counsel  
Ken Stephani-Finance Director  
Cate Wylie-County Administrator

### MINUTES

**Motion/second (Boutwell/Hiestand)** to approve and file the November 9, 2023 meeting minutes Motion carried.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

### APPEARANCES

- **Federal Agencies**  
None
- **Hannah Niewoehner**, Watershed Coordinator, provided a written update on the projects within the Green Lake Watershed that she is working on as well as updates from the Green Lake Sanitary District. See report attached.

### WAKE BOAT RECOMMENDATIONS DISCUSSION & ACTION

A letter created by Morris and approved by Corporation Council will be mailed to the townships surrounding Green Lake with suggestions on distance from shore, depth of water, and an educational component.

### 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**  
Morris reported Surface Water Grants were submitted for Twin Lake and Grand Lake. Schweder gave an oral report on Lake Puckaway.

## **CLEAN SWEEP FINAL REPORT**

Morris shared the final numbers with the committee regarding participation, income, and expenses.

## **FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM UPDATE-ASSEMBLY BILL 133 (SENATE BILL 134)**

Morris reviewed the Act 42 approved by Governor Evers which improves and modernizes the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP). Highlights of the Act are:

- Increased tax credits to two tiers of \$10/acre and \$12.50/acre.
- Farmland Preservation (FP) agreement length decreases from 15 to 10 years.
- Qualifies agricultural conservation easements in a FP area as a new \$10/acre category of farmland.

## **2023 DEER DONATION PROGRAM UPDATE**



4 deer were received during the 2 collection dates of November 22 and 25 from 11:00am – 2:00pm each day. The meat is currently being processed at LeRoy Meats in Fox Lake and will be donated to the Green Lake County Food Pantry upon completion.

## **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

- Future Meeting Date: January 11, 2024 at 9:00 AM
- Future Agenda items for action & discussion

## **ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 9:21 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Weishaar  
Recorder

LCC Meeting

12/14/2023

GLSD Update

### **Grants:**

As we wrap up 2023, one of our biggest tasks is to submit grant reimbursement requests to the DNR. The GLSD holds a variety of grants, but the larger grants we work with are for BMPs on ag lands. Paulie Janssen from the GLSD and I have been working for the past month on getting our 4 BMP grants updated and 2 of the 4 closed out. The LCD has been instrumental in helping us get the projects in the ground

In November we closed out the 2019 Green Lake County Lake Protection Grant. It was a \$200,000 award from the state and funded 4 Basins, 3 streambank stabilizations, 4 waterways, 1 lakeshore stabilization, and 2 cover crop projects. All these projects were in the Green Lake County portion of the watershed.

In December, we also closed out our 2020 Fond du Lac County Lake Protection Grant. That grant included \$7,860 from the state for cover crops & no-till projects in the Fond du Lac portion of the watershed.

Also in December, Paulie and I submitted partial reimbursement requests for our 2021 FdL Co. Lake Protection Grant and our new Targeted Runoff Management Grant. The 2021 FdL grant is a \$200,000 grant and has thus far covered a great deal of watershed-wide I&E outreach on prairie strips & easements, a large amount of cover crops & no-till, as well as a wetland scrape. The Targeted Runoff Management grant is our largest grant with a total award of \$588,000 over 3 years. We received the grant in April, and since that time, the grant has been used to fund 3 sediment retention basins, 1 grassed waterway, 1 no-till project, and 3 cover crop projects.

It's important to point out that the Land Conservation Department staff time as well as my own, is used as cost match on the grants. This in-kind time helps keep commitment cost from the partners low. Through the grants and partner contributions, we were able to sign up over 1,000 cover crop acres in the watershed.

### **Water Quality**

The final update we have is related to the lack of runoff into the lake this year. At our Lake Management Team meeting this week, the USGS gave us preliminary data showing the phosphorus levels in the lake have dropped for the 3rd year in a row. While the ongoing drought is a main component of this, we know that all the work being done around the watershed by the county LCD, GLA, NRCS, and GLSD is factor as well. We hope to have more data to share once USGS has the full-year's data evaluated this coming spring.

# GREEN LAKE COUNTY

## November AIS

## Highlights 2023

Hello everyone,

I hope you had a good Thanksgiving. Normally I send out specific AIS updates to each county but for November I'm sending one inclusive email since there isn't much to report.

End of the year grant reporting is in full swing. November 2nd I presented AIS information to freshmen at Wausau East High School and on November 16th I attended the Golden Sands RC&D Council meeting to give AIS updates.

This week I am holding interviews for the open AIS Coordinator position.



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Resource Conservation  
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