



# GREEN LAKE COUNTY

## Land Conservation Department

571 County Road A  
Green Lake, WI 54941

Phone: 920-294-4051  
FAX: 920-294-4056  
Email: [lcd@greenlakecountywi.gov](mailto:lcd@greenlakecountywi.gov)

### Land Conservation Committee Meeting Notice

**Date: December 14, 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 November 9, 2023 Minutes
5. Public Comments
6. Appearances
7. Wake Boat Recommendations Discussion & Action
8. Department Activities Report
  - Staff Report
  - AIS Update
  - Lake and River Report
9. Clean Sweep Final Report
10. Farmland Preservation Program Update-Assembly Bill 133 (Senate Bill 134)
11. 2023 Deer Donation Program Update
12. Committee Discussion
13. Future Meeting Date: January 11, 2024 at 9:00 AM
14. Future Agenda items for action & discussion
15. Adjourn

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

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device  
[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#](tel:+19205150495789589973) United States, Green Bay

Phone Conference ID: 789 589 973#  
[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

Please accept at your earliest convenience. Thank you!

Virtual attendance at meetings is optional. If technical difficulties arise, there may be instances when remote access may be compromised. If there is a quorum attending in person, the meeting will proceed as scheduled.

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.”**

Green Lake County is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer  
Visit our Web site: [www.greenlakecountywi.gov](http://www.greenlakecountywi.gov)



**LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**  
**November 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 November 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 (via Teams)  
Arnold Dahlke  
Nancy Hiestand

Excused:  
Wesley Eisenga, FSA Member

Staff Present: Todd Morris  
Heidi Weishaar

Others Present: Derek Kavanaugh-Soil Con III, Jeff Mann-Corp Counsel,  
Ken Stephani-Finance Director, Cate Wylie-County Administrator (via Teams)  
Matt Vande Kolk-Chief Deputy

**MINUTES**

***Motion/second (Boutwell/Hiestand)*** to approve and file the October 12, 2023 meeting minutes Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**APPEARANCES**

None

**WAKE BOAT DISCUSSION & ACTION**

Derek Kavanaugh gave an update on the 2023 Bill Proposal LRB-3518/1.

***Motion/second (Boutwell/Dahlke)*** to suspend the rules to allow people in the audience to speak. Motion carried.

- Aaron Anderson, Green Lake County Chapter Chairman for Walleye's for Tomorrow, spoke in opposition of wake boats because the lake system is already impaired.
- Mike Arrowhead, Chairman of Walleyes for Tomorrow, spoke on the spawning of Walleyes and effects that wake boats might have on reproduction of them.
- Ryan Mieborg, Shoreline Boat Center, agreed that distance needs to be kept from shore. Boat owners are given flyers and a self-test that outline the recommendations from the Water Sports Industry Association. He suggested making distance recommendations very clear to follow. Ryan also felt education is important and a map at the landings showing water sport areas would be beneficial.

- Lisa Reas, Green Lake Sanitary District, main concern is with Invasive Species in the ballast water. She feels this issue needs to be addressed.
- Chief Deputy Matt Vande Kolk said that staff and enforcement is a concern for the Sheriff's Department. Vande Kolk also expressed that people really do care about the lake and want to protect it, thus education is as important as regulation.
- Derek Kavanaugh stated the depth on Big Green is almost an easier line to set because judging 700 feet is very difficult, but if your depth finder on the boat is showing you in the proper depth of water, then your good to go, in most areas of the lake.
- Chairman Schweder feels that it should go deeper than 30 feet to more like 40-50 feet of water depth.
- Ken Bates stated that he would like to see 700 feet from shore and 40-50 feet of water depth.
- Arnie Dahlke feels that 700 feet from shore and 40 feet of depth is what's needed.

**Motion/second (Bates/Dahlke)** to approve an enhanced wake recommendation of 700 feet from shore and 40 feet of depth. Motion carried.

Discussion was held and Jeff Mann, Corp Counsel, noted that this is just a recommendation to the Townships.

**Motion/second (Dahlke/Boutwell)** to move Agenda item #11 Resolution following #7 Wake Boat Discussion. Motion carried.

## **RESOLUTION**

**Motion/second (Boutwell/Hiestand)** to approve the resolution relating to Opposition to Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau 2023 Bill Proposal LRB-3518/1. Motion carried.

## **MARQUETTE AGRICULTURE ENTERPISE AREA DESIGNATION DISCUSSION**

Morris reported that the DATCP approved the application for the Ag Enterprise area in the Town of Marquette and it will be effective starting January 1, 2024.

## **MULTI-DISCHARGER VARIANCE PROGRAM PARTICIPATION DISCUSSION**

Morris explained what the program is and informed the LCC that the Land Conservation Department will be applying for MDV participation in 2024.

10:05 AM Arnie Dahlke left the meeting.

## **DISCUSSION AND ACTION FOR SUPPORT OF THE LITTLE GREEN LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT LAKE MANAGEMENT PLANNING GRANT**

Land Conservation received a letter requesting donation commitment from Green Lake County LCD for their Lake Management Planning Grant application. Committee discussion resulted in setting a precedent to not contribute funding to Lake Management Planning Grant applications.

## **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.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Deer Donation Program, November 22nd and 25th, 11:00am - 2:00pm, Green Lake County Highway Shop
- Wisconsin Water & Soil Health Conference, December 7-8, Wisconsin Dells

## **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

- Future Meeting Date: December 14, 2023 at 9:00 AM
- Future Agenda items for action & discussion

## **ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 10:08AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Weishaar  
Recorder

DRAFT

**Land Conservation Committee**  
**December 14, 2023 Monthly Staff Report**

**November 2023 Projects**

1. Inspect open erosion control permits and review new permit applications for erosion control and storm-water management.
2. Create a Stormwater Management Plan Maintenance Agreement for All Saints Parish church and school and get the designated signee in office to sign and record the Agreement.
3. Complete the design of a Wetland Restoration in the Town of Green Lake.
4. Assist GLSD staff to survey the acreage of cover crops installed for their cost-share program and create maps showing the areas planted.
5. Complete the design of 2 subsurface drains along existing grassed waterways in the Town of Green Lake.
6. Meet landowners in the Town of Green Lake to discuss the design plans for their respective projects that they want installed.
7. Begin design of a farmable diversion in the Town of Manchester.
8. Conduct Farmland Preservation field checks.
9. Prepare Nutrient Management Plans.
10. Prepare Cost Share Agreements.
11. Attend relevant trainings.
12. Continue design of a grassed waterway in the Town of Princeton.
13. Begin design of a grassed waterway in the Town of Berlin.
14. Continue design of a waste storage facility and waste transfer in the Town of Princeton.
15. Inspect open erosion control and storm-water management permits throughout the county.
16. Assist with deer donation collection at the Land Conservation building.

**December 2023 Project Focus**

1. Contact farmers that are potential grazers.
2. Create plan for sinkholes in the Town of Green Lake.
3. Create plan for wetland scrape in Town of Brooklyn.
4. Continue to attend relevant trainings.
5. Prepare Nutrient Management Plans.
6. Prepare Cost Share Agreements.
7. Attend relevant trainings.



# GREEN LAKE COUNTY

## Land Conservation Department

571 County Road A  
Green Lake, WI 54941

Phone: 920-294-4051  
FAX: 920-294-4056  
Email: [lcd@greenlakecountywi.gov](mailto:lcd@greenlakecountywi.gov)

December 11, 2023

As you know, the Land Conservation Committee has engaged in discussions concerning the impact of wake boating on the shoreline, vegetative habitat, and movement of aquatic invasive species into Big Green Lake. Protection of this valuable county resource is a priority of the department, but we also recognize that Big Green Lake is large enough to support multiple recreational opportunities, including wake boats.

During committee meetings, input from different groups on this issue was gathered and the Land Conservation Committee agreed upon the following recommendations:

1. **No enhanced wakes within 700 feet of the shore.** This recommendation is based on the St. Anthony Falls Lab study that found wakesurf boats require distances greater than 500 feet from shoreline/docks and other boats to decrease their wake characteristics similar to the non-wakesurf boats.
2. **No enhanced wakes in water shallower than 40 feet.** This is based on recommendations from Wisconsin Lakes stating that current studies are still in progress that will likely indicate impacts in waters deeper than 20 feet. Wisconsin Lakes is currently recommending a prohibition of enhanced wake creation in depths of less than 30 feet to prevent scouring or stirring up of lakebed. The Land Conservation Committee chose to recommend a prohibition to a depth of 40 feet on Big Green Lake.

Wisconsin Statute § 30.77 vests law making authority over the local regulation of boating, specifically wake boating, with villages, towns, and cities. Accordingly, Green Lake County cannot create an ordinance for Big Green Lake, and any action; therefore, must come from the municipalities surrounding the lake. The Land Conservation Department supports municipalities in developing an Enhanced Wake Ordinance for Big Green Lake, if they so choose.

In addition to supporting the recommendations above, the County also feels that an educational campaign would be beneficial for compliance. It was discussed that signage could be added at boat launch sites with a QR code that will link boaters to an interactive map, highlighting the enhanced wake recreational areas on Big Green Lake. The educational campaign would also inform boaters regarding the transportation of aquatic invasive species in their ballast tanks. The current design of the boats does not allow for complete draining of the ballast tanks which could contribute to the spread of zebra mussels, stary stonewort, or spiny water flea. Direction on how and where to properly decontaminate ballast tanks would be part of the educational campaign.

In November, the Green Lake County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to support Resolution 20-2023, Resolution in opposition to Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau 2023 Bill Proposal LRB-3518/1. The proposal created restrictions on wakeboarding and wakesurfing, namely establishing parameters prohibiting wakesurfing or wakeboarding within 200 feet of shoreline, dock, pier, boathouse or other structure located completely or partially in the water. Notwithstanding, it also significantly hindered a local municipality's ability to create and pass its own laws tailored to address unique, local issues which was evident in the proposal's prohibition against a municipality from passing more restrictive measures than those established. Additionally, the proposal failed to cite any scientific data supporting the proposed actions. The County's Resolution supports the ideal that local municipalities be permitted to maintain control when addressing wake boating and believes that any proposal should be based on reliable, scientific findings.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Todd Morris  
County Conservationist

# 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.



**Golden Sands**  
Resource Conservation  
& Development Council, Inc.

*Conservation That Works!*

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE:  
[GOLDSANDSRC.D.ORG](http://GOLDSANDSRC.D.ORG)**