



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 14, 2024 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 8, 2024 Minutes
5. Public Comments
6. Appearances
7. Department Activities Report
 - Staff Report
 - AIS Update
 - Lake and River Report
8. Annual Report Review
9. Notice of Budgetary Adjustment – Mult-Discharge Variance Funding-Discussion & Action
10. Arbor Day Discussion
11. Upcoming Events
 - WI Land & Water Annual Conference – March 6-8
 - Biochar Workshop – April 2nd
 - Well Testing Program – April 19th Distribution Day
 - County Deer Advisory Council – April 25th
12. Committee Discussion
13. Future Meeting Date: April 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: 219 467 052 163
Passcode: XQqMiH

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)
Or call in (audio only)

[+1 920-515-0495,906383084#](tel:+19205150495906383084#) United States, Green Bay

Phone Conference ID: 906 383 084#
[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.”

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Visit our Web site: www.greenlakecountywi.gov

Land Conservation Committee
March 14, 2024 Monthly Staff Report

February 2024 Projects

1. Inspect open erosion control permits and review new permit applications for erosion control and storm-water management.
2. Complete the installation of a Grassed Diversion, Farmable Diversion, and 2 rock-lined outlets in the Town of Manchester.
3. Complete the installation of a wetland restoration in the Town of Green Lake.
4. Begin the design of a Grade Stabilization Structure in the Town of Green Lake for the GLRI grant.
5. Assist the Highway Department to properly size a couple culverts in the Town of Manchester.
6. Begin updating Spreadsheet Tool for Estimating Pollutant Loads (STEPL) per DNR recommendations.
7. Attend Southeast area tech update meeting in Juneau.
8. Begin design of a waste storage facility in the Town of Marquette.
9. Continue design of a grassed waterway, rock lined waterway, and rock lined outlet in the Town of Brooklyn.
10. Begin design of a grade stabilization structure in the Town of Green Lake.
11. Begin design of a grade stabilization structure in the Town of Marquette.
12. Design Buffer in Town of Green Lake.
13. Design Rock Lined Waterway in Town of Green Lake.
14. Attend relevant trainings.
15. Design Waterway for Fondulac County.

Lake and River Report

Puckaway – No Update

Twin Lakes – Grant Received. Initial planning on phosphorus removal system.

Spring Lake – No Update

Little Green – Grant was not received.

Green Lake – Met with GLA staff to develop field work plans for 2024. Design and planning work underway for stream restoration and BMP projects for 2024.

Grand Lake – Grant was not received.

Other – Coordinating Restoration plans for wetland violation with DNR Warden to develop restoration plans.



LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE February 8, 2024 - 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 8, 2024 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
Cate Wylie-County Administrator

Dave Terrell, Wildlife Services
Rebeca Bravo, Wildlife Services

MINUTES

Motion/second (Boutwell/Hiestand) to approve and file the December 14, 2023 meeting minutes Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Doug Knutzen commented that he is opposed to an ordinance and in favor of advisory regarding Wake Boats on Green Lake.

APPEARANCES

- Federal Agencies
None

WILDLIFE DAMAGE – 2023 CLAIMS DISCUSSION & ACTION

Rebeca Bravo, Wildlife Specialist, asked for approval of the 2023 damage claims. There were no hunter access issues and every participant met their harvest quota.

Motion/second (Dahlke/Boutwell) to approve 2023 claims in the amount of \$49,714.97 . Motion carried.

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. Schweder gave an oral update on Lake Puckaway.

WAKE BOAT DISCUSSION

Morris and Schweder met with the Green Lake County Sherriff Department regarding enforcement. After discussion it was decided that an advisory is a better way to proceed than an ordinance. Moving forward, an advisory will be the recommendation to the municipalities.

CANCELLATION OF NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANCE FOR PAUL KOEHN – DISCUSSION & ACTION

Morris explained how the change in the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) in 2010 requiring participants to have a Certificate of Compliance issued by the Land Conservation Department in conjunction with a Nutrient Management Plan resulted in a lot of people voluntarily opting out of the program. At this time, Paul Koehn would like to voluntarily get back into the program and is meeting all the requirements.

Motion/second (Boutwell/Hiestand) to approve a Cancellation of Notice of Non-Compliance for Paul Koehn. Motion Carried.

ARBOR DAY DISCUSSION

After discussion on prices and venues, the Arbor Day Celebration will return to the Green Lake Conference Center on April 26, 2024.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Winnebago Waterways Roundtable – February 15th
- Nutrient Management Farmer Education Training – February 21st
- Well Testing Program – April 19th Distribution Day

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

- Future Meeting Date: March 14, 2024 at 9:00 AM
- Future Agenda items for action & discussion

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Weishaar
Recorder

**GREEN LAKE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION
2023 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
Derek Kavanaugh, Soil Conservationist III
Jordan Dornfeld, Soil Conservationist II
Jocelyn Pausma, Soil Conservationist I
Parker Richter, Soil Conservationist I



DATCP Grant Funding Received

The department received a \$191,649 grant from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) for departmental operations and program management.

Invasive Species Control and Education



In 2023, 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), provide education about AIS impacts and prevention, and conduct lake monitoring. Activities completed through the network include AIS outreach, education, and display at Green Lake County Fair. Golden Sands RC&D conducted AIS response and monitoring of a butterfly dock population, assisted with Boat Wash Station setup, staff training, and end of year review, and coordinated and implemented the Purple Loosestrife Biological Control program in county.

Installation completed of Dodge Memorial Park boat wash station. A total of 315 boats went through the station to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. Of the boaters that used the station, 86% said that they would use it again. Plans are underway to make the station automated in 2024 for 24-hour use.

Outreach was done through the state's Clean Boats, Clean Waters program. The Green Lake Association sponsored five Clean Boats Clean Waters inspectors at all eight public boat launches around Green Lake. Watercraft Inspectors completed 1043 hours at boat launches, contacting and inspecting 2679 boats.

County Lakes



Green Lake – We are in the second year of implementing the 9 Key Element Plan for the Green Lake Watershed. Through various funding sources approximately 603 acres of cover crops were established, 2 grade stabilization structures were installed, 3.2 acres of grassed waterways were established, no till practiced on 168 acres, and 11 acres of streambank buffers maintained in Green Lake County Buffer program (1.6 new acres in 2023.)

In 2023 the CAPTURE™ Pilot Project was completed. The goal of the project is to reduce the transport of soluble phosphorous to Green Lake. The reduction will be achieved by trialing a phosphorous filter system utilizing an iron-enhanced activated aluminum media capable of removing >50% of soluble phosphorous. While grade stabilization structures are effective at reducing sediment to lakes and stream,

they are not as effective at reducing soluble phosphorous. This project involved modifying an existing grade stabilization structure by updating the current inlet with a pipe drop structure and installing a drainpipe to flow the ponded water through the media. The CAPTURE™ project will be monitored for 2 years to determine phosphorus removal. If this project shows measurable soluble phosphorous reductions additional phosphorous removal systems could be retrofitted on similar projects throughout the watershed.

Lake Puckaway – The 5-year comprehensive lake management plan (2017) is currently being implemented.

In 2023 the Breakwater Restoration Project was completed. The former 1800’s dredge banks provided protection to the variety of plants and habitats that are important for fish spawning, duck habitat, nesting of endangered tern species, and many other wildlife species. Large portions were eroded over the past 150 years. Restoration of the dredgebank will reestablish much of this vulnerable habitat and improve water quality.

As part of the Lake Plan development process, a plan was established to restore the eastern portion of the dredge to protect the habitat areas to the north side of the breakwater. Green Lake County Land Conservation worked closely with the DNR, Lake Puckaway District, Ducks Unlimited, the Corps of Engineers, and other partners to design, permit, and fund the restoration project.



Construction was scheduled for spring of 2023 with large barges that could complete the project within 3-4 weeks. Construction began May 1st and was completed by the end of the month. The project entailed placing more than 9,000 tons of rock on top of the existing dredgebank, covering 3,000 feet of restoration.

The Lake Puckaway District is also working with the DNR and private consultants to develop a 2023 Aquatic Invasive Species treatment plan.

Twin Lakes – A Surface Water Grant Application was submitted on behalf of the Twin Lakes Association for the Big and Little Twin Lakes Aquatic Plant Management Plan Update. If successful in the grant allocation process, the Lake Association can update the Lake Management Plan to reflect current conditions, new management techniques, DNR recommended integrated management, and future management updates. The goal is for the Association to have a clear strategy and options for management activities.

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 – A Surface Water Grant Application was submitted on behalf of the Grand Lake Improvement Association for Curly-leaf Pondweed Control. The goal of this grant is to reduce curly-leaf pondweed populations recommended in the Associations Aquatic Plant Management Plan by carry out the remaining four years of their recommended 5-year treatments.

Little Green Lake - Little Green Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District is working on updating their Lake Management Plan. An application was submitted to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for Surface Water Planning Grant to fund the update.

Land & Water Resource Management Plan Implementation (DATCP)

In 2023, \$99,908 in state DATCP cost sharing was paid to 18 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 2023 were:



Practice	Total Units
Cover Crops	506 ac
Grassed Waterway	2 ac
Nutrient Management	578 ac.
Subsurface Drain	4113 ft.
Stream Crossing	43 ft.
Well Decommissioning	4 no.
Heavy Use Protection (Barnyard)	3160 sq. ft.
Lined Waterway	401 lin. ft.
Waste Storage Structure	1 no.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

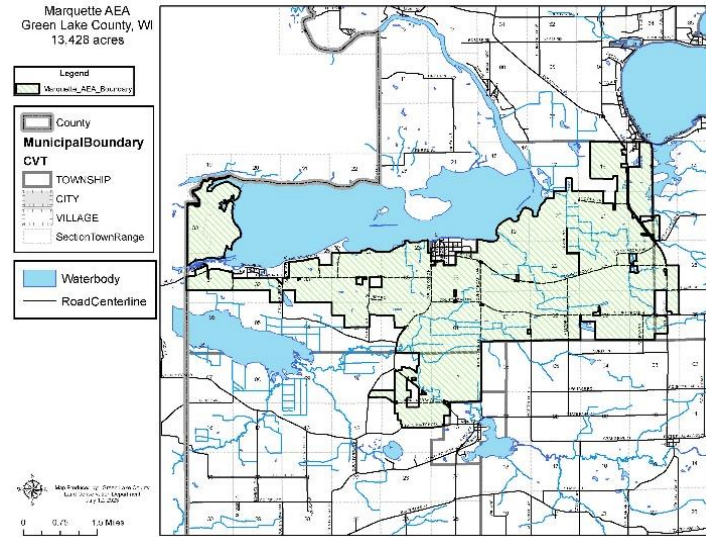
Approximately \$192,158 was paid to landowners who installed/implemented practices in 2023. Thirteen new EQIP Contracts obligating \$217,000 were signed in 2023. Cost sharing for this program ranges from 50%-90% depending on the practice. Conservation practices installed/implemented in 2023 were as follows:



<u>Practice</u>	<u>Total Units</u>	<u>Unit</u>
Energy Efficient Lighting System	7.0	No
Energy Efficient Agricultural Operation	1.0	No
Brush Management	48.0	Ac
Cover Crop	1,689.1	Ac
Fence	2,186.0	Ft
Forest Management Plan	2.0	No
Obstruction Removal	0.8	Ac
Lined Waterway	292.0	Ft
Critical Area Planting	1.4	Ac
Grade Stabilization Structure	1.0	No
High Tunnel System	3,325.0	Sq Ft
Livestock Pipeline	1,523.0	Ft
Watering Facility	2.0	No
Heavy Use Area Protection	225.0	Sq Ft
Forest Stand Improvement	26.2	Ac
Prescribed Grazing	11.8	Ac
Tree Planting	1.7	Ac

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 \$10.00 per acre income tax credit. In Green Lake County 268 landowners are eligible to received \$552,050 in state tax credits.



Green Lake County assisted landowners in the Town of St. Marie and Princeton in establishing Ag Enterprise Areas (AEA) in each township. The AEA’s consist of contiguous agricultural that promote the same standards as the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP). The St. Marie AEA was established on 01/01/2021, and Princeton AEA was established on 01/01/2023, to date there are nine (9) landowners with a total of 1682 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 \$10.00 per acre.

In 2023 Green Lake County assisted landowners in the Town of Marquette in applying for the Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) designation. The Marquette AEA was selected to be approved as and AEA and became established as of 01/01/2024.

Clean Sweep

On August 11, 2023, 168 residents participated in a one-day hazardous waste chemical collection. The collection netted approximately 10,657 total pounds of hazardous waste. Also collected were 325 gallons of waste oil, 50 gallons of anti-freeze, and 2358 fluorescent light bulbs. A list of disposal options for items not collected at the clean sweep was distributed as needed.

In our eighth year of Electronic Waste Collection, we contracted with Resource Solutions Corp. D.B.A. RecycleThatStuff.com to collect our electronic waste. We collected 8154 pounds of electronic waste.

In addition, 403 tires were collected for a minimal fee. Liberty Tire Recycling was contracted to pick up and recycle the tires.

\$10,000 in revenue toward this event was received from Waste Management, \$12,710 in revenue was received from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, and \$1686 was received for tire collection/waste oil/auto batteries. Total cost of the event was \$33,151 with the Green Lake County cost after all revenues and expenses of \$8755.



Land Conservation Ordinances



Construction Site Erosion Control and Storm Water Management Ordinance - In 2023, 14 Construction site erosion control and storm water management permits were issued, generating \$800 of revenue.

Animal Waste Management Ordinance – In 2023, 1 Animal waste storage facility permit was issued, generating \$200 of revenue.

Conservation Education Efforts



Poster Contest: The annual Conservation and Environmental Awareness Poster Contest for county students in grades K-12 was held in January with 93 poster entries received. Cash prizes were awarded to 15 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.

Arbor Day: The 2023 Arbor Day Breakfast celebration was held on April 28, 2023. This event was held at the Green Lake American Legion Post 306 with 85 participants. The featured speaker was Tony Johnson, UWEX Forestry Outreach Specialist who gave a talk on “Arbor Day Agroforestry.”



Land and Lake Field Day: The Land and Lake field day was held at Boerson Farm on August 18, 2023. Topics included grazing and silvopasture, no till fresh market vegetables, conservation easements, and soil health with soil pit. The meal was prepared by local chef with ingredients from Boerson Farms. The Green Lake Association and Green Lake Farm Bureau sponsor the event while various agencies cooperate to make the field day a success for the 160 participants that attended.

No-till Drill Rental Program

The goal of this program is to promote the establishment of cover crops, small grains and forages, and native plantings using no-till planting. In this second year of the program the drill was leased to 24 landowners on a total of 379 acres. The various plantings were: 46 acres of native grass, 103 acres of forage planting (hayland), 114 acres of cover crops, 41 acres of no till soybeans, and 75 acres of small grains. We are looking to continue build on the success of this program in 2024.



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.

2023 crop year deer damage claims of approximately \$49,714.97 was appraised for eight farmers. Eleven 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 122 total deer harvested. USDA Animal, Plant, Health, and Inspection Service – Wildlife Services (USDA-APHIS-WS) 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 2023, Green Lake County participated in the Deer Donation Program. This is the third year in which there was a specific drop off site established in the County. A total of 4 deer were donated and the Green Lake County food pantry received 300 pounds of processed venison.

Green Lake County Drainage Board

The Land Conservation Department assists the Green Lake County Drainage Board with projects and activities. The Board reimburses the Department for these activities.

District 1 – Inspection completed by Mr. Gneiser. There was an interest in having the ditch cleaned, but after further consideration by landowners, it does not make financial sense to clean it. The cost does not outweigh the benefit.

District 2 – Ditch remains in good working condition. The landowner keeps both District #2 and #3 in good order.

District 3 – Ditch remains in good working condition. The landowner keeps both District #2 and #3 in good order.

District 4 – No inspection completed.

District 5 – Inspection completed by Mr. Zietlow. Mr. Zietlow spoke with Mike Eagen on the phone and drain is operating good and there are no maintenance issues.

Seneca-Warren – Inspection completed by Mr. Zietlow, and Mr. Gneiser, landowner Lavern Alf was also present. Looked at areas along ditch that the side slope had washed out on (Alf and Schrock properties). These areas are planned for repairs. Looked at Abel property regarding withdrawal petition. Green Lake County Survey Grade GPS used to check elevations along ditch bottoms to determine flow direction. Lavern Alf mentioned that a corridor culvert should be installed in private lateral between his property and the DNR property for maintenance purposes. These culverts are 24" x 20' culverts. Follow up needed to survey washout areas and put design packet together for repairs. Crops are off in both spots so repairs can occur anytime conditions are right.

Respectfully submitted,



Todd Morris
County Conservationist

GREEN LAKE COUNTY

Notice of Budgetary Adjustment

Expense Increase or Decrease Not Budgeted



Date: February 9, 2024
 Department: Land Conservation
 Amount: \$47,059.96
 Budget Year Amended: 2024

Recording information
Batch no: _____
Date: _____

Source of Increase / Decrease and affect on Program:
 (If needed attached separate brief explanation.)

MDV Funding is being provided to Green Lake County via funds paid in by sanitary districts for discharge variances. These funds must be used to fund MDV land conservation projects. MDV = Multi Discharge Variance.

Are Green Lake County contingency funded needed to fund this budget adjustment? YES NO

Revenue Budget Lines Amended:

Account #	Account Name	Current Budget	Budget Adjustment	Final Budget
24-100-14-43584-397-290	MDV Funding	\$ -	\$ 47,059.96	\$ 47,059.96
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
Total Adjustment			\$ 47,059.96	

Expenditure Budget Lines Amended:

Account #	Account Name	Current Budget	Budget Adjustment	Final Budget
24-100-14-56110-397-290	MDV Project Costs	\$ -	\$ 47,059.96	\$ 47,059.96
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
Total Adjustment			\$ 47,059.96	

Department Head Approval: Date: 2/21/2024
 Finance Director Approval: Date: 2/20/2024
 County Administrator Approval: Date: 2/20/2024
 Governing Committee Approval: _____ Date: _____

Following this approval please forward to the County Clerk's Office.

Finance Committee Approval: Not Needed Date: _____
 County Board Approval: _____ Date: _____

Per WI Stats 65.90(5)(a) must be authorized by a vote of two-thirds of the entire membership of the governing body.

Budget Adjustment

Purpose

To comply with State Statute 65.90 (5)

Recommended Practice

Actual spending should not exceed the authorized budget spend for any account in your budget. If you anticipate spending more than the budgeted amount, you need to locate funding and revised the budgets so that you will not exceed budgeted spending. Use this form if you do not have enough funds within your department's budget. If you need to use a portion of the county's contingency dollars to fund your need, make certain that you have the necessary discussions with the County Administrator, Finance Director and your oversight committee.

Procedure

To initiate the line item transfer process, the department head shall complete and sign this document. Gain the approval of the Finance Director and County Administrator as evidenced by their signatures. Then notice the review, discussion & action of this completed and signed form on the next monthly meeting agenda of their committee of jurisdiction.

If the Budgetary Adjustment is approved by the committee of jurisdiction the signed copy of this form along with a copy of the meeting minutes shall be forward to the County Clerk to be noticed on the Finance Committee agenda for review, discussion & action. Upon Finance Committee aproval the signed Budgetary Adjustment form shall be forwarded to the County Clerk to be notice on the County Board agenda for review, discussion and action.

A department representative must be available at each meeting to address any questions or concerns that may arise during review and discussion.

Per WI Stats 65.90(5)(a) the Budgetary Adjustment must be authorized by a vote of two-thirds of the entire membership of the County Board.