

DOUGLAS COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 21, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
1316 N. 14th Street, Boardroom 201, Superior, WI 54880

Meeting called to order by Chair Sue Hendrickson.

1. ROLL CALL

Present – Sue Hendrickson, Kathryn McKenzie, Jim Soyring, Wendy Bong, Larry Luostari, Mary Lou Bergman. Others present – Mark Liebaert, Matt Bolen, Eric Fromm, Ashley Vande Voort, Shelley Nelson, Zach Stewart (remote), Emily Cahill, Committee Clerk.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Bong, second Bergman, to approve minutes from the November 15, 2022, meeting. Motion carried.

SUSPEND AGENDA

ACTION: Motion by Bergman, second Bong, to suspend agenda and address item 4. b. Agricultural Technician Report. Motion carried.

4. b. Agricultural Technician Report: Report included with agenda.

3. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Authorize Douglas County Land Conservationist to issue Certificates of Compliance, Notices of Noncompliance, Schedules of Compliance and Cancellations of Notices of Noncompliance with Soil & Water Conservation Standards for the Farmland Preservation Program:** Certificates used to certify farms as meeting compliance or lacking compliance with soil and water conservation standards. There were four certifications of compliance issued in 2022; uncertain how many new Farmland Preservation Enrollments will occur in the future.

ACTION: Motion by Bergman, second Bong, to approve authorization of use of certificates. Motion carried.

- b. Approval of 2024 Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection Work Plan:** Annual work plan included with agenda; cost-share projects updated.

ACTION: Motion by McKenzie, second Bergman, to approve 2024 DATCP Work Plan as presented. Motion carried.

- c. Grant Application Approvals:**

- 1) Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection Soil and Water Resource Management:** Requested \$40,000 in funding for cost-share funds, \$5,000 of SEG funds and \$168,560 for staffing. Cost-

share funds and SEG funds can be carried over to the following year without penalty.

ACTION: Motion by Bergman, second McKenzie, to approve grant application. Motion carried.

- 2) **Nutrient Management Farm Education:** Grant may be used to fund an educational field day or portion of AIS position.

ACTION: Motion by McKenzie, second Soyring, to approve grant application. Motion carried.

- d. **Environmental Reserve Fund Policy Amendments:** Grant applications must be received by the Land Conservation Department by October 1 annually. Fund expenditures must be approved by the Land Conservation Committee in November of the same year as grant application; projects must be completed following calendar year. Annual expenditures should be less than the annual interest earned during the calendar year prior to the year of the grant submission. Interest not spent from previous years (excluding unspent interest prior to December 31, 2024) may be awarded. Only expenditures that drop fund below \$300,000 need to be approved by the Administration Committee and County Board. Applicants may submit urgent proposals at any time during the year. Submissions will be considered by the Land Conservation Committee at the next regularly scheduled meeting provided the submission was received at least two weeks prior to the committee meeting. Project funding may be awarded from unspent interest from two years prior to the grant submission or previous unspent interest accumulated after the year 2024.

ACTION (REFERRAL): Motion by Bergman, second Bong, to approve policy amendments and refer to Administration Committee. Motion carried.

e. **Capital Project Requests**

- 1) **2023 Groundwater Sampling:** Funding to be used to sample an additional 100 wells. Douglas County collected 650 well samples between 2017 and 2022.

ACTION (REFERRAL): Motion by McKenzie, second Luostari, to approve request to fund Groundwater Program out of the 2023 capital improvement fund in the amount of \$10,000 and refer to Zoning Committee, Administrator and Administration/Executive Committees. Motion carried.

- 2) **Truck Replacement:** Current Land Conservation Department truck has been having electrical issues, causing the maintenance budget (\$500) to be overspent (approx. \$2,300). Funding to be used for a truck replacement.

ACTION (REFERRAL): Motion by Bergman, second Bong, to approve capital project request and refer to Administration Committee. Motion carried.

- f. **Resolution: PFAS Testing for Biosolids:** Resolution requests all biosolids applied in Douglas County to be tested for PFAS compounds. Resolution does not address funding.

ACTION (RESOLUTION): Motion by McKenzie, second Bergman, to approve resolution with the following amendments: In last paragraph, replace 'must be tested' with 'requests testing'; and replace 'sent to the Douglas County Board of Supervisors' with 'submitted to the Douglas County Land Conservation Department', and refer to Zoning Committee and County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

4. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- a. **Wildlife Damage Report:** Eric Fromm reported on Wildlife Damage and Abatement Program.
- b. **Natural Resources Specialist/Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator Report:** Zach Stewart reported on Aquatic Invasive Species Program. Report included in agenda.
- c. **2022 Douglas County Annual Report:** Ashley Vande Voort reported on survey results. Report included in agenda.
- d. **2022 Douglas County Workplan Accomplishments:** Report included in agenda.
- e. **Land & Water Association Priorities:** Report included in agenda.
- f. **Groundwater Sampling Results:** Results available on county website.
- g. **Zoning Regulation of Water Bottling and Artesian Well Testing:** Report included in agenda.
- h. **St. Croix Flowage:** Ashley Vande Voort discussed potential grant application to manage the St. Croix Flowage. The grant-funded project would include a vegetation survey of the Flowage which would be used to make management recommendations.

ACTION: Motion by Bergman, second McKenzie, to extend meeting beyond two-hour limit. Motion carried.

- i. **Capital Funds Requests:** Request for stormwater maintenance on Fairground property will be presented at next Land & Development Committee meeting.
- j. **Staff Report:** Ashley Vande Voort reported on staff updates.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. None.

6. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Motion by Bergman, second Bong, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

Submitted by,

Emily Cahill
Committee Clerk