

**MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023 – 8:30 AM**  
**LAND & WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE**  
**OF OCONTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**301 WASHINGTON STREET, COURTHOUSE BUILDING “A” ROOM #3041**  
**OCONTO WI 54153**  
[www.co.oconto.wi.us](http://www.co.oconto.wi.us)  
*(Draft minutes, not approved by Committee)*

COMMITTEE PRESENT: Chris Augustine, Tim Cole, Patrick Scanlan and Keith Schneider

ABSENT: Wayne Kaczrowski

OTHERS PRESENT: Monty Brink, Forest, Parks & Recreation Administrator; Ken Dolata, County Conservationist; Dave Poffinbarger, GIS/LIO/LIS Administrator; Patrick Virtues, Planning, Zoning and Solid Waste Administrator; Michelle Seefeldt, Administrative Assistant; Al Sleeter, County Board Chair; Erik Pritzl, County Administrator; Beth Ellingson, Corporation Counsel; Steve Heimerman; Amanda Dornfeld, Area Extension Director; Scott Reuss, Extension Regional Crops/Soils Educator; others present.

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Cole called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**2.1. Change of Sequence** – None

**2.2. Removal of Items** – None

Motion by Scanlan/Schneider to approve the agenda. Motion voted on and carried.

**3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings**

Motion by Augustine/Scanlan to approve the minutes of February 7, 2023. Motion voted on and carried.

**4. Communications**

None

**5. Discussion on 2022 Annual Reports**

Discussion held on what the Committee would like to see in the annual reports. It was decided that they should remain the same as the 2021 reports.

**6. Extension**

**6.1. Department Report**

- Amanda Dornfeld, Area Extension Director informed the Committee that Extension is advertising to fill the Human Development and Relationship Educator and Regional Dairy Educator positions.
- Scott Reuss, Extension Regional Crops/Soils Educator handed out the February 2023 Ag newsletter and gave a presentation on his programming. Discussion held on the manure applicator training with questions from Pat Scanlan and Al Sleeter on signage and if emergency management is involved.

**7. LIS/Land Records Department**

**7.1. Department Report**

Discussed the enclosed report to include:

- The 2022 Ortho photos have been received and added to SOLO.

**8. Land & Water Conservation Department**

**8.1. Oconto County Lakes & Waterways Update**

Ken Dolata and Steve Heimerman gave a presentation on Oconto County Lakes and Waterways. Discussion held on the Healthy Waters Program, the challenges to maintaining the lakes water quality and value and the need for a full time water conservationist.

**8.2. Land & Water Conservation Department Fee Schedule**

Ken Dolata presented the current Land & Water Conservation Department fee schedule for review. Discussion held on the variance fee. Moved by Scanlan/Schneider to recommend to County Board an increase in the variance fee to \$750. Motion voted on and carried.

**8.3. Department Report**

Ken Dolata reported that the department is working on designs, DNR permitting and grants and handed out the Wisconsin Land & Water Capital Update - 2023-2025 Executive Budget Summary.

**9. Planning & Zoning/Solid Waste Department**

**9.1. Discuss Brown County Proposal: Partnership for Household Hazardous Waste Program**

Pat Virtues summarized the Partnership for Household Hazardous Waste Program proposal. Stated it would provide year-round disposal options for Oconto County residents and the County

would pay for disposal of hazardous waste on behalf of the residents but at a reduced rate, which would be cheaper than a clean sweep event. This was information only and no action taken.

**9.2. Discuss Nonmetallic Mining Program Fees and Financial Assurance**

Pat Virtues informed the Committee that fees are usually discussed at the end of the year but these fees have not be addressed in several years. Discussion held on financial assurance requirements and costs associated with reclaiming a nonmetallic mine. This was information only and no action taken.

**9.3. Department Report**

Pat Virtues presented the Planning & Zoning/Solid Waste report and discussion held.

- The Mar-Oco Landfill Meeting will be held March 10, 2023. An agenda item is the future of the landfill now that the last area was opened up.

**10. Forest, Parks & Recreation Department**

**10.1. Sustainable Forestry Grant**

Monty Brink stated he would like to apply for a County Forest Sustainable Forestry Grant Application for FY23 for two separate deer exclusion fencing projects. Discussion held. Moved by Schneider/Augustine to authorize the Forest & Parks Administrator to apply for a Sustainable Forestry Grant for two separate deer exclusion fencing projects. Motion voted on and carried.

**10.2. Carbon Credits**

Monty Brink stated he contacted Anew Carbon Development LLC to see if Oconto County forest could support a successful carbon project. Oconto County would need to enter into a nondisclosure agreement for Anew Carbon Development LLC to do an analysis on the County forest. There is no fee associated with this agreement or analysis. Discussion held. Moved by Scanlan/Schneider to recommend to County Board that the County enter into a Nondisclosure Agreement with Anew Carbon Development LLC in order to determine if Oconto County forest has additional value for a Carbon Credit project. Motion voted on and carried. The Committee would like to have someone from Anew present at the County Board meeting to address any questions or concerns from the Board.

**10.3. County Forest Enrollment into Lake States Bat HCP**

Monty Brink informed the Committee the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tri-colored Bat are expected to be listed as federally endangered in 2023 and the Little Brown Bat is under review for listing. The states of Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan have jointly developed the Lakes States Forest Management Bat Habitat Conservation Plan in order to receive an incidental take permit for forest management activities issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Oconto County plans to engage in activities that could result in the incidental take of the bats and seeks to be included under the Incidental Take Permit issued to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Moved by Augustine/Scanlan to recommend to County Board to enter into a Landowner Agreement and Certificate of Inclusion into the Lakes States Forest Management Bat Habitat Conservation Plan. Motion voted on and carried.

**10.4. Campground Development Proposal**

Monty Brink stated he would like to move forward with the campground development of the property on Torsci Lane in the Town of Riverview and presented the Request for Proposals for a trailhead and campground development. The proposal is for professional services for the feasibility study and fit plan, conceptual design phase, design construction document phase, bid phase and construction phase of this project. Moved by Scanlan/Schneider to direct the Forest & Parks Administrator to solicit proposals for a feasibility study for the development of the campground on Torsci Lane in the Town of Riverview. Motion voted on and carried.

**10.5. Department Report**

Discussion held on the enclosed report along with the following items:

- Adjacent property owner correspondence went out to the Frog Pond Road property owner. He contacted Monty and does not agree with the location of the property line. Intends to dispute it in court.
- Received an open records request for maintenance records on the Nicolet State Trail. That information was sent to corporation counsel.
- Award a \$21,000 snowmobile grant for excessive clean up on the trails from the December 15, 2022 ice/snow storm.
- Awarded \$51,000 grant to replace the BB Riverside Park pavilion and the Chute Pond vaulted toilet and well.

**10.5.1. Recreational Officer**

No additional comments on the enclosed report

**10.5.2. Wisconsin Department of natural Resources (WDNR)**

Monty Brink stated that Steve Kaufman has completed 81.41% of the time standard for Oconto County.

**11. Announcements/General Information (No action to be taken)**

Steve Heimerman made an additional comment on the value Kelly Lake has to the Town of Spruce.

**12. Next Meeting Date**

Next regular meeting of the Land & Water Resources Committee is scheduled for April 4, 2023 and Rezones are March 13, 2023.

**13. Adjournment**

Chair Cole declared the meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM.

MS/Date Posted – 03/13/2023