

MINUTES
DECEMBER 20, 2021 – 9:30 A.M.
LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE OF
OCONTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER SOUTH
ROOM 1389B
301 WASHINGTON STREET, OCONTO, WI 54153-1699
www.co.oconto.wi.us

COMMITTEE PRESENT: Kroll, Kamke, Wahl, Schindel, Matravers, Allen

COMMITTEE ABSENT: NONE

OTHERS PRESENT: County Conservationist Dolata, Program Assistant Wilcox, Derek Thorn, Florence, Langlade and Oconto Waterways Coordinator, County Board Chair Bednarik, Administrator Hamann, Oconto County Lakes & Waterways Association President Heimerman, County Clerk Pytletski

TIME MEETING BEGAN: 9:30 a.m.

1. Approval of Agenda
 - A. Change of Agenda
 - B. Removal of Items

Motion by Allen, second by Wahl to approve agenda. Motion was voted on and carried.

2. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting (Enc.)

Motion by Kamke, second by Matravers to approve the minutes from the November 15, 2021 Land & Water Conservation Committee meeting. Motion was voted on and carried.
3. Communications (Enc.)

County Conservationist Dolata reviewed the December 2021 Department of Ag, Trade and Consumer Protection Report.

County Clerk Pytletski discussed with the committee specifically Farm Service Agency Representative Allen on when the County Committee reorganization will take place and what it will look like, she also informed the Land & Water Conservation Committee where to locate the agenda packet if they can't locate it on their tablets.

4. County Cost Share Contract(s)

NONE
5. County Cost Share Payment(s)

Motion by Schindel, second by Wahl to approve the payment for David & Natalie Singer for Shoreline Restoration in the amount of \$432.00. Motion was voted and carried.
6. Soil & Water Resource Management Contract(s)

NONE
7. Soil & Water Resource Management Payment(s)

NONE
8. Oconto County Healthy Waters Cost Share Contract(s)

NONE
9. Oconto County Healthy Water Cost Share Payment(s)

Motion by Matravers, second by Allen to approve the payment for Inland Lakes P&R District #1 for Handicap Docks in the amount of \$1,658.00. Motion was voted on and carried.
10. Northern Pike Contract(s)

NONE

11. Northern Pike Payment(s)
Motion by Wahl, second by Schindel to approve the payments for Marinette County Highway Department- 2 culverts in the amount of \$9,535.23 and Oconto County Highway Department- 5 culverts- Oconto County in the amount of \$28,808.85 and Marinette County- 2 culverts in the amount of \$12,493.26. Motion was voted on and carried.
12. Department of Ag, Trade and Consumer Protection 2021 Cost Share Extension Request
Motion by Schindel, second by Allen to approve extension request and submit to the Department of Ag, Trade and Consumer Protection. Motion was voted on and carried.
13. Resolution- Approval of Contract with Tilth Agronomy for Management of Demonstration Farm Network
Motion by Matravers, second by Schindel to approve resolution. Motion was voted on and carried.
14. Lake Michigan Area Land & Water Conservation Association Planning Meeting, January 7, 2022, Brown County
Motion by Kamke, second by Wahl to approve that whomever would like to attend may. Motion was voted on and carried.
15. Summer Intern Approval
Motion by Allen, second by Schindel to approve to hire summer interns to work in the Land & Water Conservation Department contingent on receiving grant funds. Motion was voted on and carried.
16. Oconto County Lakes & Waterways Association Update
President Heimerman updated the committee that the Oconto Sportsman Club received Natural Resource Damage Assessment grant in the amount of \$35,000.00 to be used for shoreline repair and handicap fishing docks on the Oconto River.
17. Timberland Invasive Species Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator Update
County Conservationist Dolata read email update from Coordinator Bjorklund which included, Control Work: During summer 2021, Timberland Invasive Partnership treated over 100 acres of invasive species, Japanese Knotweed, Garlic Mustard, Spotted Knapweed, Buckthorn, Exotic Bush Honeysuckle, Japanese Barberry and Wild Parsnip were treated at the butterfly dock in conjunction with Derek Thorn Forest, Langlade & Oconto Waterways Coordinator, the surveying of stream crossings in spring and fall did not result in any findings of other populations of the prohibited invasive, outreach: Timberland Invasive Partnership Coordinator will be hosting along with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources landowner invasive species identification workshops in spring, one of which will be held in Oconto County details will be coming in the next few months, Funding: Timberland Invasive Partnership was awarded \$49,517 from the United States Forest Service through their Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Cooperative Weed Management Area funds this is the largest grant Timberland Invasive Partnership has received to date, we are waiting for an update on another United States Forest Service grant application that will provide outreach funding for workshops and signage in the Timberland Invasive Partnership area, and the coordinator just wrapped up her schooling for winter break, and aside from the holidays will be available Monday through Friday from 8-4 until late January.
18. Forest, Langlade & Oconto Waterways Coordinator Update
Derek Thorn updated the committee that he applied for a grant to work on European Frogbit public service announcements that will help cover his personel costs but is looking into applying for another grant with Forest county to supplement the remaining costs, Lumberjack has purchased 2 kayaks to help with control, they have purchased 3 dissolved oxygen meters one that will be used by the Lumberjack Office and 2 that will be lent out to lakes to use and he is meeting with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Water Resources Management Specialist Nordin regarding the Citizens Lake Monitoring Network and what roles he will take in running program.
19. United States Department of Ag Natural Resource Conservation Service Report
District Conservationist Maroszek updated the committee that they are busy making end of the year payments, the Environmental Quality Incentive Program deadline has ended with the next step being to rank applications for approval and that 4 Natural Resource Demonstration Farms took place in Oconto County this year with good success.

20. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Oconto County Forester Report
County Conservationist Dolata give the committee an email update that Forester Kaufman sent which included Covid rules have eliminated almost all in person meetings until further notice, they had a few fires this fall during the dry stretch with ash disposal being the common cause, they completed home inspections of some homes that were identified as high risk areas and discussed with the landowners what they can do to increase the likelihood of their home surviving a fire, demand for walk-throughs on private property has slowed down after a busy 2 years since the blowdown event we are doing some outreach via mailings and internet which was quite successful we will increase outreach again next year, large plantings on private lands has seemed to decreased with Conservation Reserve

Program enrollments being down, invasive removal projects have been partially completed with good success, early focus has been made on Garlic Mustard and isolated pockets of invasive species in the Bagley which is paid by a sustained forestry grant, completed invasive removal with wildlife openings in the Breed area which was mostly Honeysuckle which was paid by Turkey Stamp funds, some Phragmites treatment occurred in Machickanee but the contractor was unable to get the contracted work done, timber sale activity was constant but not overly busy generally 2-3 active sales at a time with good progress being made, 73 acres of red pine planting this spring was successful , prepared 163 acres for planting this upcoming spring which is mostly storm damage replanting, currently working on timber sale establishment for our spring bidding, Emerald Ash Borer is expected to “blow-up” over the next couple of years in Southern Oconto County, oak wilt seems to be on the rise since the 2019 windstorm, Department of Natural Resource assistance with the United States Forestry Service is going well with the Good Neighbor Authority program, Jordan Westrick is the forester in Lakewood who works exclusively on National Forest Lands, and the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest was again recognized as the Nation’s top producing forest for timber.

County Conservationist Dolata also give the committee an email update from Garrett Lubbers who is the new Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Oconto Falls Forest Ranger the email included his duties and gave them a little information about himself and what he will be doing within the Department of Natural Resources including forest fire suppression and prevention in Oconto County, state lands forest management and private landowner forestry assistance.

21. United States Department of Ag Farm Service Agency Report
Farm Service Agency Representative Allen give a quick update on vacant positions in the Oconto and Shawano offices.
22. Review Prior Months Vendor Payments
The Land & Water Conservation Committee reviewed the November 2021 accounts payable and employee reimbursement vouchers.
23. Information Items Only
County Conservationist Dolata informed the committee that during his virtual County Conservation meeting he learned that there have been delays across the state on projects being delayed due to lack of contractor and delays on materials.
24. Set Next Meeting Date
Date of next meeting: January 17, 2022
Time of next meeting: 9:30 a.m.
25. Adjournment
Chair Kroll called to adjourn the meeting at 10:32 a.m.