

**MANITOWOC COUNTY  
LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
Meeting Minutes**

September 17, 2020

County Office Complex, Room 300

4319 Expo Drive, Manitowoc, WI

Chairperson Cathy Wagner called the meeting to order at 4:45 PM.

**Roll Call:** Cathy Wagner, Bob Cavanaugh, Paul Hansen, Tyler Martell, W. Michael Slattery were present. Jon Neils and Ted Hoffman were excused.

**Others in Attendance:** Tony Smith, Manitowoc County Soil and Water Conservation Department, Matt Rataczak, United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, District Conservationist.

**Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda was made by Bob Cavanaugh, seconded by Paul Hansen. Motion Carried unanimously.

**Minutes:** Motion to approve the July 16, 2020 and August 20, 2020 minutes was made by Paul Hansen, seconded by Bob Cavanaugh. Motion Carried unanimously.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Budget Review:** 2020 budget status current July 31, 2020 was reviewed with no comment.

**Soil and Water Resource Management Grant Program – Cost-Share Contracts:** Motion to approve contracts as presented was made by Paul Hansen, seconded by Tyler Martell . Motion Carried unanimously.

**Benefits of Cover Crops and Cost Share Program:** Matt Rataczak provided an oral synopsis of cover crop programs offered by Natural Resources Conservation Service including Environmental Quality Incentive and Conservation Stewardship programs.

**Between the Lakes Demo Farms Network** – Matt Rataczak updated the committee on progress being made with the Demonstration Project. Participating farms include Libertyland Farms of Newton, Kleiber Farms of Plymouth, Dallman Dairy of Brillion and Greendale Farm of Fond du Lac. Innovations and research in conservation applications will be demonstrated with outreach programs on the four farms. Successful techniques can become “new” recommended best management practices. Project is being coordinated by Hoffman Agronomy of Newton.

**Producer Led Grant Program Interest Generation and Response.** Committee was provided with an updated report of recruitment efforts that have been ongoing in Manitowoc County. Pine Creek Watershed area is being targeted for participation. Project requires five cooperating farm participants, of which none have stepped forward. W Michael Slattery expressed a strong interest in the need to do water quality work in Manitowoc County with the many impaired waters listed by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Supervisor Hansen requested that this subject be continued for discussion and update at the next regular meeting.

**Animal Waste Ordinance – Update of violations**

Tony provided a brief update of recent calls about animal waste issues being odor based, which is not covered by the Manitowoc County Ordinance.

A brief update was provided regarding a manure incident that occurred in May. Supervisor Hansen requested that Soil & Water Conservation Department follow up with Department of Natural Resources staff and Manitowoc County Health Department to collect information about communication between the agencies regarding the incident, and to pose a recommendation of how the process should be handled in the future regarding well water contamination. An update to the committee was requested by Hansen.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service 2020 Program Update** – Matt Rataczak reported he and his staff are busy with nearly 50 Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program/Conservation Reserve Program applications and renewals. End of year reporting is due and Conservation Stewardship Program contract preparation will be keeping staff busy well into the Fall.

**Farm Service Agency 2020 Program Update** – W Michael Slattery reported that the Farm Service Agency committee had terminated three Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program agreements recently due to deaths and for failure to implement the agreements.

**Next meeting Date:** Nov 19, 2020 at 4:45 PM

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn was made by Hanson, seconded by Slattery. Motion Carried unanimously at 5:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Smith, Resource Conservationist