



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 12, 2019 Time: 10:00 AM
Committee Room #0903, Green Lake County Government Center
571 County Rd A, Green Lake WI

AGENDA

Committee Members

Robert Schweder
Chair
Katie Mehn
Vice-Chair
Patricia Garro
Bill Boutwell
Andrew Bender,
FSA Member

1. Call to Order
2. Certification of Open Meeting Law
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of December 13, 2018 Minutes
6. Public Comments (3 min limit)
7. Appearances
8. Wildlife Damage – 2018 Claims
9. Monthly Staff Report & Upcoming Projects
10. Lake and River Report
11. Annual Report
12. Clean Sweep
13. Arbor Day
14. Poster Contest
15. Farmland Preservation Program
16. DATCP/County Cost-Share Contracts
17. Green Lake County Buffer Program
18. Upper Fox/Wolf River Watershed Demonstration Farms
19. Legislative Issues
20. Correspondence
21. Committee Discussion
 - Future Meeting Date: April 11, 2019 at 9:00 AM
 - WI Land + Water Annual Conference March 13-16, 2019
 - Future Agenda items for action & discussion
22. Adjourn

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.

Please note: Meeting area is accessible to the physically disabled. Anyone planning to attend who needs visual or audio assistance should contact the Land Conservation Office at 294-4051 not later than Noon on the day preceding the meeting.

“Our highest responsibility is to protect and enhance land and water resources that will sustain current and future generations.”

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**LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
December 13, 2018 - MINUTES**

The meeting of the Green Lake County Land Conservation Committee was called to order by Robert Schweder, Chairman, at 9:00AM on December 13, 2018 in the Committee Room #0903 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
Katie Mehn
Patti Garro
Arnold Dahlke, Jr., FSA Member

Excused: Bill Boutwell

Staff Present: Paul Gunderson
Heidi Weishaar

Others Present: Caleb Zahn
Harley Reabe

MINUTES

Motion/second (Garro/Mehn) to approve and file the November 8, 2018 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

APPEARANCES

Caleb Zahn gave an NRCS update.

MONTHLY STAFF REPORT & UPCOMING PROJECTS

Written report was reviewed

LAKE AND RIVER REPORT

Written report was reviewed

BUDGETARY ADJUSTMENT

Motion/second (Garro/Mehn) to approve the budgetary adjustment. Motion carried.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The committee was notified of the Voluntary Waiver of Rights for Notice of Non-Compliance with Farmland Preservation Program Tax Credit Requirements signed by STEVEN L MODEROW.

Robert Schweder, LCC Chairman, signed to approve the Voluntary Waiver as representative for the LCC.

DATCP/COUNTY COST-SHARE CONTRACTS

None at this time.

GREEN LAKE COUNTY BUFFER PROGRAM

Motion/second (Garro/Dahlke) to approve the high priority buffer sites and offer contracts to Frei, Werch, Waldvogel and Hein. Motion carried.

LAKE PUCKAWAY- LAKE MANAGEMENT GRANT RESOLUTION

Motion/second (Garro/Dahlke) to approve the Lake Puckaway Lake Management Grant Resolution. Motion carried.

GREEN LAKE- RIVER PROTECTION GRANT RESOLUTION

Motion/second (Garro/Dahlke) to approve the Green Lake River Protection Grant Resolution. Motion carried.

TWIN LAKES/SPRING LAKE- LAKE PLANNING & PROTECTION GRANT RESOLUTION

Motion/second (Garro/Dahlke) to approve the Twin Lakes/Spring Lake Lake Planning & Protection Grant Resolution. Motion carried.

GRAND LAKE- AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES GRANT RESOLUTION

Motion/second (Garro/Mehn) to approve the Grand Lake Aquatic Invasive Species Grant Resolution. Motion carried.

TWIN LAKES/SPRING LAKE- AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES GRANT RESOLUTION

Motion/second (Mehn/Dahlke) to approve the Twin Lakes/Spring Lake Aquatic Invasive Species Grant Resolution. Motion carried.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

CORRESPONDENCE

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

- Future Meeting Dates: January 10, 2019 at 9:00AM in the Committee Room #0903 of the Green Lake County Government Center in Green Lake.
- Future Agenda items for action & discussion

TOUR OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES

Strike this action as it was mistakenly left on the agenda from the 11/08/2018 meeting.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 9:57AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Weishaar
Recorder

Land Conservation Committee
February/March Monthly Staff Report

January/February Projects

1. Continue design work on manure storage structure, clean-water diversions, and roof runoff structures in the Town of Green Lake.
2. Continue to make visits to a livestock site in the Town of Green Lake per the DNR request to check on temporary maintenance of this livestock site.
3. Continue to conduct erosion control inspections for a construction site in the Town of Brooklyn.
4. Work on grade stabilization structure in the Town of Brooklyn
5. Attend boatwash station meetings and make changes to plans to reflect possible new locations of stations.
6. Attend 313 training in Juneau for the new Manure Storage Standard.
7. Complete construction of a grassed waterway and stream crossing in the Town of Green Lake.
8. Baled Christmas trees for use in upcoming stream habitat restoration.
9. Survey finished ground for a culvert installation in the Town of Princeton.
10. Create watershed layer data and maps and export 60,000+ parcels for Transcendent to use in our new Nutrient Management Module.
11. Work on Buffer Applicant projects.
12. Review Nutrient Management Plans – 8 landowners
13. Completed installation of Stream Crossing Project. (LWRMP)
14. Completed installation of WASCOP. (EQIP)
15. Site visit, survey and preliminary design for WASCOP's.
16. Held SNAP Plus Training.
17. Attended Technician Meeting in Juneau, Webinar – Living Soil.
18. Work on the design for a waste facility closure in the Town of Green Lake.
19. Begin the design for a grassed waterway in the Town of Brooklyn.
20. Continue design work on manure storage structure in the Town of Green Lake.
21. Continue to make visits to a livestock site in the Town of Green Lake per the DNR request to check on temporary maintenance of this livestock site.
22. Attend boatwash station meetings and make changes to plans to show boatwash in new location at Dodge Memorial Park.
23. Attend 3 day-long trainings for Southeast Area engineering.
24. Review Nutrient Management Plans and enter information in Transcendent – 25 landowners
25. Work on Culvert Outlet Protection Design (LWRMP)
26. Work on Terrace and Waterway Designs (EQIP)
27. Attended Grade Stabilization Training in Juneau, Webinar – Economics of Owning and Renting Farmland, Webinar – Transforming manure from waste to worth. (2 CEU's for CCA)
28. Reviewed CSEC&SWM permit applicability, applications and monitoring; issued and monitored permits.
29. Evaluated inquiries, complaints, land disturbance sites, land and conditional use permits, and rezone and variance requests and approvals for CSEC&SWM solutions and permit applicability.
30. Discussed and worked on FPP Quadrennial Conservation Compliance Check records.
31. Discussed and worked on FPP Annual Conservation Compliance Check records.
32. Assisted various walk-in customers with FPP Annual Conservation Compliance and other questions.
33. Listened to a couple webinars on soil health.
34. Managed training opportunities and records.
35. Completed Security Awareness Training for GLC-IT Dep't.

February/March Project Focus

1. Survey site and begin design for a grassed waterway and diversion in the Town of Brooklyn.
2. Continue design of manure storage structure in the Town of Green Lake and meet DNR to discuss funding grant.
3. Begin design for a rock-lined waterway, terraces, and diversions in the Town of Green Lake.
4. Attend daylong woodland conference in Oshkosh.
5. Continue the design of a manure storage structure in the Town of Green Lake.
6. Complete the design for a grassed waterway in the Town of Brooklyn.
7. Begin the design of roof runoff structures and diversions in the Town of Green Lake.
8. Attend upcoming trainings pertaining to NRCS engineering and design work, and Transcendent Technologies.

Lake and River Report – Oral report will be given at the meeting

- Green Lake – Submitted 2 Grants - \$300,000 Lake Protection Grant for BMP installations, and \$50,000 River Protection Grant for stream restoration on Dakin Creek. Lake Team meet to discuss 2019 work plan.
- Puckaway – The \$300,000 Grant for Dredgebank Protection work was suspended until 2020 due factors related to the government shutdown in January.
- Twin Lakes – Submitted \$25,000 Lake Protection Grant.
- Spring Lake – No Updates.
- Little Green – Submitted \$90,000 Grant for BMP installation. Working with DNR to remedy barnyard runoff issue from summer 2018. Plans are being completed.
- Grand Lake – No Updates

**GREEN LAKE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION
2018 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."

Note: Where appropriate, comparison values from 2017 are indicated in (parenthesis).

Staff

Paul Gunderson, County Conservationist
Heidi Weishaar, Administrative Assistant
Thomas Jonker, Soil Conservationist I
Jordan Dornfeld, Soil Conservationist I
Derek Kavanaugh, Soil Conservationist II
Todd Morris, Soil Conservationist III

DATCP Grant Funding Received

The department received a \$140,414 (\$133,963) grant from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) for departmental operations and program management.

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 soil and water conservation standards adopted by the Land Conservation Committee. The department has experienced a substantial increase in staff time directed toward the workload of the program because each participant must be tracked with a unique id number that matches each qualifying parcel. A new tracking program has been purchased to help alleviate some of the time consuming portions of the program. Participants are eligible to claim a \$7.50 per acre income tax credit. 272 (266) landowners received \$403,096 (\$396,593) in state tax credits.

Land & Water Resource Management Plan Implementation

In 2018, \$95,580 (\$79,343) in state cost sharing was paid to 10 (21) participants to implement various Best Management Practices (BMPs). Cost-share rates for this program range from 50%-70% depending on the practice. Conservation practices installed/implemented under this program in 2018 were:

Diversion	120 ft.
Grade Stabilization Structure	2 no.
Grassed Waterway	3,990 ft.
Nutrient Management	1,547 ac.
Rock Lined Waterway	20 ft.
Streambank Crossing	24 ft.
Underground Outlet	3,500 ft
Water and Sediment Control Basin	2 no.
Well Decommissioning	1 no.

Construction Site Erosion Control and Storm Water Management Ordinance

In 2018, fifteen (fifteen) construction site erosion control and storm water management permits were issued, generating \$1,075 (\$2,298) of revenue.

Clean Sweep

On August 10, 2018, 194 (287) residents participated in a one-day hazardous waste chemical collection. The collection netted approximately 15,825 (23,216) total pounds of hazardous waste. Also collected were 400 (250) gallons of waste oil, 60 (60) gallons of anti-freeze, and 3,280 (3,748) fluorescent light bulbs. A list of disposal options for items not collected at the clean sweep was distributed as needed.

In our third year of Electronic Waste Collection, we filled two (five) 30 yd. dumpsters with Electronic Waste. We collected \$2,955 (\$4,582) from landowners and paid \$5,200 (\$13,600) to Veolia who we contracted with to collect and dispose of the E-Waste.

In addition, 1,000 (1,015) tires were collected for a minimal fee. We collected \$3,833 (\$2,703) from landowners and paid \$3,599 (\$2,767) to Liberty Tire Recycling who we contracted with to pick up and recycle the tires.

\$10,000 (\$10,000) in revenue toward this event was received from Waste Management and \$12,970 (\$12,550) in revenue was received from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection. Total cost of the event was \$39,924 (\$51,957) with the Green Lake County cost after all revenues and expenses of \$22,067 (\$22,067).

County Lakes

Green Lake – The Green Lake planning team consisting of Green Lake County Land Conservation Department, DNR, Green Lake Association, Green Lake Sanitary District, City of Green Lake, City of Ripon, Fond du Lac County, and several community members worked on updating the long-term lake strategy, originally authored in 2011 with annual updates. The goal of the plan is to set objectives, and determine pollutant source loading, so that major sources can be addressed effectively. The Green Lake watershed was selected for the National Water Quality Incentive Program through the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The program has dedicated funds for conservation practices to be installed within the watershed for the 7th consecutive year. During 2018, 11 additional conservation projects were installed to add to the previous 198 installed during the previous 6 years. County K Marsh carp removal and restoration project continued with 175,000 lbs of carp removed in 2018. Over 10,000 aquatic plants were prepared and planted in the County K Marsh as part of the planned restoration project. Several carp exclusion plots were installed throughout the project area, and monitored during the summer. The 2nd annual Green Lake watershed's Conservation Field Day was held with over 75 participants in cooperation with the Green Lake Farm Bureau, Green Lake Association, ParKelm Farms, Ripon FFA, NRCS, UWEX, Fond du Lac LCD, and local farmers. Stream surveys and water monitoring was conducted on Dakin Creek to determine its suitability for restoring a resident trout population, in addition to improve water quality, and reducing pollutant discharge. A River Protection Grant and Lake Protection Grant were submitted for \$250,000 of grant funding for best management practice installation. A mobile augmented reality sandbox was constructed in cooperation with the Land Information to educate students and citizen about watersheds and runoff. Over 1,000 tree were planted at the Avalon Farm Streambank restoration project with the aid of over 50 volunteers.

Lake Puckaway – The 2017 comprehensive lake management plan is currently being implemented. Several new initiatives are scheduled to be implemented, such as an adaptive water level management plan, dam reconstruction, and breakwater enhancements. Due to high water conditions throughout the fall of 2018, dam reconstruction was postponed. Initial planning and design for breakwater enhancement were undertaken during the fall/winter of 2018, however due to the unforeseen delay in a federal habitat grant program due to a federal government shutdown, the grant application for water year 2019 was reschedule for water year 2020 (fall 2019 application).

Twin Lakes - The Land Conservation Department is working with watershed landowners to implement best managements practices identified in the Lake Management Plan. Water quality and aquatic invasive species monitoring continued through 2018. Native plant populations are thriving, and suppressing AIS in some of its historical range. The frequency of occurrence of AIS is significantly lower than previously recorded. Many of the remaining individual invasive plants are interspersed with natives, making them more difficult to treat, however they are not causing nuisance problems at current population levels. The infestation now consists of Curly Leaf Pondweed, and is primarily restricted to Little Twin Lake; however, there is continued evidence that fragments of the plants are being carried by boat traffic through the channel connecting the lakes. A grant application was submitted for the 2019 water year to expand water quality and invasive plant monitoring. A comprehensive Lake Management Plan was completed 2018, which will guide future management actions. Soil tests were offered to all agricultural landowners within the watershed. Ninety percent of the Twin Lake watershed landowners participated in the testing program. Soil tests results will be incorporated in the watershed model to help guide future conservation decisions.

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 management practices identified in the Lake Management Plan. Water quality and aquatic invasive species monitoring continued through 2018. One-hundred percent of the Spring Lake watershed landowners participated in the testing program. Soil test results will be incorporated in the watershed model to help guide future conservation decisions.

Grand Lake –The Lake Association is continuing water monitoring, and fundraising campaigns in order to fully implement the Lake Management Plan completed in 2017.

Little Green Lake - A long-term comprehensive Lake Management Plan was completed and approved in December 2018. A lake planning team comprised of lake property owners, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Green Lake County developed the plan over the course of 2018.

Several planned projects include continued water quality monitoring, installing watershed erosion practices, monitoring and adaptive management of the destratification system, mechanical harvesting of nuisance aquatic plants to maintain access, conduct chemical treatments to control invasive plants, establish an AIS prevention program, and conduct periodic aquatic plant surveys to track plant populations.

Green Lake County is collaborating with the Lake District to design and implement best management practices within the watershed to reduce runoff to the lake

Invasive Species Control and Education

In 2018, the LCD assisted Anna Cisar, the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Coordinator (Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council) and collaborated on several projects. These projects ranged from providing booth space for an educational display at the Green Lake County Fair, to carp removal and aquatic plant restoration in County K Marsh, and planning of boat washing stations.

While raising purple loosestrife beetles is a consistent project our spring weather did not allow for the full program. However, Cisar did work with volunteers and the Green Lake Sanitary District to raise a few beetles.

Outreach was done through the state's Clean Boats Clean Waters program; LTE technician Wyngaard completed 41 hours at boat launches in Green Lake County, contacting 112 (226) boaters on 70 (134) separate watercraft. Wyngaard also attended the Green Lake County Fair with an educational booth on aquatic invasive species.

2018 brought a lot of forward progress on the planning of Boat Wash Stations at our two county landings on Green Lake. Partnering with Golden Sands, the Green Lake Sanitary District and the Green Lake Association we selected a style of boat wash and put together a budget and site design. We have begun the process of getting approval from the County, starting with an introductory presentation to the Parks Committee in December. We will finalize the site plans once feedback from the Parks Committee and other partners has been reviewed. Moving forward we will continue the process for County approval into 2019 and, if all goes to plan, seek grant funding in 2019.

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.

2018 crop year deer damage claims of approximately \$71,488 (\$82,599) was appraised for nine (nine) farmers. Seventeen (Twelve) farmers received abatement assistance. 170 (220) shooting permits, harvesting 153 (200) deer were issued to farmers where over \$1,000 of deer damage occurred or was likely to occur. 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.

Green Lake County Drainage Board

District #1 – Inspection took place on October 31, 2018 by drainage board member Dick Severson. No complaints on the ditch, Severson did talk with Ken Long. Trees over drainage ditch – holding water back in some, because water is high. Mr. Long thinks some rip rap should be placed in a couple of spots where field runoff enters the ditch. To Dick it doesn't look that bad – high water.

District #2 – Inspection took place on November 2, 2018 by drainage board member Roger Sell. No one accompanied him for the inspection. Spoke with John Crescio, landowner, and he had no problems with his section of ditch. Water was flowing well with no brush near ditch. Also spoke with Steve Eckert, landowner, and everything was good and the water was flowing well with no brush near the ditch.

District #3 – Inspection took place on November 2, 2018 by drainage board member Roger Sell. Darwin Kelm, landowner, spoke on the phone to Mr. Sell. Mr. Kelm had no problems with his section of ditch. Lower end of district ditch was cleaned in 2017 when a new road culvert was installed under Hwy U. Water was flowing good, with no obstructions or brush growing near ditch. Mr. Sell also spoke with John Crescio. Mr. Crescio stated that with the wet weather this year he had some sloughing off of some of the ditch banks. He would repair any damage to the ditch on his own. Water was flowing well with no brush near ditch.

District #4 - Inspection took place on October 31, 2018 by drainage board member Dick Severson. Spoke with Eugene Mashuda, landowner. Cattails and marsh grass blocking upper portion of ditch, stops water from neighbors, then floods his field. Lower end water is not moving. Some cave in at one point – possibly muskrats. Talked to tenant about corridor assessment. Severson and Mashuda discussed cleaning ditch on the Mashuda and Raasch properties to allow it to drain better. Morris will survey profile for district.

District #5 – Inspection took place on October 31, 2018 by drainage board member Pat Krueger. Todd Morris, Green Lake County Land Conservation accompanied Mr. Krueger. Inspection completed by viewing ditch along Hwy F. Ditch looked well maintained and clean. There was no visible signs of water sitting in ditch. Continue to mow grass in ditch.

Seneca-Warren District – Board paid \$14,754.80 towards the loan principal. The ditch was inspected on October 31, 2018 by Pat Krueger with assistance from Todd Morris, Green Lake County Land Conservation Department. Erin Grossman, DNR Wildlife Biologist, met at the Hwy D bridge to get up to date on the drainage district. Due to high water levels the section of ditch from Hwy D east was not able to be inspected. The remaining sections of ditch were checked at the road culverts. There was still standing corn in the fields and we were not able to take the UTV in these sections. The ditch from approximately 300+00 to 340+00 was driven alongside with UTV. There were some small areas of brush starting to become established. It was also difficult to cross between fields using the installed culverts. There was brush piles and dirt piled in these areas. The ditch appeared to be flowing well and below the banks. There was evidence that the bank overtopped and flooded the adjacent cropland. This was in the area between 300+00 to 320+00. Visible watermark on beans at station 305+50 was Elevation 767.8, this would have caused flooding downstream of this point. Various elevations were taken using Green Lake County Carlson Survey Grade GPS in this stretch of ditch. Photos were also taken.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Approximately \$195,400 (~~\$356,600~~) was paid to landowners who installed/implemented practices in 2018. For Fiscal Year 2018, 14 (8) new EQIP contracts were signed, obligating approximately \$182,000 (~~\$162,300~~). Cost sharing for this program ranges from 50%-90% depending on the practice. Conservation practices installed/implemented in 2018 were as follows:

Practice	Total Units
Brush Management	17.3 Acres
Conservation Cover	13.8 Acres
Cover Crop	821.5 Acres
Critical Area Planting	3.2 Acres
Fence	15,814.4 Feet
Forage and Biomass Planting	9.2 Acres
Forest Stand Improvement	10 Acres
Grade Stabilization Structure	3 Structures
Grassed Waterway	2.4 Acres
Lined Waterway or Outlet	200 Feet
Mulching	2.4 Acres
Obstruction Removal	1 Acres
Prescribed Grazing	64.8 Acres
Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till	96.9 Acres
Tree/Shrub Establishment	11.4 Acres
Water Well	1 Well
Water & Sediment Control Basin	339 Feet
Underground Outlet	1,326 Feet

Conservation Education Efforts

The annual Conservation and Environmental Awareness Poster Contest for county students in grades K-12 was held in January with 109 (120) poster entries received. Cash prizes were awarded to 18 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.

An Arbor Day Breakfast celebration was held April 27th, 2018 with 103 (84) participants. The event occurred at the Green Lake Conference Center with Joel Kuehnhold, owner and operator of Lonely Oak Farm in central WI, speaking on “Backyard Forestry: Tips and Tricks on Trees”.

A field day at the Chris Pollock farm was held on August 18th, 2018. Topics included cover crops, soil health and nutrient management. A walking tour was also given to highlight many of the best management practices installed on the farm. Various agencies cooperated to make the field day a great success for the 60 participants that attended.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Gunderson
 Director of Land Conservation Department