



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, 2020 Time: 9:00 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
Steve Draeger,
FSA Member

1. Call to Order
2. Certification of Open Meeting Law
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of February 13, 2020 Minutes
6. Public Comments (3 min limit)
7. Appearances
8. Golden Sands Update - Asa Plonsky
9. Monthly Staff Report & Upcoming Projects
10. Lake and River Report
11. Farmland Preservation Program
12. DATCP/County Cost-Share Contracts
13. Well Testing Program
14. Annual Report
15. Poster Contest
16. Arbor Day
17. Legislative Issues
18. Correspondence
19. Committee Discussion
 - Future Meeting Date: April 9, 2020 at 9:00 AM
 - Future Agenda items for action & discussion
20. 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
March 12, 2020 Monthly Staff Report

February Projects

1. Update and review NMP – 7 landowner
2. Completed soil borings for waste storage structure application. (EQIP)
3. Discussion with landowner on sinkhole repair, would like to move forward. (LWRMP)
4. Work on design for multiple WASCoB's. (LWRMP)
5. Met with multiple landowner for possible projects.
6. Supervision Training
7. Webinar – Cover Crops and Forage – 1.0 CEU for CCA certification
8. Attended WI Cover Crop Workshop in Stevens Point.
9. Attended AutoCAD Users Group – Green Lake
10. Held informational session on possible Ag Enterprise Area in Town of St. Marie
11. Setup AR Sandbox at Quest Elementary School in Ripon for their science fair.
12. Reviewed CSEC&SWM permit applicability, applications and monitoring; issued and monitored permits.
13. 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 and assisted accordingly.
14. Discussed and prepared for FPP- Annual & Quadrennial Conservation Compliance Checks and recordkeeping.
15. Assisted landowners with FPP-ACCC.
16. Worked with ITD to fix printer and telephone functions and applications. Some successful.
17. Worked with LGLPRD and LUP&Z on a “ditch cleaning” on LGL.
18. Assisted potential landowner with stormwater mgmt. applicability and maps.
19. Prepare for and assist with Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) information meeting for T. of St. Marie.
20. Attended Wildlife and Forestry webinar by USDA-NRCS.
21. Disseminated conservation and educational opportunities information to the public.



LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
February 13, 2020 - MINUTES

The meeting of the Green Lake County Land Conservation Committee was called to order by Robert Schweder, Chairman, at 9:00AM on February 13, 2020 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
Bill Boutwell
Steve Draeger, FSA Member

Excused:
Patti Garro

Staff Present: Paul Gunderson
Heidi Weishaar

Others Present: Steve Krueger
Harley Reabe

MINUTES

Motion/second (Mehn/Schweder) to approve and file the December 12, 2019 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

APPEARANCES

None

WILDLIFE DAMAGE – 2019 CLAIMS

Steve Krueger gave an update on the animal activity around the county and asked approval for the 2019 damage claims.

Motion/second (Mehn/Schweder) approved Gneiser claims in the amount of \$1,082.63 based on the approval of the Harvest objective waiver by the committee of three that includes the DNR wildlife manager, USDA and the County Conservationist

Motion/second (Mehn/Schweder) approved Berndt claims in the amount of \$10,000.00 based on the approval of the Harvest objective waiver by the committee of three that includes the DNR wildlife manager, USDA and the County Conservationist

Motion/second (Mehn/Boutwell) to approve 2019 claims in the amount of \$ 59,414.40 . Motion carried.

MONTHLY STAFF REPORT & UPCOMING PROJECTS

Written report was reviewed

LAKE AND RIVER REPORT

Written report was reviewed

POSTER CONTEST

Local (Green Lake County) and Area (Lake Winnebago) place winners were shown on a handout and Gunderson explained that the 1st place winners will get judged at the state level during the WI Land & Water Annual Conference March 4-6 in Green Bay.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

271 Annual Compliance Self Certifications were mailed out on February 3, 2020. Responses are coming in daily both online and in the mail.

DATCP/COUNTY COST-SHARE CONTRACTS

BOERSON, BOERSON FARM LLC, STRELOW LIVING TRUST, JUSTMAN

Motion/second (Mehn/Boutwell) to approve cost-share contracts. Motion carried.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Gunderson presented a Line Item Transfer request to transfer money between line items due to unforeseen overages. The transfer requests were as follows:

Line Item Transfers:

FROM	AMOUNT	TO
Training	\$287.00	Print Management
Travel	\$41.65	Wireless Services
Operating Expenses	\$1,131.92	Vehicle Maintenance
Planning Grant (Lake & River Fund)	\$5,502.49	Twin Lakes Improvement

Budget Adjustments:

Gunderson presented a Budget Adjustment request to increase the revenue to Land Conservation by \$19,862.00 due to an overestimation of the DATCP Staff Funding. He also mentioned that due to errors like these, DATCP now publishes preliminary staff funding numbers prior to budget finalization.

WELL TESTING PROGRAM

Letters will be mailed February 24th to notify all 384 applicants if they were chosen to receive a free well water test kit or not. 110 applicants within the Green Lake Watershed were chosen to receive a free kit paid for by the Green Lake Sanitary District. An additional 150 applicants throughout the county will also receive free kits from a grant received via the Health & Human Service Department.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

There has been a public hearing for the proposed bill SB 703 / AB 790 which increases support for County Conservation Staff. There was no opposition during the hearing and it was voted unanimously out of committee. The bill will move onto the Joint Committee of Finance and then on to the Assembly and Senate.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

- Future Meeting Dates: March 12, 2020 at 9:00AM in the Committee Room #0903 of the Green Lake County Government Center in Green Lake.
- WI Land + Water Annual Conference March 4-6, 2020
- Future Agenda items for action & discussion

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 11:02 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Weishaar
Recorder

DRAFT

**GREEN LAKE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION
2019 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 2018 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 \$138,388 (\$140,414) 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. A 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. 273 (272) landowners received \$405,968 (\$403,096) in state tax credits.

Land & Water Resource Management Plan Implementation (DATCP) and Notice of Discharge (DNR)

In 2019, \$97,588 (\$95,580) in state DATCP cost sharing was paid to 15 (10) participants to implement various Best Management Practices (BMPs). In addition, \$95,583 in state DNR cost sharing was paid to 1 landowner for a Notice of Discharge violation. Cost-share rates for these programs range from 50%-70% depending on the practice. Conservation practices installed/implemented under these programs in 2019 were:

Grassed Waterway	725 ft.
Nutrient Management	929 ac.
Rock Lined Waterway	20 ft.
Streambank Protection	5,902 ft.
Subsurface Drain	200 ft.
Terraces	1,322 ft.
Underground Outlet	135 ft.
Waste Facility Closure	1 no.
Waste Storage Facility	1 no.
Waste Transfer	1 no.
Well Decommissioning	9 no.



Clean Sweep

On August 9, 2019, 334 (194) residents participated in a one-day hazardous waste chemical collection. The collection netted approximately 22,734 (15,825) total pounds of hazardous waste. Also collected were 700 (250) gallons of waste oil, 255 (60) gallons of anti-freeze, and 3,471 (3,280) fluorescent light bulbs. A list of disposal options for items not collected at the clean sweep was distributed as needed.

In our fourth year of Electronic Waste Collection, we contracted Resource Solutions to collect our electronic waste. We collected 17,870 (7,000) pounds of electronic waste and saved approximately \$4,500 by switching to their company.

In addition, 7.89 (8.54) tons of tires were collected for a minimal fee. Liberty Tire Recycling were contracted with to pick up and recycle the tires.

\$10,000 (\$10,000) in revenue toward this event was received from Waste Management and \$12,400 (\$12,970) in revenue was received from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection. Total cost of the event was \$47,091 (\$39,924) with the Green Lake County cost after all revenues and expenses of \$22,211 (\$9,869).



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. County K Marsh carp removal and restoration project continued with 65,000 lbs of carp removed in 2019. Several carp exclusion plots were installed throughout the project area, and monitored during the summer. 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. Over 50 volunteers aided WDNR and Green Lake management team members to install fish habitat in 1000 feet of Dakin

Creek. Over 3600 feet of eroding banks along Dakin and Hill Creek were graded, stabilized and planted to grass. A River Protection Grant (\$50,000) was received in March 2019 for the replacement of the roadway culvert at the intersection of Dakin Creek and Skunk Hollow Road. The culvert project was delayed to early 2020 due to high stream flows during the fall of 2019. A Lake Protection Grant (\$200,000) was received in March 2019 to fund additional best management practice installation. In addition to state and federal funds, the Green Lake Association provided significant funds towards the Dakin Creek stabilization project (\$25,000).

Lake Puckaway – The 5 year comprehensive lake management plan (2017) 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. Reconstruction of the Princeton Dam was initiated in the fall of 2019 and will continue thru the spring of 2020. The reconstruction project consists of removal of the seasonal wooden flashboard, and replacement with a permanent concrete sill at the same elevation as the top of the flashboards (16.5 inches) on top of the existing dam structure. The lock gates will be replaced to provide more functionality, and fish ladder will be installed on the south side of the dam. Initial planning and design for breakwater enhancement were undertaken during 2019, and a DNR grant for \$200,000 will be submitted in February 2020. Matching funds for the grant application are being provided by Ducks Unlimited (NAWCA) and the Lake Puckaway Protection and Rehabilitation District. Engineering and design services are being provided by Green Lake County Land Conservation Department with final approval being provided by Ducks Unlimited professional engineers. Construction on the breakwater is scheduled for winter of 2020 if the grant application is successful to build the first of 4 phases of breakwater. The first phase is estimated to be 2500 feet in length.

Twin Lakes - 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 2019. Native plant populations are thriving, and suppressing AIS in some of its historical range, although there has been a spatial increase in the Eurasian Watermilfoil population throughout Big Twin Lake. Continued monitoring throughout 2020 will determine if future action is required to control the population. The infestation 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 was received in March 2019 to expand water quality and invasive plant monitoring. Weekly water samples were collected at 4 locations throughout the system (unnamed tributary to Big Twin Lake, Big Twin Lake deep hole, Little Twin Lake deep hole, and Hill Creek). In addition, weekly visual observations were recorded, and continuous in-situ monitoring of dissolved oxygen and light penetration into the water column were collected throughout the growing season (Apr-Oct). Results of the monitoring are being forwarded to the WDNR lakes team for complete analysis and recommended actions.

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 test 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 2019. 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. Water quality and aquatic invasive species monitoring continued through 2019. The Association is in the early stages of planning dye tests for spring of 2020 in preparation for future chemical treatment of invasive species in 2021-2023.

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. Reconstruction of the outlet structures on Pond #1 (Hwy 44) is scheduled for 2020.

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.

2019 crop year deer damage claims of approximately \$94,436 (**\$71,488**) was appraised for nine (**nine**) farmers. Fifteen (**Seventeen**) farmers received abatement assistance. 162 (**170**) shooting permits, harvesting 148 (**153**) 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 2, 2019 by drainage board member Dick Severson. Severson inspected this district, no damage, some trees, flowing great.

District #2 – Inspection took place on October 3, 2019 by drainage board member Steven Foust. Foust inspected these districts, No complaints, water too high for proper inspection

District #3 – Inspection took place on October 3, 2019 by drainage board member Steven Foust. Foust inspected these districts, No complaints, water too high for proper inspection

District #4 - Inspection took place on October 2, 2019 by drainage board member Dick Severson. Severson inspected this ditch, cleaned by landowner – bottom only did not touch sides, may need to look at need for work on downstream end.

District #5 – Inspection took place on October 3, 2019 by drainage board member Pat Krueger. Todd Morris, Green Lake County Land Conservation accompanied Mr. Krueger. Krueger inspected this district, no complaints from landowner, some trees in lower section but not obstructing flow.

Seneca-Warren District – Board paid \$6,250.00 towards the loan principal, loan paid off. The ditch was inspected on October 3, 2019 by Pat Krueger with assistance from Todd Morris, Green Lake County Land Conservation Department. Krueger inspected this district, Green Lake County Sheriff's Office flew their drone to inspect from 0+00 to 100+00. Water very high, could not see any obstructions. Mr. Zick was present at inspection and had photos from 2018 that showed the ditch plugged at his property. Used a boat to get to his property, there was no obstructions, ditch about 3.5 feet in this section. Showed drone video from 0+00 to 100+00.

Invasive Species Control and Education

In 2019, 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 the planning of boat washing stations.

While raising purple loosestrife beetles is a consistent project our spring and summer weather made for a challenging beetle rearing year. However, Cisar did work with volunteers in the County to raise and release beetles, and the Green Lake Sanitary District continued their program around Big Green Lake.

Outreach was done through the state's Clean Boats, Clean Waters program; LTE technician Glad completed 41 hours at boat launches in Green Lake County, contacting 238 (112) boaters on 97 (70) separate watercraft. Cisar and Environmental Educator, Burzynski also attended the Green Lake County Fair with an educational booth on aquatic invasive species.



2019 brought a focus shift on the Boat Wash Station planning at our two county landings on Green Lake. After discussing the project with Parks Commission and other community members the planning team (Golden Sands, Green Lake Sanitary District, Green Lake Association, and LCD) decided to spend 2019 engaging the community and seeing what they would like available at the boat landings to prevent the spread of AIS. We did this by conducting a recreational lake user survey, asking Green Lake users their knowledge and concern about AIS, and what they would like to have at the boat landings to use to clean their boats in order to help prevent the spread of AIS. We also worked with the City and Town of Green Lake, and Town of Princeton who own boat landings around the Lake to purchase AIS removal station tool boards to be put up at the landings this spring. Moving forward we have updated our project design to incorporate the feedback we have gained in 2019 and will continue the process for Parks Commission and County Board approval and, if all goes to plan, seek grant funding for 2021.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Approximately \$146,100.00 (\$195,400) was paid to landowners who installed/implemented practices in 2019. For 2019, 12 (14) new EQIP contracts were signed, which obligated \$169,000 (\$182,000). Cost sharing for this program ranges from 50%-90% depending on the practice. Conservation practices installed/implemented in 2019 were as follows:



Practice	Total Units
Brush Management	2 Acres
Conservation Cover	12.1 Acres
Cover Crops	409.2 Acres
Critical Area Planting	0.4 Acres
Diversion	520.0 Feet
Forage and Biomass Planting	24.4 Acres
Grass Waterway	0.2 Acres
Heavy Use Area Protection	441 Sq. Ft.
High Tunnel System	2700 Sq. Ft.
Lighting System Improvement	1 no
Livestock Pipeline	9768 Feet
Mulching	0.3 Acres
Obstruction Removal	0.4 Acres
Prescribed Grazing	94.7 Acres
Pumping Plant	2 no
Residue and Tillage Management-No Till	319.1 Acres
Stream Crossing	2 no
Water Facility	1 no
Woody Residue Treatment	1.7 Acres

Construction Site Erosion Control and Storm Water Management Ordinance

In 2019, 12 (15) construction site erosion control and storm water management permits were issued, generating \$800 (\$1,075) of revenue.



Conservation Education Efforts

The annual Conservation and Environmental Awareness Poster Contest for county students in grades K-12 was held in January with 104 (109) 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 24th, 2019 with 107 (103) participants. The event occurred at the Green Lake Conference Center with Patrick Liesch, UW Extension Entomologist, giving a talk entitled: "Ouch! – Biting & Stinging Bugs and What You Can Do About Them".

A field day at the Richard Dukelow farm was held on August 17th, 2019. Topics included cover crops, soil health and conservation tillage. A tillage demonstration was given to show how different tillage affects soil erosion and runoff. 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