

**DOUGLAS COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, March 15, 2022, 10:00 a.m.**  
**Government Center, Boardroom 201**  
**1316 N. 14th Street, Superior, Wisconsin**

Meeting called to order by Chair Sue Hendrickson.

**ROLL CALL:** Present – Sue Hendrickson, Larry Luostari, Jim Soyring, Kathryn McKenzie, Mary Lou Bergman, Wendy Bong. Others present – Mark Liebaert, Matt Bolen, Brian Torgerson, Ashley Vande Voort, Zach Stewart (remote), Ramona Shackelford (remote), Kaci Lundgren, Committee Clerk.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion by Bong, second Bergman, to approve minutes from the November 16, 2021, meeting. Motion carried.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Cost-Share Project Request from Solon Springs School District to Address Erosion of Parking Lot/Road Into Nature Trail:** Funds remain from 2021 cost-share project allocations to utilize; must use by end of 2022. Project scope and cost have not yet been determined. Contact to be made with Solon Springs School District to determine other avenues of funding.

**ACTION:** Motion by Luostari, second Bong, to refer to future meeting to see if other funding sources exist outside of county. Motion carried.

**Environmental Reserve Fund Requests:**

**Range Line Road Culvert:** Approved 2021 cost-share project; 50% funded. Project benefits entire community and watershed.

**ACTION (REFERRAL/RESOLUTION):** Motion by Luostari, second Bergman, to recommend funding range line road culvert project for \$300 from Environmental Reserve Fund and refer to Administration Committee and County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

**Cloverland Community Club Well Abandonment:** Club does not have funds to complete project. 70% of abandonment funded as cost-share project.

**ACTION (REFERRAL/RESOLUTION):** Motion by Bergman, second McKenzie, to recommend funding Cloverland Community Club well abandonment project at remaining 30% (approximately \$600; 70% is funded through cost-share projects) from Environmental Reserve Fund and refer to Administration Committee and County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

**Pesticide Exemption Request from Land Conservation Department to Control Yellow Flag Iris and Narrowleaf Cattail Along the Bois Brule River:** Funding granted for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) projects, including work along the Bois Brule River. Some AIS are very large and can be time intensive and difficult to rid when hand-pulled. AIS can crowd out native vegetation and obstruct water flow. Due to minimal funding, additional assistance with removal is scarce and may be limited to one or two persons. A small, diluted amount of herbicide (specifically used for species in aquatic areas) would be injected into the stem of the invasive species with a syringe and small needle; no spraying. Many long-term effects of pesticide use are unknown. Studies

have shown adverse effects on humans and the environment. There are alternatives to herbicide use and project will still be conducted if exemption is not granted.

**ACTION:** Motion by McKenzie, second Bong, to deny pesticide exemption request. Motion carried.

**Approval of 2023 DATCP Work Plan:** Annual work plan included with agenda; cost-share projects updated.

**ACTION:** Motion by Bergman, second Bong, to approve 2023 DATCP Work Plan as presented. Motion carried.

**2023 Grant Applications:**

**DATCP Soil and Water Resource Management Grant:** Requested \$30,000 in funding for 2023. Funds can be carried over to the following year; not penalized if funds are not used.

**ACTION:** Motion by Bong, second McKenzie, to approve grant application. Motion carried.

**Segregated (SEG) Innovative Grant:** Grant may provide assistance to farmers in getting their soil tested to qualify for incentives.

**ACTION:** Motion by McKenzie, second Bergman, to approve grant application. Motion carried.

**Nutrient Management Farm Education Grant:** Grant will provide funding for an educational field day presented by Land Conservation Department.

**ACTION:** Motion by Bergman, second Luostari, to approve grant application. Motion carried.

**Resolution: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Surface Water Grants (Authorization of Agent):** Annual resolution required by WDNR to authorize agent to sign grant applications.

**ACTION (RESOLUTION):** Motion by Bergman, second McKenzie, to approve resolution as presented and refer to Zoning Committee and County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

**Capital Project Request - Groundwater Program:** \$10,000 requested to conduct groundwater program. Additional testing for uranium and cobalt may be available for samples returned with certain high levels of concern. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFA) substances testing is available, but at a high cost. Program will wait for more development and study on PFAs before offering tests.

**ACTION (REFERRAL):** Motion by McKenzie, second Bergman, to approve request to fund Groundwater Program out of the 2022 capital improvement fund in the amount of \$10,000 and refer to Zoning Committee, Administrator and Administration/Executive Committees. Motion carried.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

**Invasive Species Education: Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area, Ramona Shackelford:** High pressure boat wash acquired and used primarily at Loon's Foot Landing. AIS treatment done throughout Douglas County. Will be hosting three Women Woodland Owners workshops.

**Wildlife Damage and Abatement Program:** Turkey issues throughout county; will supply written report with next agenda.

**Introduction of Agriculture Technician, Matt Bolen:** Matt Bolen, Agriculture Technician, introduced. Assists Bayfield, Ashland, Iron and Douglas Counties, stationed in Ashland.

**Farm Service Agency Representation on Land Conservation Committee:** Farm Service Agency (FSA) requested no representation on committee; member may be appointed as citizen member, not representing FSA.

**ACTION (REFERRAL):** Motion by Bergman, second Bong, to recommend James Soyring be re-appointed to committee as a citizen member/farmer and refer to County Board Chair for appointment, with the intent to retain two farmers on committee. Motion carried.

**Agriculture Enterprise Area Awarded:** Properties receive tax incentive if designated as an Agriculture Enterprise Area. Land must meet most NR 151 requirements and remain farmland into the future.

**Stewardship Awards:** Awards held at a state level; local awards may recognize those overlooked. Committee to consider compiling eligibility requirements and nomination process.

**Allouez Bay Breeding Marsh Bird Habitat Restoration:** Project led by DNR with Vande Voort serving. Intent is to improve habitat. Request made to Land and Development Committee for herbicide exemption to treat area, but was referred for more information.

**Using Water Wisely and Responsibly in Relation to Drought:** Municipalities can set restrictions on town/village led use, but cannot regulate private wells. Education about water conservation is best way to inform citizens.

**Erosion on ATV Trails:** Money provided to local clubs from state to manage trails. Trail associations are best point of contact with concerns. Compliance audit reviews trails throughout Douglas County Forest areas.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** Stewardship awards; walking tour.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Bong, second Bergman, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

Submitted by,

Kaci Lundgren, Committee Clerk