

DOUGLAS COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Tuesday, May 16, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
1316 N. 14th Street, Boardroom 201, Superior, WI 54880

Meeting called to order by Chair Sue Hendrickson.

1. ROLL CALL

Present – Sue Hendrickson, Jim Soyring, Wendy Bong, Larry Luostari, Mary Lou Bergman. Absent – Kathryn McKenzie. Others present – Matt Bolen, Ashley Strabel, Shelley Nelson, Zach Stewart (remote), Emily Cahill, Committee Clerk.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Bong, second Luostari, to approve minutes from the March 21, 2023, meeting. Motion carried.

3. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Approval of “An Aquatic Invasive Species Focused Aquatic Plant Management Plan Bois Brule River Douglas County, Wisconsin”:** Plan to guide work in managing waters; plan included in agenda.

ACTION (REFERRAL): Motion by Bergman, second Bong, to approve plan as written and refer to Zoning Committee. Motion carried.

- b. Environmental Reserve Fund Policy Amendments:** Updates to policy amendments include: during annual budget creation, Land Conservationist shall budget total Environmental Reserve Fund interest earned and any unspent budget from previous calendar year to be budget for following calendar year expenditures; if LCC chooses to fund project which exceeds \$10,000 in total costs or reduce the corpus of the Environmental Reserve Fund below \$300,000, the project must also be approved by the Administration Committee and County Board.

ACTION (REFERRAL): Motion by Bergman, second Bong, to approve Environmental Reserve Fund Policy Amendments as presented and refer to Administration Committee. Motion carried.

- c. Referred from County Board Correspondence: Resolution Regarding Foreign Ownership of Farmland:** Resolution to support revision of law regarding foreign ownership of land; Douglas County currently has 79,624 acres held by foreign countries; 40 acres of non-agricultural land is held by foreign countries.

ACTION (RESOLUTION): Motion by Bergman, second Luostari, to rewrite resolution to reflect Douglas County specifics and refer to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

4. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- a. Wildlife Damage Report:** Report included in agenda.

- b. **Agricultural Technician Report:** Report included in agenda.
- c. **Surface Waters Program:** Report included in agenda.
- d. **Surface Waters Program Budget Request:** Request of \$20,000 included with agenda; previous year request denied. Funds vital to continue program; unsustainable with only outside resources. \$263,223.72 brought into Douglas County through program. Request included in agenda.
- e. **Nutrient Management Farmer Education Grant Application:** Grant to fund educational field days and Agricultural Technician position; amount requested increased; grant has been applied to and used for the last three years; no match required. Application included in agenda.
- f. **Great Lakes Landing Blitz Grant Application:** Grant to fund events to educate and create outreach regarding invasive species; application included in agenda.
- g. **April 2023 Budgetary Transfers:** Report included in agenda.
- h. **Staff Report:** Ashley Strabel reported on staff updates.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. None.

6. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Motion by Bong, second Bergman, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

Submitted by,

Emily Cahill
Committee Clerk