

**DOUGLAS COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, November 15, 2022, 10:16 a.m.**  
**1316 N. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Boardroom 201, Superior, WI 54880**

Meeting called to order by Chair Sue Hendrickson.

**ROLL CALL:** Present – Sue Hendrickson, Kathryn McKenzie, Jim Soyring, Wendy Bong. Absent – Larry Luostari, Mary Lou Bergman. Others present – Matt Bolen, Eric Fromm, Ashley Vande Voort, Gini Breidenbach, David Grandmaison, Jerry Trochinch, Deanna Erickson, Jim Giffin (remote), Kaci Lundgren, Committee Clerk.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion by McKenzie, second Bong, to approve minutes from the August 30, 2022, meeting. Motion carried.

**PRESENTATION:**

**Allouez Bay Marsh Breeding Bird Habitat and Headwaters Partnership Restoration Vision by Gini Breidenbach (Minnesota Land Trust), Deanna Erickson (Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve) and Ashley Vande Voort:** Marsh Bird Breeding Project goals are to preserve native vegetation, control invasive vegetation and enhance resiliency and increase hemi-marsh habitat in the Allouez Bay. Project budget is \$470,000, funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Scope has been created with implementation planned for 2023. The Lake Superior Headwaters Partnership is an intentional collaboration and information-sharing framework for transitioning from the Area of Concern to an estuary landscape focus. Commitment from partners assists with natural resources management and helps support the community wants. Allouez Bay is located within the reserve of the Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve, which is reaching out to the community for its input on the project and what it would like to see accomplished.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Wildlife Damage and Abatement Program:**

**Budget Amendment:** Final numbers changed since budget approval; increase in Information Technology and equipment costs. Entire program reimbursed by state with no cost to county.

**ACTION:** Motion by McKenzie, second Soyring, to approve budget amendments as presented. Motion carried.

**Damage Claim:** Bears damaged bee honey production facilities; state reimburses expenses.

**ACTION:** Motion by Bong, second Soyring, to approve damage claim in the amount of \$1,372.97, after a \$500.00 deductible. Motion carried.

**Resolution: Wisconsin DNR Surface Water Grants (Authorization of Agent):** Annual resolution to authorize Vande Voort to apply for surface water grants.

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

**Cost-share Project Applications:**

**2022-2023:**

**Shoreline Protection in Town of Solon Springs:** 50% of project (\$6,500) in cost-share funds requested; seawall needs replacement with rip rap.

**Water and Sediment Control Basin, Subsurface Drain and Underground Outlet in Town of Solon Springs:** 50% of project (\$7,500) in cost-share funds requested; erosion from runoff at trailhead.

**Well Closures:**

**City of Superior:** 50% of project (\$500) in cost-share funds requested; open, unused well to be abandoned.

**Town of Summit:** 70% of project (\$728) in cost-share funds requested; open, unused well to be abandoned.

**Well Drilling in Town of Cloverland:** 70% of project (\$17,500) in cost-share funds requested; water shortage for beef farm requires additional well.

**2023-2024:**

**Critical Area Stabilization in Town of Superior:** 50% of project (6,250) in cost-share funds requested; lawn to be enhanced with native species near St. Louis River.

**Shoreline Protection in Town of Bennett:** 50% of project (\$17,500) in cost-share funds requested; island eroding.

**ACTION:** Motion by McKenzie, second Soyring, to approve continued work on 2022 projects and reimburse at the maximum cost-share rate for the estimated cost; extend cost-share agreement for all 2022 projects into 2023; and approve work on 2023 and 2024 projects and reimburse at the maximum cost-share rate for the estimated cost, with the intent to complete the critical area stabilization in the Upper St. Croix River/St. Louis River and shoreline protection in the Boise Brule River, in 2024; full cost-share rate reimbursement for these two projects dependent upon 2024 funding. Motion carried.

**Environmental Reserve Fund:**

**Award Structure:** Current funding guidelines not clear. Recommendation to base available funding on interest accrued two years prior; establish October 15<sup>th</sup> annual deadline for applications; allow additional applications if additional funds are available after application deadline; and consider a more streamlined funding process. Vande Voort to amend guidelines and present for approval at next meeting.

**Funding Requests:**

**Well Closure in City of Superior at Fairgrounds:** Approximate cost of \$1,000; request for \$500.

**Solon Springs School District Trailhead Erosion:** Approximate cost of \$15,000; request for \$7,500.

**Youth Camp Scholarships – 2023:** Approximate cost of \$1,100; request for full amount.

**ACTION:** Motion by McKenzie, second Bong, to deny all Environmental Reserve Fund requests, due to lack of available interest in fund. Motion carried.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

**Wildlife Damage and Abatement Program:** Six Douglas County enrollees; one claim. Many reports of turkey damage and eighteen bears relocated from City of Superior to vacant rural areas.

**ACTION:** Motion by Bong, second McKenzie, to extend meeting beyond two-hour limit. Motion carried.

**Agricultural Technician Report:** Finished one nutrient management plan with another almost complete. No-till drill will be used in Douglas County in 2023, with plans to store close by for easier access.

**Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAs), Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acids and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):** Guidance from the DNR doesn't allow prohibition and because PFAs are already regulated by the state, cannot be done at county level. All biosolids will have some volume of PFAs due to it being everywhere. The DNR has an interactive data viewer that maps where PFAs are being tested and the results. The EPA may not release guidelines closer to the end of 2024. Testing for PFAs is very expensive and resolution requesting state funding may assist in its control. Vande Voort to draft resolution to present at next meeting.

**Artesian Well Mapping:** Bayfield County had request from company to bottle artesian well water to sell; concern is volume of water from wells if collected in high amounts. Vande Voort to contact Zoning about rules protecting wells from bottling and the Health Department about its monitoring capabilities.

**Land+Water:**

**Poster Contest:** Enrollment of local students into contest is encouraged.

**Annual Conference:** Inform Vande Voort if member wants to attend.

**Budget:** Updated budget included with agenda.

**Staff Report:** 165 samples collected during groundwater sampling. \$30,000 in cost-share funds awarded for 2023.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** Polyfluoroalkyl substance resolution; Environmental Reserve Fund guidelines revision.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by McKenzie, second Bong, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

Submitted by,

Kaci Lundgren  
Committee Clerk