



**LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY MARCH 3, 2020 7:00 P.M.  
HARMONY TOWN HALL  
ROCK COUNTY AG SERVICE CENTER  
440 N US HWY 14  
JANESVILLE WI**

**AGENDA**

1. Call Meeting to Order.
2. Approval of Agenda.
3. Approval of Minutes – February 5, 2020.
4. Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements.
5. Review Bills Paid.
6. Succession Plan/Future Staff Considerations.
7. Construction Site Erosion Control/Storm Water Management – Approval of 6 Month Extension for Permit EC-2018-11 Zach Knutson.
8. Update – Groundwater Workgroup Activities.
9. Update - Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements.
10. Resolution: Amending the 2020 Land Conservation Department Budget Purchase a GPS Survey Grade Instrument Package.
11. Resolution: Extending the Deadline for the Workgroup to Study the High Nitrates in Rock County's Groundwater.
12. Adjourn.



## MINUTES

**ROCK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY FEBRAURY 5, 2020, 7:00 P.M.  
LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT  
CONFERENCE ROOM  
440 N US HWY 14  
JANESVILLE WI**

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Bostwick called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

**Committee Members Present:** Stephanie Aegerter, Rich Bostwick, Wes Davis, Kaelyb Lokrantz, Robert Potter, James Quade, Alan Sweeney and Jeremy Zajac.

**Committee Members Excused:** None.

**Others Present:** Dave Terrell, USDA-WS; Tom Sweeney, LCD; Norman Tadt, LCD; Chris Murphy, LCD; Chris Newberry, LCD; Tom Brien, County Board Member.

2. **Approval of Agenda:** Supervisor Sweeney moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Supervisor Davis. **Motion Carried.**
3. **Approval of Minutes – January 7, 2020 LCC meeting:** Supervisor Zajac moved the minutes from the January 7, 2020 LCC meeting, seconded by Supervisor Potter. **Motion Carried.**
4. **Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements:** Tom Sweeney informed the LCC will be testifying at the Capitol on Thursday February 6, 2020 in support of the proposed changes to the Farmland Preservation Program under SB575. Also, Tom Sweeney informed the LCC in regards to his nomination to the Technical Advisory Committee for targeted performance standards and prohibitions to abate pollution of groundwater by nitrates in sensitive areas.
5. **Approve Bills over \$10,000 – Loren Bobolz for Nutrient Management.** Supervisor Sweeney moved the bill for over \$10,000 for Loren Bobolz, seconded by Supervisor Quade. **Motion Carried.**
6. **Review Bills Paid:** The committee reviewed the bills paid. Supervisor Davis questioned the WLWCA bill of \$1,929.00 and asked if that represented an increase in dues paid to WLWCA. Tom Sweeney stated the increase is approximately \$50.00. No further questions were asked.
7. **Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program:** Dave Terrell from USDA-WS presented the Wildlife Damage Claims for 2019. Four claims were submitted. Dave Terrell noted that the John Zehrer Claim request must include a harvest wavier due to not meeting the objective stated in shooting permits for deer. Mr. Terrell also stated a deer proof fence will be constructed on the sight in 2020 due to the high value crops being damaged. Supervisor Sweeney moved to approve the Waiver as identified by Mr. Terrell and the Claims as presented, seconded by Supervisor Potter. **Motion Carried.**

8. **Construction Site Erosion Control/Storm Water Management – Approval of 6 Month Extension for Permit ECSW-2018-13 Peace Land Development – Lake Woods 5<sup>th</sup> Addition.** Chris Murphy explained the request for an extension for permit ECSW-2018-13 stating that the request is staff driven which is directly related to weather conditions this area experienced in 2019. Supervisor Zajac moved to approve the extension as requested, seconded by Supervisor Aegerter. **Motion Carried.**
9. **Land and Water Resource Management Program – Approval of Cost Share Agreements.** Tom Sweeney presented a cost share agreement for Donna Garvoille to abandon a well located in the town of Union not to exceed \$500.00.
10. **Update – Groundwater Workgroup Activities.** Chris Newberry introduced himself to the committee. Tom Sweeney updated the committee on recent activities from the workgroup and noted the next meeting of the workgroup will be Monday February 17, 2020 at 8:00 in the Ag. Service Center Building.
11. **Farmland Preservation Program - Approval of Notices of Non-Compliance.** Tom Sweeney presented the list of notices of non-compliance that need approval, noting that all are requested from the landowners. Supervisor Davis moved to approve the list as presented, seconded by Supervisor Aegerter. **Motion Carried.**
12. **Approval – Spending Authority request from the Groundwater Nitrate Workgroup; Groundwater Quality Educational Unit / Well Tests - Clinton School District.** Tom Sweeney explained the cost of well tests that were completed as part of the educational unit. The total maximum cost is \$475.00. Supervisor Potter moved to approve the request, seconded by Supervisor Aegerter. **Motion Carried.**
13. **Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements - Update.** Tom Sweeney provided an update which included finalizing the 2020 applications to be submitted to USDA-NRCS as soon as the ranking worksheets have been released. Also, Tom Sweeney noted an email he received from Kristen Westad regarding the available funds for 2020. Tom distributed an updated worksheet he maintains for all easements closed.
14. **Adjourn:** Supervisor Davis moved to adjourn the February 5, 2020 Land Conservation Committee meeting at 8:07 pm, seconded by Supervisor Quade. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Sweeney  
County Conservationist

**Minutes are not official until adopted by the Land Conservation Committee.**

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AGENDA NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION  
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Land Conservation Comm.  
INITIATED BY



Thomas Sweeney  
DRAFTED BY

Land Conservation Comm.  
SUBMITTED BY

February 25, 2020  
DATE DRAFTED

**AMENDING THE 2020 LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT BUDGET  
TO PURCHASE A GPS SURVEY GRADE INSTRUMENT PACKAGE**

1 **WHEREAS**, the Land Conservation Department (LCD) is in need of a new GPS Survey Grade  
2 instrument package; and,  
3

4 **WHEREAS**, the current GPS Survey Grade Instrument package, assigned to the LCD, is near the end of  
5 its life and must be updated prior to the upcoming construction season to assure conservation staff  
6 members are not at a disadvantage during spring best management practice installation season; and,  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, a new Carlson GPS Survey Grade Instrument package, under state contract is \$13,995; and,  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Land Conservation Committee requests the costs associated with the purchase be  
11 transferred from the prior year sales tax revenue and requests the County Board to amend the 2020 Land  
12 Conservation Department Budget.  
13

14 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled  
15 this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020, approves transferring the \$13,995 from the prior year sales  
16 tax revenue, approves the purchase of the additional Carlson GPS Survey Grade Instrument package,  
17 and hereby amends the Land Conservation Department's budget as follows:  
18

<u>A/C DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>BUDGET AT</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>	<u>AMENDED</u>
	<u>02/17/2020</u>	<u>(DECREASE)</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
<u>Source of Funds:</u>			
62-6200-0000-46450			
Prior year Sales Tax Revenue	\$ 0	\$ 13,995	\$ 13,995
<u>Use of Funds:</u>			
62-6200-0000-67120			
Capital Assets \$2,000 to \$25,000	\$ 0	\$ 13,995	\$ 13,995

Respectfully submitted:

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Richard Bostwick, Chair

Kaelyb Lokranz

Alan Sweeney, Vice Chair

Robert Potter

Stephanie Aegerter

James Quade, USDA-FSA Representative

Wes Davis

Jeremy Zajac

AMENDING 2020 LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT BUDGET PURCHASE A GPS  
SURVEY GRADE INSTRUMENT PACKAGE  
Page 2


FISCAL NOTE:

This resolution approves transferring \$13,995 of prior year sales tax revenue to the Land Conservation Department for the purchase of a new GPS survey grade instrument package.

  
Sherry Oja  
Finance Director

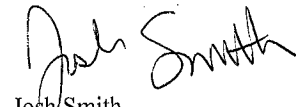
LEGAL NOTE:

As an amendment to the adopted 2020 County Budget, this Resolution requires a 2/3 vote of the entire membership of the County Board pursuant to sec. 65.90(5)(a), Wis. Stats.

  
Richard Greenlee  
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.

  
Josh Smith  
County Administrator

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Land Conservation Department is in need of updating the GPS Survey Grade Instrument package, assigned to it. The current system is near the end of its life and must be updated in the very near future.

The Senior Conservation Specialist, who is the primary staff member to utilize the system, has expressed numerous frustrations this past Fall due to issues within the data collector. Carlson's user support/warranty has expired on this system and limited assistance remains available. The current system went on line in March 2014. Since county made this shift to GPS technology in 2014, reliance on it has improved the quality of work performed and increased efficiency with surveying and design. The current system is utilized by three conservation specialists within the Land Conservation Department and it must be pointed out it is imperative that a dependable functioning system is available to the conservation staff. The current system, will be maintained until it ends its useful life cycle by the Senior Conservation Specialist who is the primary user.

This type of survey instrument is utilized by the Conservation Specialists to conduct conservation practice surveys on a daily basis and in some cases, multiple surveys are conducted in a given day. Also, the GPS system is utilized by staff to assure the BMP's are installed as per the design. Once the survey is deemed complete by the Conservation Specialist, the data is downloaded into the County's GIS software for the designated practices design element. Utilization of the GPS Survey Grade instrument has allowed the Conservation Specialist to complete a greater number of BMP installations throughout the County.

The Land Conservation will utilize prior year sales tax revenue for said purchase of \$13,995, which is the state contract cost for this system.

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AGENDA NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION  
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Groundwater Nitrate  
Workgroup  
INITIATED BY



Christopher Newberry  
DRAFTED BY

Board of Health and Land  
Conservation Committee  
SUBMITTED BY

March 16, 2020  
DATE DRAFTED

Extending the Deadline for the Workgroup to Study the High Nitrates Levels in  
Rock County's Groundwater

1 **WHEREAS**, the level of nitrates in Rock County's groundwater has increased over the past two decades  
2 in private and public wells, with over 30% of the county wells exceeding the drinking water nitrate health  
3 advisory of 10 mg/L; and,  
4

5 **WHEREAS**, the County Board of Supervisors passed resolution 17-5A-282 during their May 11, 2017  
6 County Board meeting establishing a workgroup composed of the following representatives, Public  
7 Health, Land Conservation, Planning and Development, UW Extension, a representative from the  
8 Agricultural Service Sector, two at large County Board members and one Farmer currently working with  
9 a research project overseen by UW-Discovery Farms to commence research on nitrate reduction strategies  
10 that are available; and,  
11

12 **WHEREAS**, the County Board of Supervisors passed resolution 17-11D-412 during their  
13 November 16, 2017 County Board meeting extending the deadline of the workgroup until  
14 December 31, 2020; and,  
15

16 **WHEREAS**, with the afore mentioned extension, the workgroup was to complete its tasks of compiling  
17 existing well water nitrate data, evaluating nitrate sources, and researching groundwater nitrate reduction  
18 initiatives and strategies being conducted in other parts of Wisconsin and the United States. After the  
19 tasks were completed, the Workgroup was to make recommendations to the County Board regarding the  
20 groundwater nitrate issues; and,  
21

22 **WHEREAS**, after numerous meetings regarding the aforesaid tasks it was determined by the workgroup  
23 that additional data from the pilot project and other locations within Rock County, are necessary to make  
24 reasonable assessment of nitrate reduction strategies; and,  
25

26 **WHEREAS**, the workgroup will not be able to meet the aforementioned deadline and requests the  
27 County Board extend the existing deadline to December 31, 2025; and,  
28

29 **WHEREAS**, the new deadline will allow the workgroup to continue developing, implementing,  
30 monitoring and expand the small scale pilot projects to reduce nitrates in the groundwater through  
31 implementation of Best Management Practices.  
32

33 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Rock County Board of Supervisors in session this  
34 \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020, approves the extension of the workgroup for the period of  
35 December 2020 through December 2025 for the sole purpose of researching and developing  
36 recommendations to decrease or reduce the rate of increase of nitrates entering Rock County's  
37 Groundwater.

Extending the Deadline for the Workgroup to Study the High Nitrates Levels in Rock County's Groundwater.

Page 2

Respectfully submitted:

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Louis Peer, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Connie Winter, DDS, Vice Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dave Homan

\_\_\_\_\_  
Craig Gramke

\_\_\_\_\_  
Danette Rynes

\_\_\_\_\_  
Eric Gresens, R. PH

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Kaitlyn Meyers, DVM, MPH

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Vijaya Somaraju, MD, MPH, FACP

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ms. Judy Wade, WHNP

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Bostwick, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Alan Sweeney, Vice Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephanie Aegerter

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wes Davis

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kaelyb Lokrantz

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Potter

\_\_\_\_\_  
James Quade, USDA-FSA Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeremy Zajac

FISCAL NOTE:

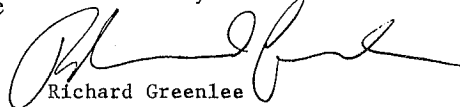
Per County Board Rule IV-C, County Board Supervisors who are members of additional special, single purpose or ad hoc committees are eligible for per meeting allowances and mileage reimbursement. Citizen members of such committees shall be eligible for mileage reimbursement only.



Sherry Oja  
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

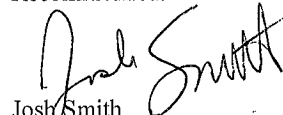
The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to sections 59.01 and 59.51, Wis. Stats., as well as Rule IV-C of the County Board Rules.



Richard Greenlee  
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.



Josh Smith  
County Administrator



Extending the Deadline for the Workgroup to Study the High Nitrates Levels in Rock County's Groundwater.

Page 3

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This resolution requests County Board approval to extend the deadline for the established Groundwater Nitrate Workgroup as per County Board Resolution 17-5A-282. The original deadline was set for December 31, 2017 and was extended in 2017 until December 31, 2020. The Land Conservation Committee and Board of Health along with the committees represented on the workgroup request the deadline be extended to December 31, 2025 to continue:

Obtaining necessary data from monitoring the groundwater at the nitrate reduction project located on the County farm and expand the project into other watersheds where data is required to make rational assessments;

The establishment of the Farmer Led Groundwater Group furthering the communication of BMPs to landowners throughout the county and whereby gaining additional data;

Develop a 9 Key Element Plan with the DNR to improve nitrate reduction strategies; and

Partnering with the NRCS to implement BMPs to reduce nitrates in groundwater through a newly acquired Source Water Protection Project in Turtle Creek watershed, along with a planned National Water Quality Initiative in the Southeast portion of the County and examining groundwater responses.

Continuation of the Workgroup will allow it to refine its recommendations of nitrate reduction in the County's groundwater aquifers.

The workgroup is currently meeting four to six times a year to review updates, appraise progress, and guide county departments on pending actions.