

**MINUTES OF THE COLUMBIA COUNTY
AGRICULTURE, EXTENSION, LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING
March 4, 2024**

The meeting of the Agriculture, Extension, Land & Water Conservation Committee was called to order by Chair Weyh at 1:02 pm and was certified to be in compliance with the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law.

Roll Call: Mike Weyh, Brad Cook, Shawn Barker, Andrew Groves, Andrew Fischer, Samantha Miller-FSA Rep

Others Present: Kurt Calkins, Kelly Maginnis, Casey Bennett, Sarah Millard, Caitlin Richardson, Rebecca Pfile, Tonya Pautzke, Program Assistant-NRCS, Assistant Corp Counsel Nathaniel Cullen, Supervisor Darren Schroeder, Vice-Chair Denise Brusveen

1. **Adopt Agenda Including Legally Noticed Changes.** A motion to approve the agenda was made by Cook. Second by Fischer. Motion carried.
2. **Approve Minutes of AELWCC February 5, 2024, meeting** – A motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by Barker. Second by Fischer. Motion carried.
3. **Chair Updates:** none
4. **Citizen/Public Input** – Columbia County LWCD – none
5. **Operational Overview: Columbia County Land and Water Conservation Department**
 - a) Approve Expenditure Report –Calkins mentions the venison donation payment to Lodi Sausage Company, we were waiting on this invoice to submit the 2023 animal damage reimbursement. He also points out the Gibraltar Rock payment and history behind this. There was a motion to approve the expenditure report made by Fischer. Second by Cook. Motion carried.
 - b) Department Budgets, Compensatory Time, Out-of-County Travel – Calkins states the 2023 program reimbursements are coming in. He states the conference will consist of 4 staff members going, plus Casey one day and mentions the upcoming Lakes Conference with 2 staff attending.
 - c) Staff Report: Kurt R. Calkins, Director – He states the Healthy Lakes grant did get awarded which is \$5,000 and will cover installing lake projects which the State reimburses for. Calkins mentions Casey Bennett and himself will be giving a short presentation for the Ag Outreach position at the March County Board meeting, per the request of the committee and approved by Chair Polzer.
6. **Agency Reports – NRCS; FSA; APHIS; DNR – Sam Miller states they have no new sign ups going on but that’s it.**

NRCS – Tonya Pautzke states they have 60 CSP sign-ups, deadline is April 19th, and they had 22 EQIP applications approved for funding. She states there will be a second sign-up for fund pools coming but they don’t have a timeline yet. They will be getting a summer intern, advertising should be coming out soon and they will also have interviews for a soil conversationist technician position.
7. **Ag Outreach Specialist Quarterly Update** – Bennett highlights his quarterly report in the agenda packet, regarding topics on questions asked by the public; events he is part of or attended; the upcoming tasks for the office; and his continued professional development plan. He also speaks on the NMP program and states we had the most attendees this year since the program started. He assisted with this program last year and has continued on.
8. **Present 2023 Annual Report for Land & Water Conservation Department** – Calkins speaks on the programs and information listed in the report. He mentions the newly added items under the Ag Outreach category and highlighted how converting to a digital Ag Reporter reduced the expense of

**MINUTES OF THE COLUMBIA COUNTY
AGRICULTURE, EXTENSION, LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING
March 4, 2024**

previously mailing them, we did add the Youth Education category as well. A motion to approve the 2023 Annual Report was made by Cook. Second by Fischer. Motion carried.

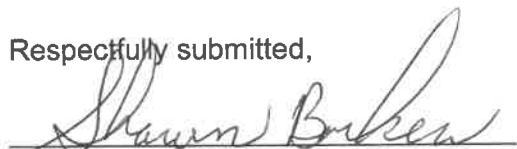
9. **Approval of 2024-2025 Snowmobile Authorizing Grant Resolution**– Calkins states this resolution needs to be submitted to the State by April 15th. He states we submit for the annual snowmobile maintenance grant each April and will possibly be adding onto any funded trail requests for the 2024-2025 season but this resolution is due to the State by April 15th and needs to go to County Board this month. He explains the state vs local funding on this program. He states the total requested amount will be brought to the committee next month and we have request for about \$89,000 currently. A motion to approve the 2024-2025 Snowmobile grant resolution was made by Groves. Second by Cook. Motion carried.
10. **Notice of Non-Compliance – For Landowners Farmland Preservation Program Tax Credit Requirements** – He states Chris Arnold coordinates this program and part of that process is reporting to Department of Revenue any people who want to voluntarily waive their rights from being in the program. We had 3 want to be removed from the program voluntarily: Thomas Ladwig, who has 15 acres of land; Tomlinson Revocable Trust with 136 acres; and Jon Steinhaus with 319 acres. A motion was made to approve these Notice of Non-Compliance requests by Groves. Second by Barker. Motion carried. DATCP and DNR will be notified they are no longer eligible for tax credits.

LWCD meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm, resumed with Columbia County Extension at 1:37 p.m.

11. Citizen/Public Input – Columbia County Extension – none.
12. Operational Overview: Columbia County Extension
 - a) Approve Expenditure Report – Motion to approve was made by Barker. Second by Groves. Motion carried.
 - b) Department Budgets, Compensatory Time, Out-of-County Travel – Becky Pfile has out-of-county to Sauk County & Atlantic City, NJ in March 2024.
13. Division of Extension Update – Area Director: No updates.

A motion to adjourn was made by Groves. Seconded by Barker. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shawn "Woody" Barker
Agriculture, Extension, Land & Water
Conservation Committee Secretary