

**MINUTES OF THE COLUMBIA COUNTY
AGRICULTURE, EXTENSION, LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING
April 1, 2024**

The meeting of the Agriculture, Extension, Land & Water Conservation Committee was called to order by Chair Weyh at 1:00 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, Tonya Pautzke-NRCS, Assistant Corp Counsel Nathaniel Cullen, Supervisor Darren Schroeder

1. **Adopt Agenda Including Legally Noticed Changes.** A motion to approve the agenda was made by Groves. Second by Cook. Motion carried.
2. **Approve Minutes of AELWCC March 4, 2024, meeting** – A motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by Groves Second by Barker. Motion carried.
3. **Chair Updates:** Weyh mentions he has to leave today's meeting at 2:00 pm.
4. **Citizen/Public Input** – Columbia County LWCD – none
5. **Operational Overview: Columbia County Land and Water Conservation Department**
 - a) Approve Expenditure Report –Calkins highlights a few expenses for the month. There was a motion to approve the expenditure report made by Groves. Second by Cook. Motion carried.
 - b) Department Budgets, Compensatory Time, Out-of-County Travel – Calkins states nothing to add.
 - c) Staff Report: Kurt R. Calkins, Director –none
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 are reviewing EQIP applications - 19 pre-approved for funding, reduced some from last year and there are 53 CRP applications to process as well as 20 renewals. She states they will have a new person starting in June for the soil technician position. Calkins asks about the MOU, of which Pautzke states it's at regional to be reviewed. It will be coming forth for a meeting in the future.

Nothing from FSA – per Samantha Miller, the next meeting is later this week.
7. **Report from WI Land & Water Annual Conference** – Calkins highlighted important items from the conference. This year the conference sold out, there were great breakouts he attended.
8. **Review of 2024-2025 Snowmobile Applications** – Calkins states there are 292.6 maintenance miles for actual approved/requested maintenance request. for the new request, each year clubs attempt funded trail upgrades. There were 3 requests this year asking for new trail miles. The new total if approved would be \$104,650.00 per year. There are no new bridge grants this year being applied for. We are still working on one bridge grant, a lot of complications we are working with the Village of Doylestown on as far as the bridge grant there and possible installation. We have to get more funds to allow us to hire a study to get the bridge done.
9. **Review of 2025 DATCP Grants (SWRM, NMFE, SEG Innovation)** – Calkins reports on annual grant applications that will be sent to DATCP. 2025 requests for DATCP: DATCP Joint Allocation –
1) LWRM staff funding \$306,598; 2) LWRM Bond - \$400,000; 3) LWRM SEG - \$200,000; 4) SEG Innovation - \$19,500; 5) NMFE - \$3,000.

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10. **2023-2024 Tree Program Update.** – Maginnis states we recently released some of the tree inventory back to our distributors, due to sales being slightly lower than previous years, we have found this is a connection to the drought last year. We have increased our tree supply sales, tubes doubled and stakes increased greatly, we noticed some orders were results of NRCS grant funding for applicants. The tree tubes did increase in price this past year, they are now sold in bundles of 5 to decrease time packaging. She states we will have a different volunteer group lined up from Rio schools this year, 27 students will be there to help us bundle, previous years we also used the High Marquette Environmental Charter School, but we have decided to offer this opportunity to schools that have high participation in our Poster/Speaking Contests to give other students/schools an opportunity to be part of this event. Orders are taken until Friday, April 12th, and pickup will be Thursday, April 25th, from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm, which will happen at the fairgrounds building.

LWCD meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm, resumed with Columbia County Extension at 1:40 pm.

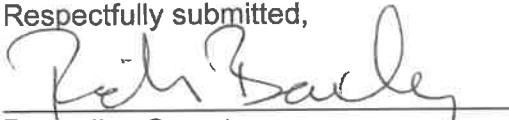
12. Citizen/Public Input – Columbia County Extension – none.

13. Operational Overview: Columbia County Extension

- a. Approve Expenditure Report – None to present at time of meeting.
 - b. Department Budgets, Compensatory Time, Out-of-County Travel – Becky Pfile will be traveling out-of-county to Madison, Stevens Point & WI Rapids in April 2024.
14. Discussion & possible approval to release Columbia County fair funds as requested: Motion by Cook to approval of fair funds requests, Second by Fischer. Motion carried.
15. Division of Extension Update – Area Director: No updates.
16. Programming Update – Becky Pfile, 4-H Youth Development Educator: provided an update on camp counselor training.

A motion to adjourn was made by Barker. Seconded by Fischer. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Recording Secretary,
Agriculture, Extension, Land & Water
Conservation Committee Secretary