

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

The meeting of the Agriculture, Extension, Land & Water Conservation Committee was called to order by Chair Fischer at 1:05 pm and was certified to be in compliance with the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law.

Roll Call: Andrew Fischer, Rich Bailey, Denise Brusveen, Brad Cook, John Stevenson

Others Present: Kurt Calkins, Kelly Maginnis, Tanya Pautzke-NRCS, Chair Darren Schroeder, Sarah Millard, Becky Pfile, Caitlin Richardson

Adopt Agenda Including Legally Noticed Changes. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Brusveen. Second by Cook. Motion carried.

1. **Approve Minutes of AELWCC June 3, 2024, meeting** – There was discussion about the time the meeting adjourned and there was a correction made to reflect 3:55 pm as proper time adjourned before signature on final minutes. A motion to approve minutes with such correction was made by Bailey. Second by Brusveen. Motion carried.
2. **Chair Updates:** No updates
3. **Citizen/Public Input – Columbia County Land and Water Conservation Department -**
4. **Operational Overview: County Land and Water Conservation Department**
 - a) Approve Expenditure Report – Motion to approve was made by Brusveen. Second by Cook. Motion carried.
 - b) Department Budgets, Compensatory Time, Out-of-County Travel – committee approval no longer required.
 - c) Staff Report, Calkins – He mentioned Casey Bennett is out for a few weeks, but left contact information for the staff to direct the public that reach out to our department. Kurt gave review of how the snowmobile clubs interact with our department who manages the program. Explained SNARS. He explained the club permitting issue that resulted in some ineligible costs. He explained more about this issue in case there are questions about the relationship with county and DNR.
5. **Agency Reports – NRCS; FSA; APHIS; DNR –**

NRCS -Tanya Pautzke reports they been receiving applications for CSP that were pre-approved, deadline for these is July 19th. She mentions they got 4 applications for EQIP and 2 were approved. She states they have a new State Conservationist, Nathan Fikkert, who used to be in Green Bay as a District Conservationist.
6. **Approve 2024 Position Replacement Request with revised Job Description – Land and Water Resource Management Technician** – Calkins appreciates the feedback from the meeting last month and he has been re-evaluating the position and talking with other staff. He has decided on requesting a technician that is task orientated versus looking for a specialist with more advanced skills and certifications. The pay scale for this position would go to HR and have them classify it. A motion for approval of this new position replacement and revision was made by Bailey. Second by Cook. Brusveen discussed pay. Calkins said it will be less or not to exceed the current specialist positions. Vote was not a unanimous vote, however the proposed Motion was approved.
7. **Final 2023-2024 Tree Program Report** – Calkins reports an update for the program and speaks on the cost summary. He mentions the volunteer help with this program, and how their help factors in a

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successful program for our department. There was an increased cost on supplies, as well as the amount sold. For trees - 53,650 trees were sold. We had over \$110,000 in revenue, around \$82,000 with expenses. With budgeted programs deducted and levee adjustment that leaves \$16,590.42. He states this has been a successful program and the increase in supplies this year have helped with the revenue. He states the levee cost is about the same amount as staff cost into this. Accounting is discussing credit card convenience fees for departments to utilize. He mentioned the shipping fees for supplies after the pick-up date for the program.

8. **Update on Conservation Night by the Lake July 20, 2024** – Calkins states Wargo Acres is hosting this event, who are part of the producer-led group. He explained the group event and the benefit behind these events. Brusveen mentioned reaching out to Town of Lodi, West Point and Dekorra Clerks asking them to distribute on their email lists for the towns, and also engage with the agriculture community.

Columbia County Land and Water Conservation Department meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m.
Reconvened with Extension at 2:14 p.m.

9. **Citizen/Public Input – Columbia County Extension – none.**

10. **Operational Overview: Columbia County Extension**

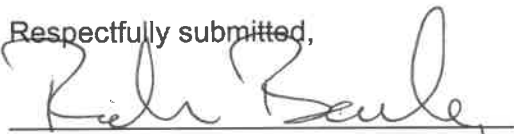
- a) Approve Expenditure Report - Motion by Brusveen. Second by Bailey. Motion carried.
- b) Department Budgets, Compensatory Time, Out-of-County Travel

11. **Division of Extension Update - Area Director**

- a) County Partnership Document Feedback: Committee members were asked to give feedback on the document by 7/8/24 to Jeff.

A motion to adjourn was made by Brusveen. Second by Cook. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rich Bailey,
Agriculture, Extension, Land & Water
Conservation Committee Secretary