PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Pursuant to Section 18.94 Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Land Conservation Subcommittee** was held on Monday, January 28, 2019 in Room 200, Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut St., Green Bay, WI

Present: Supervisors Norbert Dantinne, Dave Kaster, Bernie Erickson, Steve Deslauriers, Alex Tran
Citizen Rep Stan Kaczmarek

Also Present: County Executive Troy Streckenbach, Director of Administration Chad Weininger, Corp Counsel Dave Hemery, County Conservationist Mike Mushinski, Assistant County Conservationist Jon Bechle, Public Works Director Paul Fontecchio, Director of Port & Resource Recovery Dean Haen, and other interested parties.

I. **Call Meeting to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dantinne at 6:00 p.m.

II. **Approve/Modify Agenda.**

Motion made by Supervisor Kaster, seconded by Stan Kaczmarek to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

III. **Approve/Modify Minutes of November 26, 2018.**

Motion made by Supervisor Kaster, seconded by Supervisor Deslauriers to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Comments from the Public – None.

Land Conservation Department

1. Open Positions Report.

County Conservationist Mike Mushinski noted that they've had for a while, the Agronomist position, and they are still searching for funding for that.

2. Budget Status Financial Report for November 2018 – Unaudited.

Mushinski informed the board that as of November 30 their revenues were higher than their expenses.

Motion by Supervisor Ericksen, seconded by Kaczmarek to receive and place on file. Vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Director's Report.
   a. 2018 Goals and Accomplishments.

Mushinski went over some of the highlights of the 5 year work plan handout which is included in the agenda packet for referencing purposes. These highlights included the priority 1 program to be the same as Farmland Preservation Program, underneath this priority are they do about 7000 acres of compliance for landowners with NR151 and ATCP50 and they have about 565 participants in Brown County that collect Farmland Preservation tax credit last year. The acres that are referenced keep compiling, they are all cumulative acres. They try to get some contact with landowners every 4-5 years and if there are issues and they check back on those if there's issues and make sure there is compliance. Started in lower parts of County for check and worked their way East. Farm economy is a real challenge at the moment

so they don't have a source to pay for all the practices so it is hard to meet all the criteria on the list right now. They host field days, do workshops and have group tours with respect to priority 2 and the Lower Fox Demonstration Farm and have been very aggressive in this regard in the past year. As a whole going expect to see less and less nutrient management planning because there is less cropland itself. They had 28 animal waste complaints last year after a very challenging year with runoff events and so forth. There is an estimated 900 million gallons of manure in Brown County; they are trying to look up some alternative technologies that are in opposition to liquid manure. Under priority 7 he noted they're still providing support to landowners, assisting in crop loss damage and coordinating shooting permits with DNR. Under Priority 8 with respect to the West Shore Northern Pike Habitat Restoration Project they had a much better year this year as they got a lot done with the dry stretch. Supervisor Kaster asked if this included the one in Bellevue. Which he was informed that it did but they stopped the contract with the former contractor for various reasons and they're going to have somebody else come in and finish the project which is all planned for already. Mushinski then jumped to priority 11 and mentioned the target to be performance standards sent out 263 letters regarding the bedrock issue on the eastern side of the County who have shallow soils. Once they have more soil depth data they will notify more landowners of the issue. Kaczmerek asked if there was much feedback after this notice was sent. Mushinski said surprisingly that there wasn't much at all even though it restricts manure spreading. The hope is to have those soils tested within the next year or so and then have some more definitive data that can be passed along. He then fast forwarded to priority 15 and noted that there has been a good level of success with buffers but they will have to work on some funding and effort for those as the grant for those is ending. Wanted to mention the Youth Conservation Awareness are on display in the Neville Public Museum something new in the education realm of it. Supervisor Ericksen asked how many dollars they are looking for if they are unable to receive a grant. The response was they need about $80,000 for the actual position itself but the soil issue goes above and beyond so it could exceed that amount. Manure is a big issue right now that needs to be worked on.

Motion by Kaczmarek, second by Supervisor Ericksen, to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Wisconsin Wildlife Damage Program Plan of Administration

There was a handout handed out regarding the Wisconsin Wildlife Damage Program and their new Plan of Administration which is attached to the agenda. Assistant County Conservationist Jon Bechle did some further explaining regarding the specifics of the document. Supervisor Ericksen enquired as to letter C. on the regarding the amount of cougars in the County. That's one of the reasons for having an updated plan of administration as counties are required to have a plan such as the one listed here. Brown County has been a part of this program since 1987. By doing this there have been some housekeeping changes in terms of the administrative role, different animals covered by this plan and things of that nature. This is a statewide program and animals such as the cougar, Bechle informed Ericksen, are covered by this. Highlighted in this recent plan of administration is to have sandhill cranes become eligible when a hunting season is established, this is going to take some legislative action to actually come to fruition. This version of the plan has a 5 year timeframe, not positive if anything will happen in that timeframe though. Since 1987 there has always been an allotment in the budget for the Wildlife Damaged Program. Administration does fund the claims such as fencing or scare devices and these kinds of things that can minimize the damage on the crops. Cost is covered through the state; it is covered primarily through a surcharge on different licenses such as deer licenses, bear licenses and geese licenses. Charge specifically on deer licenses is $1 per license.

Supervisor Kaster asked for further explanation regarding letter p on pg.6 of the packet where it states "deny all wildlife damage claims concerning crop sites where the County's abatement recommendations were not followed." Bechle replied that if a partner enrolls in a program he would say you have to try a shooting permit or a fence or something along those lines to abate the damage and if they refuse and still file a claim which could be rendered ineligible. Some specifics include, they have to file within 14

days of when it occurs and 10 days of when they're going to harvest the crop. Most of it has stayed the same and has been reviewed. A lot of the damage is occurring in the urban, rural fringe area and most of the damage that occurs here is from geese as opposed to the damage in the rest of the state, the damage is done by deer. He also spoke of the damage geese have caused to unharvested fields and things of that nature.

Kaczmarek asked whether wildlife damage from deer increased the tags at license time. He was informed that if farmers are getting deer damage they can apply for a shooting permit which is in addition to bonus tags which aren't available for purchase. Kaczmarek then wondered how many of these permits have been issued in the past year. Jon responded that there have been 8 issued this past year, in total, one of which was for turkey. A number of permits that were issued to the City of Green Bay as there are croplands within city limits and there are farmers that own a City shooting permit. There were 7 of such permits issued in 2018. He noted he will get the numbers on the deer harvested for next month.

Motion by Supervisor Ericksen, seconded by Kaczmarek to receive and place on file. Vote Taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Other

4. Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law.

None.

5. Adjourn.

Motion by Supervisor Kaster, seconded by Kaczmarek to adjourn at 6:27pm. Vote Taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cayden S. Lasecki

Administrative Assistant