

**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 Tuesday, July 27, 2021 in Room 200, Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, WI.

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**Present:** Chair Norb Dantine, Supervisor Tom Friberg, Supervisor Dave Landwehr, Supervisor Ray Suennen, Vice Chair/Citizen Rep Stan Kaczmarek  
**Excused:** Supervisor Amanda Chu  
**Also Present:** County Conservationist Mike Mushinski and Assistant County Conservationist Jon Bechle

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I. **Call Meeting to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dantine at 5:00 p.m.

II. **Approve/Modify Agenda.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Landwehr, seconded by Vice Chair Kaczmarek to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

III. **Approve/Modify Minutes of June 22, 2021.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Suennen, seconded by Supervisor Friberg to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Comments from the Public.** None.

**Land Conservation Department**

1. **Budget Status Financial Report for May 2021 – Unaudited.**

County Conservationist Mike Mushinski informed financially things were going well.

**Motion made by Supervisor Landwehr, seconded by Supervisor Suennen to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

2. **Budget Adjustment Request (21-061) Any increase in expenses with an offsetting increase in revenue.**

Land & Water Conservation applied for and received a \$30,000 SWRM Innovation Grant through DATCP. This grant provides funding for landowners to implement cover crops on their fields on a pay-for-performance basis.

**Motion made by Supervisor Landwehr, seconded by Vice Chair Kaczmarek to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. **Director's Report.**

Their DATCP Board Review will be virtually held on August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:35 a.m., Mushinski asked committee members to possibly jump on to represent Brown County.

a. **Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP).**

Mushinski informed this came out of a discussion with Supervisor Friberg. He did some digging and Winnebago County does something similar, they provide county funding to landowners for conservation practices, and they put \$80,000-\$100,000 in their annual budget each year for that program. Land Conservation doesn't have the budget within the department, it would have to come elsewhere but brought this forward for discussion. It would be a county source at this point because there are no other grants.

Following a farm visit, Friberg questioned what the best way to get local farmers to incorporate this sort of thing was. Agronomist Technician Nick Peltier had informed him that usually having farmers see results of other farms helps farmers make that decision, but also the financial incentive or the ability to not spend as much to try it out for them and seeing the results gets them on board.

Mushinski added, the grant proves the tie that those financial resources for landowners is really critical for conservation.

Further discussions ensued with the other practices that could get funded with a county program like this. Mushinski added, they don't want to get into funding high costly practices but some of the simpler real positive things. They could track farms in the area that are incorporating best practices by farm basis or practice basis.

**Motion made by Supervisor Dantine, seconded by Supervisor Landwehr to receive and place on file. Vote taken.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**b. Cover Crop incentive program.**

Vice Chair Kaczmarek informed this was something he thought of, to reward the good producers and brought forward for discussion. Land Con does collect \$.50 an acre per fee but suggested raising it for people who don't put in cover crops to pay for a staff person to monitor. Brown County was the second biggest CAFO county in the state.

Landwehr was leery about adding an additional fee, he recalled when they went with the fee originally and how upset some individuals were. He was skeptical. Dantine believed the farmers doing it already received support to do it and questioned how they'd logistically figure it out? Kaczmarek informed every landowner would have to self-certify. He informed there was a certain percentage of farmers that will not follow best management practices.

**Motion made by Supervisor Landwehr, seconded by Vice Chair 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 made by Supervisor Landwehr, seconded by Supervisor Friberg to adjourn at 5:49 pm. Vote taken.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia A. Loehlein  
Legislative Specialist