

**Soil & Water Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
December 9, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chairman Koch at 10:03 a.m.

Members present for roll call were Owen DuCharme, Mary Kuhn, and Chad Sime. Members of the community were also present. Kate Krachey excused.

Motion by Kuhn, second by DuCharme to approve November 11, 2025, minutes as mailed. Motion carried unanimously.

Land Conservationist Report, Dave Troester: Troester shared with the committee that he will be attending the Nutrient Management training this evening at Sugar Creek Bible camp. The training will be on the new version (V.3) of Snap+ which is cloud based. Troester added that he has received all the nutrient management plans for 2025. Troester added that the 2026 tree sale is ready and has been mailed out, there was also a discussion on the DAWS project, and Troester has been working on end of year report forms for grants. Troester stated he went to Roth Feeder Pig I for the DNR's 5-year on-site review.

Troester presented the committee with the LWRM Plan approval 2027 – 2036 for approval. Stating the DNR and DATCP have weighed in. Troester stated he added maps to increase the document value. Motion by DuCharme, second by Kuhn to approve the LWRM Plan as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Troester presented the LWCB questionnaire for LWRM Plan 2025 accomplishments and 2026 work plans. Troester shared with the committee items on the LWCB questionnaire including accomplishments in 2025 and work plans for 2026. Motion by Sime, second by Kuhn to approve the LWCB questionnaire for LWRM Plan as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Troester added he will be attending the meeting in person in Madison on February 3. Koch may attend virtually. If approved, it will go to the full county board in February.

Troester presented the 2026 Work Plan stating at this time there isn't a backlog of projects to be completed. Well testing is included this year, as is attempting to conduct a transect survey of the county. Motion by Kuhn, second by Sime to approve the Work Plan as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

There was a discussion on the Roth Feeder Pig II application. The DNR informed Roth that he may not construct or populate until he resubmits various plans and designs. AV's original Livestock Siting application was approved by the county in June 2022. Mr. Roth was invited to last month's and this LCC meeting and did not respond. Motion by Kuhn, second by DuCharme to revoke Roth Feeder Pig II permit. Motion carried unanimously.

After simultaneous discussions on Gruber Livestock North and South the board tabled the approval of the applications. The committee requested the applications be updated to include concerns that were addressed. Koch stated that it makes sense to decide on the applications at our next meeting. Motion by Kuhn, second by DuCharme, to extend our deadline to act on the applications until the next LCC meeting on January 13, 2026

and to require all final questions for the applicants be sent to them and responded to by them by 12/19/25. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion on the Dairyland Power MariBell Transmission Line project: Kuhn has received several calls asking the county to express the displeasure of the location. Kuhn asked if the county would provide a resolution that we do not support the location of the powerline, send to county board. Amy Fenn of Crawford Stewardship Project stated she learned that the two submitted not researching a separate option, large WI, they will dramatically change what is under them. Expressing concerns such as "No one wants this" is not enough. You need to be more specific, to give your concern more power and weight. Public services want to see what they are doing with issues. Fenn added the time to act is NOW. The power company will be filing in 2026 and is going full speed ahead. Once filed, you will need to hire experts to fight the power company. Kuhn asked the Land Conservation Committee to be prepared to pass a resolution at the next LCC meeting in January and then in it would go to the full county board in February. Dave will have something ready. Do we have to send it to Attorney Mark Peterson? Dave will craft something based off of the information provided.

Appreciation Resolution read by Chairman Koch honoring Chad Sime.

Motion by Kuhn, second by Sime to approve vouchers as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Land & Water Projects report, Travis Bunting shared with the committee he has projects lined up for 2026 that will be surveyed. Bunting stated he is getting paperwork ready and waiting for the weather to improve. Bunting stated he will be updating the emergency action plan for Johnstown dam, adding there has always been a hole at the dam, it hasn't changed, DNR wants it filled by 6/31/2026. Bunting added there are a couple well closings that came up, could get done yet this year. Bunting continued by stating the NRCS Furlow has ended. Funding is going to be questionable. Everyone is waiting as it will be a trickle down for funding. Bunting is working on CSP payments.

FSA report, Sime stated the disaster programs are around, if there is another shut down, FSA is funded through September 2026 under current contract. No ballots were printed so the election was extended for two months therefore, Sime will be on the Land Use and Soil and Water committees until February 2026.

Public Comment –

Childs, thanks for taking everything into consideration. Sometimes a 3-hour meeting is necessary.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 13, 2026. In room 215

Motion by DuCharme, second by Kuhn, to adjourn the meeting at 12:22 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Amy Opprieht  
Administrative Assistant