

Soil & Water Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chairman Koch at 9:46 a.m.

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

Motion by Sime, second by DuCharme to approve December 9, 2025, minutes as mailed. Motion carried unanimously. Krachey abstained.

Land Conservation Report, Dave Troester: Troester shared with the committee that he attended the Nutrient management training at Sugar Creek Bible Camp and the Department head meeting in the last few weeks. Troester added DAWS water testing is moving forward in March with preselected participants. Troester stated the Cons aids grant was approved- for the prairie expansion and received approval from the Public Property Committee. Posters for the Poster Contest are due Friday, contest next Tuesday 1/20. Troester shared with the committee April 17, 2026 will be the E-Waste collection on the island in Prairie du Chien. Troester stated he will begin to work on the Showen quarry and has been preparing a PowerPoint for the February 3 LWRM Plan presentation. Troester stated there is a need for Board of Adjustment members and the Land and Water Conference will be March 4-6 in WI Dells... committee members are invited to register if interested.

At Kuhn's request from the previous meeting, Troester presented transmission line resolutions that have been passed by muni's around the area. Troester stated he sent the resolution to Corp Counsel who had no issues with it. Motion by Koch, second by Krachey to approve the Transmission Line Resolution as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Troester gave an update on the events thus far concerning the Gruber Livestock Siting North and South applications. It has been determined that the applicants have submitted all necessary information.

Motion by Sime, second by Krachey to approve the Gruber Livestock North application. Roll call vote was held, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sime, second by Krachey to approve the Gruber Livestock South application. Roll call vote was held, motion carried unanimously.

Koch followed up with a request on behalf of the committee. Koch asked the Grubers to voluntarily do three things to supplement their pledge to be good neighbors and stewards of the land. 1.) Increase acreage for nutrient management in the next three years 2.) Contribute financially to help fund water testing efforts which helps the county protect all landowners 3.) Share a copy of your infectious disease plan and emergency response plan/ details with appropriate county and local officials annually. The committee understands this is voluntary but is hoping the applicants help us preserve Crawford County.

Troester has 30 days to inform DATCP of the application approval. Gruber's acknowledged they are still on track for breaking ground spring of 2026.

Motion by Krachey, second by Sime, to approve the Conservation Camp Scholarship in the amount of \$200. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Krachey, second DuCharme to approve the WI Land & Water Conservation Association membership. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by DuCharme, second by Krachey to approve vouchers as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Land & Water Projects, Travis Bunting: Bunting reported to the committee issues that arose during construction in 2025. Bunting attended training, has three projects that were extended from 2025 to 2026, and picked up another project from the NRCS list. Bunting added that the Bk6 emergency action plan needs to be updated.

NRCS report: updates on upcoming deadlines were shared. Annual deferral letters were mailed at the end of December. Chief came out with new priorities – outcome driven, overall encouraging, high level and vague.

DNR Forester, Rebecca Vasquez, no report.

UW Extension report: faire committee is at the fair convention.

FSA, report: Sime shared programs and signups are active as some money has been released.

Public Comment: Forest Jahnke stated well testing efforts for quality assurance has been approved by EPA, currently working on educational information and the first letter. The goal is to test 400 wells in Vernon, Richland, and Crawford with a test date of March 24.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 10, 2026.

Motion by DuCharme, second by Krachey, to adjourn the meeting at 10:27 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Opprieht".

Amy Opprieht
Administrative Assistant