

Soil & Water Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chairman Koch at 9:33 a.m.

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

Motion by Krachey, second by Sime to approve January 13, 2026, minutes as mailed. Motion carried unanimously. Kuhn abstained.

Land Conservation Report, Dave Troester: Troester shared with the committee that he has been working on grant reports the last couple of weeks and has been preparing for the Land and Water Conservation Board presentation February 3rd in Madison. The 10-year plan extension was approved by the LWCB.

End of year grant items, E-waste collection event in Prairie du Chien, farmland preservation has been quiet. Helping Becky with ordinance, DAWS sampling event in March, and will next start reviewing the Showen NMM plan. 2027 SWRM grant application is due in March. Koch – the committee was up to date on Crawford issues, and current events. Big step, commitment to our funding.

Motion by Kuhn, second by Krachey to approve the resolution of adoption of the LWRM Plan as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Troester stated he sent the resolution to Corporate Counsel, who had no issues with the resolution. Motion by Sime, second by Kuhn to approve the Transmission Line Resolution amendment as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Koch and Troester asked if Rob Danielson would come to the count board meeting. Dairyland power is also coming to give a presentation to the county board in April. Troester spoke with Amanda Smiley with questions from the Village of Bell Center on the power line project. There will be a special county board meeting on March 10; add Rob to speak at that meeting. Resolution will be at the February County board meeting.

On February 22 at 1pm there will be a public meeting in Gays Mills. The No 765-line folks will be sponsoring this meeting to inform people of their rights of potentially impacted landowners.

On March 10 DairyLand power is holding a meeting in the library, late afternoon and on March 12 in DeSoto at the Retreat Sportsman Club. These meetings are open house concepts.

2020 CAFO report: A follow up to Grubers. From the discussions Koch Grubers/Roth in the best interest of the county to review the report and see if there is anything we want to better regulate or address the comments of the people who have expressed concerns. The effort and time were done in 2020, dropping due to covid. Koch would like to reinstitute a committee to make recommendations to the LCC. Getting some requests from towns in northern part of the county going through their comprehensive plan. Very timely. Comments from public would be good to take a look. Kuhn stated she has had a lot of farmers who will not comment on them, due to getting a target on their back. Perception is to go after bigger farmers. Going to be one sided, will not get input from the ones most affected. Koch added if we have an open forum, and they aren't willing to speak, then it's their problem. Koch wants farmers on the committee- big and small will give credibility. It's science- Rep. Tranel told Koch that

if science proves we have a negative effect on the land or water than he is willing to look at further regulations. Part of the exercise is looking at geology, water, etc. It doesn't hurt to discuss the scientific facts of water quality. The issue that isn't going away. Sime stated the stance is minor, be part of the discussion. The farming base gets smaller every year. Doing nothing loses your voice. It will affect future farmers, our kids and grandkids.

The CAFO committee will consist of a Public Health rep, UW Ext rep, a farmer- the past group was diverse, this group would be similar, scientist, plan writer, and bring in as many voices as possible. Give everyone a chance to speak their mind. All folks from all parts of the county, the way we'd love them to use it, business', farming, we can't represent them we are blocked. Lobby the state legislature to step up DATCPs oversight level. There aren't a lot of regulations. DNR and DATCP should be on the committee.

Troester stated the Land+Water presentation how we dealt on the applications- LWCB acknowledged you feel like hands are tied. Talked about township aspect; on 2/16 town of Freeman; to have Land Conservation and full County Board.

Childs added Marietta township will probably be added; Reggie Lomas will probably be contacting the county.

Motion by DuCharme, second by Kuhn to approve Dave and Travis attending the Land & Water Conference, WI Dells, March 4 – 6, 2026. 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 that the Bk6 emergency action plan has been updated. Bunting stated he edited the verbiage to fit Crawford County. The yearly inspection sheet was completed and added the 2-stage inspection sheet. The monthly examination, that we are watching it and note any trends. The DNR said it's been updated to the dam database. Bunting shared he is starting to get out in the field, adding working on the projects that didn't get funded last year. Video pipe inspection was done last year. Talked to contractor, a hole by the roadside downstream of the dam., DNR wants it filled..

Calling landowners to get permission to be on their property to re-stake projects and met with contractors that are getting funded. Waiting to see what NRCS is going to fund. Their funding is changing. Might piggyback on some projects to make county money stretch farther, get as many projects done as possible this year

NRCS report: waiting on program updates

Cerven presented the Wildlife claims of Jeff Worthwein and Star Valley Farms.

Motion by Sime, second by Kuhn to approve the wildlife claims as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Cerven added that the deer donation went well. Currently there is one processor in Grant County and one in Eastman.

DNR Forester, Rebecca Vasquez, Vasquez reported the grant awards came out February 3. Vasquez added we are still waiting for funding. Stating there is still funding available, farmers looking for funding should apply by May 1.

UW Extension report: Kuhn reported there is not a lot going on.

FSA, report: Sime shared this Thursday or next the ballots will be counted. Currently the dairy sign up is open until the end of February. Sime added that funding from The Big Beautiful Bill, time frame is getting close. Kuhn Thanked Sime for his participation to the committee. Koch added, "We'll be in contact".

Public Comment: Joe Childs shared with the committee that the DNR has a new CAFO person. CSP is putting together FAQ from both sides. Childs added Don Boland has concerns as far as confinement vs grazing: adding not all farms that have a lot of animals are confined. Put resources together.

Kuhn did research on Right to Farm Law (WI) that does not affect any expansion. Right to Farm Law may have some resources for CSP. Must start over with permitting.

Forest Jahnke added the CAFO committee, advisory member, was an excellent group. Operating on a shared what facts are, picking it up again is a good idea. Ties into comprehensive plan, townships are working on them, looking for guidance, what our community priorities are (ground water); land water resource plan appreciate being on there, are they on the county website, Troester we do have it on the website,

Jahnke stated the Crawford Stewardship Project is willing to talk to anyone. We do not target and attack farmers. Always polite even if we disagree with them. Agree, all stakeholders should be represented. Jahnke added that the Driftless Water Study letters will be going out. Collecting samples; exciting to get testing done in three counties. Jahnke added the Karst model is available. Looking forward to working with you on that. Jahnke ended by stating, "I appreciate you passing the resolution for the transmission line. I want them to be transparent."

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

Motion by Sime, second by DuCharme, to adjourn the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Amy Opprieht
Administrative Assistant