

Richland County Natural Resources Standing Committee

March 31, 2025

The Richland County Natural Resources Standing Committee convened on Monday, March 31, 2025 in person and virtually at 9:30 AM in the County Boardroom of the Richland County Courthouse.

Call To Order: Committee Chair Carrow called the meeting to order at 9:31 AM.

Roll Call: Deputy County Clerk Hege conducted roll call. Committee members present: Steve Carrow, Richard McKee, Alayne Hendricks, Mark Gill, Craig Woodhouse, and Julie Fleming. Committee members absent: Robert Brookens.

Verification of Open Meetings Law Compliance: Deputy County Clerk Hege confirmed the meeting had been properly noticed.

Approval Of Agenda: Motion by McKee, second by Fleming to approve agenda. Motion carried and agenda declared approved.

Approval Of Minutes From March 3, 2025 Meeting: Supervisor Gill pointed out a spelling error in the minutes from the March 3, 2025 meeting. Brief discussion ensued. Deputy County Clerk Hege noted that the error would be corrected. Motion by Gill, second by McKee to approve the minutes from the March 3, 2025 meeting as corrected.

Public Comment: None.

Zoning Petitions:

A. Allison Bock & Dawn Piech – Town Of Orion: County Conservationist Cooper reported that the applicants had not submitted all of the required documentation. Consensus was gained from the committee to table the Bock/Piech petition until the May 2025 meeting.

B. Dennis Brynman & Scott Dietzman – Town Of Ithaca: County Conservationist Cooper reported that the applicants had submitted all their documents, but the petition had not been approved by the Ithaca Town Board. Consensus was gained from the committee to table the Brynman/Dietzman petition until the May 2025 meeting.

C. Cameron Murphy – Town Of Akan: County Conservationist Cooper reported that the applicants had not submitted all of the required documentation. Consensus was gained from the committee to table the Murphy petition until the May 2025 meeting.

Brief discussion on certified survey language ensued. Chair Carrow requested that the County Surveyor give a brief explanation of the survey language at the May 2025 meeting.

Reports:

A. Zoning Administrator: Departmental Activities: County Conservationist Cooper reported that Jenn Fry had accepted the open Zoning and Sanitation Technician position. Ms. Fry had been the Office System Tech, but she was not able to attend the meeting due to illness. Brief discussion on how positions are

Richland County Natural Resources Standing Committee

posting ensued. Conservationist Cooper reported briefly on the updated FEMA maps that would need to be included in the county's floodplain ordinance. Brief discussion ensued. Conservationist Cooper reported on a call regarding a land owner who had been excavating in a wetland area west of Rockbridge on County Hwy D and that the DNR would be issuing citations. Brief discussion ensued.

B. County Conservationist: Departmental Activities: Conservationist Cooper reported that she and Farmland Preservation Technician, Kori Rogers had attended the Wisconsin Land and Water Conference. Brief discussion ensued. Conservationist Cooper reported that she sent in the 2025 work plan and the staffing grants, and was setting up a tree sale pick up date for some time in April, and that Land Conservation was working with the UW-Extension with facilitating producer lead groups. Brief discussion ensued.

a. Report On Land Information Retained Fees Fund Balance: Conservationist Cooper presented a tracking spreadsheet for Fund 23 – Land Records Grant and Fund 48 – Land Records. Discussion on the expenditure guidelines for these funds. Chair Carrow asked for the written expenditure guidelines for these funds to be brought to the committee.

C. UW-Extension: Departmental Activities: Mr. Adam Hady, Area 13 Extension Director presented his March 2025 Report and highlighted the upcoming Get Real event, the upcoming AmeriCorps interviews, and Anastasia Kurth's work on the producer lead groups, and introduced Beth Mcilquham, the Regional Livestock Educator. Ms. Mcilquham shared a hand out on fecal parasites in livestock and briefly spoke on recent workshops being done with area producers. Brief discussion ensued.

Discussion & Possible Action: Approval Of The Richland County Zoning Ordinance: Conservationist Cooper reported on the proposed changes in the Richland County Zoning Ordinance and her work with the County Corporation Counsel, Attorney Windle with the sections that need to be changed. Chair Carrow asked the committee to review the ordinance and give their feed back to Conservationist Cooper and Attorney Windle. No action was taken on this item.

Discussion & Possible Action: Update On DAWS (Driftless Area Water Study) Project Estimated Costs: Conservationist Cooper presented a document outlining the costs for the Homeowner Package for well testing with the cost for an individual test being \$68 and reported that in years past that 100 well tests had been budgeted for along with around \$600 in mailing costs. Extensive discussion ensued.

Discussion & Possible Action: State Budget On Conservation Staffing: Conservationist Cooper presented an email from the Wisconsin Land and Water Association on Conservation staffing. Chair Carrow asked that Conservationist Cooper share the link for the Advocacy Toolkit with the committee. Discussion ensued.

Discussion & Possible Action: Crediting Short Term Rental Fees: Chair Carrow reminded the committee members of the changes to how fees are accrued with the implementation of the county short term rental ordinance. Extensive discussion ensued. Motion by Woodhouse, second by Gill to credit part of the conditional use permit fee. Motion carried and there will be credit given for part of the conditional use permit fee with an exact total to be determined at a later date.

Correspondence: None.

Future Agenda Items:

Richland County
Natural Resources Standing Committee

Zoning Petition: Allison Bock & Dawn Piech- Town of Orion

Zoning Petition: Dennis Brynman & Scott Dietzman – Town of Ithaca

Zoning Petition: Cameron Murphy – Town of Akan

Report: County Surveyor Report

Report: Land Conservation Retained Fees Fund Balance/Expenditure Guidelines

Discussion & Possible Action: Update on DAWS (Driftless Area Water Study) Project

Discussion & Possible Action: Policy Pertaining To Crediting Short Term Rental Fees

Adjourn: Chair Carrow entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion by Fleming, second by McKee to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 10:34 AM.

Respectfully submitted by,



Myranda H. Hege
Deputy County Clerk