

Climate Change Task Force Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 4, 2021- *Virtual Meeting Only*

Attendance Taken by Roxie Anderson

1. Call to Order at 9:03 a.m. by Tina Osterberg
2. Welcome & Introductions- Tina Osterberg/ introduces all participants
3. Nation Weather Service Update - 2021 Spring Flood Outlook and SW Wisconsin Hydrology Monitor Page (John Wetenkamp, NWS) -
 - Provides 2nd 2021 Spring Flood Outlook update. Near normal flood risk expected. Flood risk will depend on future precipitation and temperature trends. Discussion on temperatures, snowmelt, and soil moisture. Next Spring Flood Outlook will be available Thursday March 11th. Website address: [weather.gov/lacrosse/2021SpringFloodOutlook](https://www.weather.gov/lacrosse/2021SpringFloodOutlook)
 - Southwest Wisconsin Hydrology Monitor Page- This page/tool is hosted by the National Weather Service website. Features of website were presented and will be available to the public. Monitoring stations' data will be displayed on this page along with other stations in the area. More links will be added in future as the page evolves. Webcam images will also be shown. Website address: https://www.weather.gov/arx/swwi_hydro_monitor
 - Open discussion/comments on gauges/USGS and maintenance costs

4. Updates on CCTF activities –

Bob Micheel- Updates

- Donations: currently just over \$17,650 and Village of Norwalk Donated \$2000
- Shows images of signs created for the weather stations – ex. “Little La Crosse Watershed, Flood Monitoring Station, Monroe County Land Conservation Department, 608-269-8973”, CCTF logo will also be included. Discussion on whether to list donors.

Alison Elliott- Updates

- Voluntary Buyouts - Acquisition & Demolition Update and Overview
 - Currently administering 6 voluntary buyouts through FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program using matching grants from Couleecap Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding and WI DNR Municipal Flood Control Grant funding. Properties are located in the Towns of Leon, Portland, and Sparta
 - Current status: 3 properties are acquired and are in demolition phase. Preparing acquisition for 3 properties.
 - Coordinating with Couleecap and La Crosse County on 2 other properties.
 - Total of 8 voluntary buyout properties along the Little La Crosse River
 - Estimated time of completion will be late summer July/August.
 - Properties will be returned to open space and will have deed restrictions on them. A long term management plan will be developed.

Ron Luethe- Updates

- Provides update on the Stream Crossing Inventory. Working through meetings and presentations and working with multiple agencies. Comments to the design process and term used is Ecological Culvert Design. Having that inventory documented will assist in with funding and the future.
- Comments on the funding and matter of getting access to them. Hire individual(s) to get this inventory completed. DNR and Trout Unlimited are funding sources and will be obtaining further information to move this project forward.

5. CCTF Objectives- Moved to end of meeting*
6. Discussion on Governor's Proposed Budget – Tina Osterberg comments on a few items in proposed budget. Discussion held, feedback and potential to remain in budget.
 - County Conservation Staffing and Cost Sharing Grant discussion
 - Bonding, discussion
 - Stewardship reauthorization to end discussion
 - Dam repair and removal discussion
 - Farmland Preservation Program discussion
 - David Ohnstad comments on Department of Transportation proposed budget- includes funding for stream crossing inventories.

This is just a proposal/summary. Budget should be final before June 30th 2021.

7. CCTF Objectives- Moved to end of meeting* CCTF Objectives and Accomplishments will be reviewed at next meeting
8. Open Discussion/Questions
 - Bob shows sample of new CCTF hat- will distribute to those who ordered
9. Next Meeting April 7th 2021 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
 - Ron comments that Mark Lebig, soil scientist will be speaking to us at next months meeting.
 - Add CCTF Objectives to next month's meeting
10. Adjournment 11:01 a.m.

Monroe County Climate Change Task Force Meeting

Date: 3/4/2021

Monroe County Climate Change Task Force Members

Name	Title	Agency
Tina Osterberg	County Administrator	Monroe County
Bob Micheel	County Conservationist	Monroe County
Alison Elliott	Zoning Administrator	Monroe County
Roxie Anderson	Land Use Planner	Monroe County
David Ohnstad	Highway Commissioner	Monroe County
Jared Tessman	Emergency Management Coordinator	Monroe County
Cedric Schnitzler	County Supervisor, District 4	Monroe County
Wally Habegger	County Supervisor, District 5	Monroe County
Al McCoy	County Supervisor, District 1	Monroe County
Dave Pierce	County Supervisor, District 2	Monroe County
Ron Luethe	Town Supervisor	Town of Ridgeville
Jack Herricks	Town Chair / MC Farm Bureau President	Town of Jefferson
Bill Halfman	Agricultural Agent	UW-Extension
John Noble	Fisheries Biologist	Fort McCoy
Tonya Townsell	Public Affairs Officer	Fort McCoy
Cindy Koperski	Program and Policy Analyst	WI Dept. of Natural Resources
RED = Absent		

Additional Attendees

Name	Title	Agency
Gillian Pomplun	Reporter	Crawford City Independent
Kristen Foehringer	County Conservationist	Buffalo County
Mark Van Wormer	Director Public Works	City of Sparta
Robert Nigh	WFBF Board Director	Governor's Task Force on Climate Change
Marcy West	Executive Director	Kickapoo Valley Reserve
Ned Gatzke	Resident	Monroe County
Jen Schmitz	County Supervisor, District 15	Monroe County
Abbey Nicewander	Planner	MRRPC
John Wetenkamp	Hydrologist	National Weather Service
Mike Holland	Representative	U.S. Senator Ron Johnson
Gregg Wavrunek	Regional Representative	U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin
Mary Henry	Board Supervisor	Vernon County
Toby Grotz	Resident	Vernon County
Dan Baumann	Secretary's Director	WI Dept. of Natural Resources
Megan Duffy	Water Reg/Zoning Engineer	WI Dept. of Natural Resources
Pam Porter	Environmental Policy Advisor	WI Dept. of Natural Resources
Sarah Semrad	Outreach Director	WI State Senator Brad Pfaff
Brad Pfaff	State Senator District 32	Wisconsin