

Climate Change Task Force Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 5, 2021- *Virtual Meeting Only*

Meeting Attendance Attached

1. Call to Order at 9:11 a.m. by Tina Osterberg
2. Welcome & Introductions- Tina Osterberg introduces special guests:
 - U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin
 - Colleen Thomas, Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Senator Baldwin's Office
 - U.S. Representative Ron Kind

3. Updates on CCTF activities –

Bob Micheel - Updates

- Stream Crossing Culverts and Bridges Inventory and Assessment – Two interns have been hired and will start the week of May 24, 2021. Training will be provided by WI DNR.

Roxie Anderson - Updates

- Weather Monitoring Stations- Three stations have been installed. The locations are at County Road Z in the Kickapoo Watershed, Nebraska Avenue in the Little La Crosse River Watershed, and Klinkner Farm at St. Mary's Ridge which is the border between Little La Crosse and Kickapoo watersheds. Two stations left to install.
- Funding summary – \$10,000 remaining in the donation account. Donations from the community of Leon have been collected and mailed to the Land Conservation Dept.

Alison Elliott- Updates

- Voluntary Buyouts Program: Acquisition & Demolition of 8 Properties along the Little La Crosse River - Provide brief presentation showing before and after photos of completed properties. Three sites have been acquired and demolished. Remaining 5 sites are in progress of acquisitions.

4. New Federal Policies and Programs in Response to Climate Change – Bob Micheel

5. Guest Speaker - U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin spoke on the following topics:

- Acknowledges the work being done by Monroe County Climate Change Task Force in response to increase of precipitation in the area. Expresses that it is extremely important for residents to see the County take initiative and address these issues. She will continue to advocate and support our initiatives at the Federal level through the committees she's serves on.

- As the Chair of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, she is working with Congress to involve farmers and the agriculture industry in the fight against climate change. The Growing Climate Solutions Act has been reintroduced and if passed will break down barriers for farmers and foresters to participate in carbon credit markets in order to incentivize climate-smart practices, such as cover-cropping.
- America Jobs Plan will update building standards to endure current weather trends and rebuild infrastructure to ensure resiliency, energy efficiency, and modernization.

6. Open Discussion / questions -

- Supervisor Jen Schmitz-comments to last week at County Board meeting, – Rolling Hills Building Project did not consider L.E.E.D certification. CCTF overlooked recommending L.E.E.D. certification as part of its objectives to promote sustainability. Tina Osterberg responded that items in the building will be energy efficient. The process to become certified is intensive and was not consider. Wallace Habegger comments this topic is not on the CCTF agenda and is a Rolling Hills topic, further discussion was halted.
- Program Updates- Greenfire Kick off meeting to be held at 1:00 p.m. at the Sparta American Legion Post 100. Encourages CCTF members to be present.
- Coon Creek Watershed Meeting- Evaluation options and opportunities.
 - a. Rebuild existing structures
 - b. Build new structure below existing breeched dam
 - c. Close/abandon breeched structures
 - d. Implement watershed management practices
 Public scoping meetings will be held in the Coon Creek and W. Fork Kickapoo Watersheds in June to unveil options and seek public input.

7. Guest Speaker - U.S. Representative Ron Kind spoke on the following topics:

- Addresses Monroe County Climate Change Task Force members and expresses thanks for the work being done.
- Comments to the Green Act which is a bill introduced to provide incentives for renewable energy and energy efficiency. Seeking input from land owners.
- Serving on the Trade and Health subcommittees on Ways and Means and is trying to alleviate burden of trade war from farmers and improve rural economy by increasing exports.
- Willing to support grant applications, sign and or make phone calls to assist CCTF. Priority is flood mitigation and also broadband.

8. Next Meeting Wednesday, June 2nd 2021 from 9am – 11am

- Jay Fuhrer, NRCS Soil Health Specialist from North Dakota will be guest speaker

9. Meeting Adjourned at 10:36 am

Recorded by: Adrian Lockington - Administrative Office Specialist, & LCD staff

Monroe County Climate Change Task Force Meeting

Date: 5/5/2021

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 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Abbey Nicewander | Planner | MRRPC |
| Bobbi Jo Fischer | Environmental Analysis Supervisor | WI Dept. of Natural Resources |
| Christina Anderson | Climate Specialist | Wisconsin Land and Water |
| Colleen Thomas | Senior Policy Advisor | U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin's Office |
| Doug Rogalla | Resident | Monroe County |
| Fred Clark | Executive Director | Wisconsin Green Fire |
| Gillian Pomplun | Reporter | Crawford City Independent |
| Gregg Wavrunek | Regional Representative | U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin |
| Holly Kirking Loomis | Deputy Political / Economic Counselor | U.S. Consulate General Sao Paulo |
| Jen Schmitz | County Supervisor, District 15 | Monroe County |
| Joey Esterline | Resident | Monroe County |
| John Wetenkamp | Hydrologist | National Weather Service |
| Marcy West | Executive Director | Kickapoo Valley Reserve |
| Mark Van Wormer | Director Public Works | City of Sparta |
| Matt Hanewell | Director | La Crosse County LCD |
| Megan Duffy | Water Reg/Zoning Engineer | WI Dept. of Natural Resources |
| Michelle Komiskey | District Conservationist | Natural Resources Conservation Service |
| Mitch Greenberg | Representative | State Senator Brad Pfaff |
| Ned Gatzke | Resident | Monroe County |
| Pat Mulvaney | Reporter | Monroe County Herald |
| Ron Kind | U.S. Representative | United States Congress |
| Tammy Baldwin | U.S. Senator | United States Congress |
| Tim Hundt | Representative | U.S. Representative Ron Kind |