Meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman David Gollon at 3:30 P.M.

Roll Call, Approval of this Agenda, and Approval of the Minutes of January 18, 2018.
Members present: Carol Anderson, Roger Dax, Dave Gollon, Thomas McGraw, Greg Parman. Members excused: Bob Bunker, Daniel Nankee, Rod Anding. Others present: Katie Abbott, Larry Bierke, Andy Walsh, Dave Terrall. Sup. Parman made a motion to approve the agenda for this Thursday, February 15, 2018 meeting and to approve the January 18, 2018 minutes. Sup. Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Report from committee members and an opportunity for members of the audience to address the committee. No action will be taken. None.

NRCS Update. Andy Walsh provided NRCS polices regarding civil rights, equal employment, and anti-discrimination. Mr. Walsh reported that the sign-up deadline for the Conservation Stewardship Program ends March 2nd, and provided background on the program.

APHIS claims approval, harvest waivers approvals, and fence contract.
Dave Terrall presented six crop damage claims for 2017 as well as requested harvest waiver exemptions. Discussion of the situation of one claimant who did not shoot any deer as required by the program. Sup. Parman moved to approve all claims except Mary Limmex. Mr. McGraw seconded the motion. Motion passed. Discussion about apple orchard fencing and contract. The contract was already approved at a previous Committee meeting and just needs to be signed.

Blackhawk Lake Update and budget. Sup. Anderson provided an update and budget documents. Discussion about issues with cutting and planting trees. Discussion of savings, budget, and personnel costs in budget. The Park wants to purchase new playground equipment, and is seeking DNR approval to build new cabins.

Long-term goals for County-owned dams. Discussion about issues with private ownership of PL-566 dams and options for working with landowners. The WI Counties Association passed a resolution supporting transfer of dams to private owners, but it needs to be brought up to legislators. Discussion about recreation and flood control values of existing dams, and if other Counties are interesting in transferring ownership.

Land Conservation Department update.
   a) Staffing update: new Department Assistant Mayme Keagy starts Monday February 19. An offer has been made for the Conservation Specialist.
   b) Capital Improvement Plan proposal: Ms. Abbott submitted the LCD Capital Improvement Plan request which included: $8,000 in 2019 (with $8,000 in match) for a rainfall simulator; $5,000 in 2019 for a water/habitat project; $20,000 each year from 2019-2021 for a groundwater quality study; $10,000/yr for the dam repair fund, increasing to $15,000/yr in 2021 and 2022, and
$20,000/yr in 2023.

c) **NR 151 complaints**: two complaints were submitted, one about manure on the road, which was submitted to the local Township as it wasn’t a 151 violation; and one about a neighbor tilling and not using waterways. The caller wouldn’t provide the name of the neighbor so we were unable to investigate.

d) **Manure storage ordinance review**: LCD staff are working with Scott Godfrey of Planning & Development to review the manure storage ordinance, as part of the County-wide ordinance review process, and because the NRCS manure storage standard was recently updated. A draft of any changes will be brought to the Land Conservation Committee for review in the future.

e) **Groundwater concerns in Southwest Wisconsin**: LCD staff plan to work with Grant and Lafayette Counties on a joint groundwater quality study, using the same researchers and protocol as a recent Kewaunee County study to address their brown water issues. This will build off of a previous Iowa County well water study and will further investigate how much well contamination there is, and whether it’s due to well design, septic systems, manure, or other factors. The researchers will create a proposal that will include a budget, which will be brought to the Land Conservation Committee for review.

**Agenda items for future meetings**: Dam ownership issues

**Motion to set the next meeting date and adjourn.**
The next meeting date was set for Thursday, April 12. Motion by Sup. Parman to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. McGraw. Motion carried.