



Minutes of the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission Meeting

**Jefferson County Courthouse, Room 203
320 S Main St
Jefferson, WI 53549**

Monday, March 10, 2014, 12:34 pm

Members: Margaret Burlingham (Chairperson), Amy Rinard (Vice-Chairperson), Mariah Hadler (Secretary), Steve Nass and Blane Poulson

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Burlingham at 12:34 pm.
2. Roll Call
Commission members present included Burlingham, Rinard and John Molinaro (ex-officio). Members absent at 12:34 were Hadler, Nass and Poulson. County staff present was Gerry Kokkonen (Land and Water Conservation), Phil Ristow (Corporation Counsel) and Michelle Staff (Zoning Department).
3. Certification of Compliance With Open Meetings Law Requirements
Burlingham and Staff verified that the meeting was being held in compliance with open meetings law requirements.
4. Review of Agenda
No changes were proposed to the agenda.
5. Public Comment
None
6. Communications
Burlingham stated that the news article about the purchase of the Neupert easement has been published in area newspapers such as the Daily Union, Watertown Daily Times and Palmyra Enterprise.

Staff indicated that the Commission received a new interest form but it was too late to get the item on the agenda.

Burlingham reported that Hadler was in the Farm Bureau newsletter and received a Service to Agriculture Award.
7. Review & Approval of the January 13, 2014 Minutes
Motion made by Rinard, seconded by Burlingham to approve the January 13, 2014 minutes. **Motion** carried on a voice vote with no objection.
8. Discussion on interest forms received for the PACE program
Wilke still needs to complete additional conservation practices before he is NRCS compliant. Burlingham is going to contact Caleb Pourchot from the Natural Heritage Land Trust to see if Jefferson County can get an extension to the grant from NRCS.

Hadler arrived at 12:37 pm.

Burlingham reported that the new farm bill still has the donation incentive but is not as good as in the past.

It appears that the Lehman farm is now being run by Lehman's grandchild. It was noted that the Commission should contact Lehmann to see if he is still interested in the program. There are two conservation issues to be resolved before Jefferson County can purchase the easement.

Nass arrived at 12:42 pm.

Burlingham received a call from Haberman to see if he was still on the waiting list for purchase of his easements. Burlingham stated that she would contact Pourchot to see if they need to start the grant process for NRCS.

9. Discussion on Farmland Conservation Easement Commission Budget for purchasing easements.
Molinaro stated that for the last two years he has asked for additional monies for the Commission to purchase easements and both years his requests have been voted down. The Commission went over the figures and believes they have enough to purchase Wilke's and Lehman's easements.
10. Jefferson County LWCD update on Baseline Documentation for easements
Kokkonen stated that he has produced a map showing all of the easement for the County, including some NRCS and Land Trust purchases.
11. Discussion on future events in which the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission would like to participate
See attached sheet for discussion items. It was noted that the Commission will participate in the 4th Grade Farm Tour, Dairy Breakfast, Ixonia Antique Tractor Days, New County Board Education, and County Fair. They will also look into an attorney/estate planning seminar, new donation brochure and articles in the Farm Bureau newsletter.
12. Discussion on Community Outreach in regards to Farmland Preservation Awareness; Discussion on Farmland Conservation Easement goals for upcoming year
For the 4th grade farm tour the Commission will make bags up for the teachers with video of the apple demonstration, corn coloring book, corn comic book, bumper stickers, posters, etc. The Commission discussed each of the events they plan to attend and talked about the details. Motion by Nass, seconded by Rinard to donate \$100 to the Jefferson County Dairy Breakfast for t-shirts. Motion passed on a voice vote with no objection.

In April they will stuff bags for the 4th grade tour. The Commission will look into updating brochure for donation of easements. At the May meeting they will look into designing table toppers for Dairy Breakfast.
13. Future Meeting Dates
No changes to the meeting dates.
14. Suggestions for the Next Agenda
None
15. Adjourn

Motion by Hadler, seconded by Burlingham, to adjourn the meeting at 1:50 p.m.
Motion carried on a voice vote with no objection.

Secretary Signature

Date

Minutes by Michelle Staff, Zoning Technician, Jefferson County Planning and Zoning Department