



## Minutes of the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission Meeting

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

**Monday, April 14, 2014, 12:30 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 12:32 pm.
2. Roll Call  
Commission members present included Nass, Rinard, Poulson, Hadler, Burlingham and John Molinaro (ex-officio). 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  
Burlingham stated that Clifford Haberman was in attendance and therefore will move him up on the agenda.
5. Public Comment  
None
6. Communications  
Burlingham commended John Molinaro on getting the Commission started and his continual work with the Farmland Commission over the years.
7. Review & Approval of the March 10, 2014 Minutes  
**Motion** made by Rinard, seconded by Hadler to approve the March 10, 2014 minutes. **Motion** carried on a voice vote with no objection.
8. Discussion on interest forms received for the PACE program  
Haberman was present. Burlingham explained the easement process to him. She explained the money sources for a paid easement. Fifty percent of an easement would come from an NRCS grant, 25% from Jefferson County and 25% as a donated portion by the property owner. Burlingham explained to Haberman that this process may take several years. Burlingham asked Haberman to pay the \$750 application fee as soon as possible if he is interested. This application fee will go towards the required appraisal for the easement. Motion by Nass, seconded by Hadler, to accept Haberman's application and to move forward with the purchase of the easement. Motion passed on a voice vote with no objection.

The Commission is trying to secure an extension from NRCS for the Wilke easement.

Burlingham reported that she contacted Roger Lehman about his interest in the program. Lehman stated to her that his grandson is farming the land. The Land and Water Conservation Department has been in contact with the grandson on some conservation compliance. Burlingham is going to contact Lehman again to see if they are interested and will be moving forward.

**Koch** has expressed interest in the program in the past. Burlingham will be contacting him to see if he is still interested.

9. Discussion on Farmland Conservation Easement Commission Budget for purchasing easements.  
There was a brief discussion on the funds available to the Commission. It was mentioned that the Commission should ask for \$55,000 from the County Board for purchase of easements.
10. Jefferson County LWCD update on Baseline Documentation for easements  
Kokkonen stated that he is just waiting for the conservation practices to be completed on Wilke's before he does the final report.
11. Discussion on future events in which the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission would like to participate
12. Discussion on Community Outreach in regards to Farmland Preservation  
See attached sheet for discussion items. The biggest discussion item was the 4<sup>th</sup> grade farm tour. Also the Commission would like to do table tents for the dairy breakfast. Burlingham reported that she talked to the Jefferson County Attorney's Association to speak about estate planning.
13. Future Meeting Dates  
No changes to the meeting dates.
14. Suggestions for the Next Agenda  
None
15. Adjourn  
**Motion** by Hadler, seconded by Poulson, to adjourn the meeting at 1:43 p.m.  
**Motion** carried on a voice vote with no objection.

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Secretary Signature

Date

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