

# **Farmland Conservation Easement Commission Minutes**

## **July 14, 2014**

### **1. Call to Order:**

The Farmland Conservation Easement Commission meeting was called to order by Margaret Burlingham at 12:32 p.m. Committee members Margaret Burlingham (Chair), Walt Christensen (Vice Chair), Steve Nass (Secretary) (@ 12:35), Mariah Hadler and Blane Poulson were present. Also in attendance were Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; and Gerry Kokkonen, LWCD.

### **2. Roll Call (Establish a Quorum):**

A quorum was established.

### **3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law:**

It was determined that the committee was in compliance with the Open Meetings Law.

### **4. Review of the July Agenda:**

The July agenda was reviewed by the committee members. No changes were proposed.

### **5. Public Comment:**

There were no comments at this time.

### **6. Communications:**

Margaret Burlingham was given the Rod Nilsestuen Award for Working Lands Preservation from Gathering Waters Conservancy. She will receive her award September 25, 2014 at the Monona Terrace in Madison.

### **7. Review & Approval of the June 9, 2014 Meeting Minutes:**

Blane Poulson made a motion to approve the June 9, 2014 meeting minutes as written, Walt Christensen seconded. Motion carried 5/0.

### **8. Discussion and possible action on PACE applications:**

#### **a. Greg Wilke - Town of Waterloo**

It was brought to Margaret Burlingham's attention that Greg Wilke has a few conservation issues on his farm in regard to manure management. Margaret Burlingham talked with Nancy Lannert (LWCD) in regard to these issues and asked Nancy Lannert help bring Greg Wilke's land back into compliance. Margaret Burlingham informed the committee that Wilke's farm will need to be re-appraised for the easement because the appraisal is only good for one year and the one on file is from 2011. Margaret Burlingham is recommending that Wilke's farm be in compliance before any new appraisal is done. The committee will revisit this application request during the August 11, 2014 meeting.

#### **b. Cliff Haberman - Town of Milford**

Gerry Kokkonen (LWCD) discussed the meeting that he, Michelle Staff, and two representatives from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) had with Cliff Haberman. Gerry Kokkonen (LWCD) informed the committee that the farm visit was informal and consisted of information gathering by NRCS. Gerry Kokkonen mentioned that Nancy Lannert (LWCD) is working with Cliff Haberman in regard to minimal conservation issues. Margaret Burlingham asked that the Commission agree to have an appraisal

conducted when these minor issues were cleared up. She asked that we have Duesterbeck & Associates conduct the appraisal. Mariah Hadler made a motion to have Duesterbeck & Associates conduct the appraisal at the quoted price of \$2,500, Blane Poulson seconded. Motion carried 5/0.

**c. Gary & Mary Ann Kunz Trust - Town of Sumner**

Margaret Burlingham said that the land looks good and that she doesn't see any issues. The Kunz family may set aside some land for living space. They'll get back to the committee when they've decided. As of right now, the only way the Kunz's will get the easement is if someone else drops out.

**d. Duane Koch - Town of Farmington**

At this time Duane Koch's application is on hold. Margaret Burlingham suggested that the committee revisit his application when the committee has the new budget information.

**9. Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Report on Baseline Documentation for Easements:**

Gerry Kokkonen needs to schedule an annual monitoring site visit with both Lea and Neupert. Gerry Kokkonen will do a "drive by" on donated easements and submit a report to NRCS biologists by the end of August.

**10. Discussion on Land and Water Conservation and Zoning Department support of the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission:**

Mark Watkins discussed the roll the LWCD will take in support of the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission. Mark Watkins stated that this transfer from the Zoning Department to the LWCD may take 18 - 24 months.

**11. Discussion on future events that the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission would like to participate in and Community Outreach:**

Margaret Burlingham recommended finding a community program in the fall. Steve Nass suggested participating in the Lake Mills Fall Festival of Color in October. The committee decided to revisit this discussion during the August 11, 2014 meeting.

**12. Future Meeting:**

August 11, 2014 at 12:30 pm in Room 203.

**13. Suggestions for the Next Agenda:**

None at this time.

**14. Adjournment:**

Walt Christensen made a motion to adjourn at 1:09 p.m., Blane Poulson seconded. Motion carried 5/0.

 9/8/14  
2