



## Farmland Conservation Easement Commission Minutes

Jefferson County Courthouse, Room 203

311 S Center Avenue

Jefferson, WI 53549

Monday, August 11, 2014, 12:30 pm

### 1. Call to Order:

The Farmland Conservation Easement Commission meeting was called to order by Margaret Burlingham at 12:32 p.m. Committee members present were Margaret Burlingham (Chair), Walt Christensen (Vice Chair), Steve Nass (Secretary) and Mariah Hadler. Member absent was Blane Poulson. Others in attendance were Michelle Staff, Planning and Zoning; 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 Commission was in compliance with the Open Meetings Law.

### 4. Review of the August Agenda:

The August agenda was reviewed by the Commission members. No changes were proposed.

### 5. Public Comment:

There were no comments at this time.

### 6. Communications:

Burlingham stated that all are invited to the Gathering Waters Conservancy 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Land Conservation Leadership Awards Celebration as Burlingham will be given the Rod Nilsestuen Award for Working Lands Preservation. She will receive her award September 25, 2014 at the Monona Terrace in Madison.

Burlingham stated that the federal enhanced incentives for donated easements have been passed by the House of Representatives. She stated that this will permanently keep the donated enhanced incentives in place. She advised the Commission that to receive more information they should go to the American Land Trust site which has good information.

### 7. Review & Approval of the July 14, 2014 Meeting Minutes:

Nass made a motion to approve the July 14, 2014 meeting minutes as written, Burlingham seconded. Motion carried on a voice vote with no objection.

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

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

Burlingham is recommending that Wilke's farm be in compliance before any new appraisal is done. No new information was given.

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

Burlingham stated that NRCS has preliminarily approved the Haberman easement. She has contacted Duesterbeck & Associates and they will be working on the appraisal. Staff reported that a resolution would need to be approved by County Board to authorize the purchase of this easement. Staff noted that Corporation Counsel would need to review any easement language. Kokkonen stated that a base line document must be completed no earlier than 90 days from closing. The easement will be moving forward and county staff will be working on the details.

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

No additional information from last meeting.

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

No additional information from last meeting.

**e. Calkins**

Staff handed out maps and explained location of the urban service area, village limits and farmland preservation area as it relates to the Jefferson County Agricultural Preservation and Land Use Plan. It was noted that portions of the farm are in the Village of Palmyra and its urban service area. Nass stated that if the landowner wanted the entire farm preserved he would need to contact a land trust because the County will not put an easement on the lands within the village limits or urban service area.

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

Kokkonen did the annual inspections for the Lea and Neupert farms and both farms are in compliance.

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

Staff noted that the County Board will be acting on a resolution to move the administrative duties and budget to the Land Conservation Department.

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

Burlingham will be working on a flyer which will focus on donated easements. The Commission has plans to attend the October 5<sup>th</sup> Lake Mills Festival and do the apple demonstration.

**12. Future Meeting:**

September 8, 2014 at 12:30 pm in Room 203.

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

None at this time.

**14. Adjournment:**

Nass made a motion to adjourn at 1:13 p.m., Hadler seconded. Motion carried on a voice vote with no objection.

  
Secretary Signature

9/8/14  
Date

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