



Minutes of the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission Meeting

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

Monday, May 12, 2014, 12:30 pm

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

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Burlingham at 12:31 pm.
2. Roll Call
Commission members present included Nass, Christensen, Poulson, Hadler, Burlingham. 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. Election of Officers
Motion by Nass, second by Halder to nominate Burlingham for Chair. There being no further nominations, Nass made a motion for nominations to be closed and for a unanimous ballot to be cast for Nass as Chair. Christenson seconded, and the motion carried on a voice vote with no objection.

Motion by Halder, second by Christenson to nominate Nass for Secretary. There being no further nominations, Halder made a motion for nominations to be closed and for a unanimous ballot to be cast for Nass as Secretary. Christenson seconded, and the motion carried on a voice vote with no objection.

Motion by Poulson, second by Hadler to nominate Christenson for Vice Chair. There being no further nominations, Halder made a motion for nominations to be closed and for a unanimous ballot to be cast for Nass as Chair. The motion carried on a voice vote with no objection.
5. Review of Agenda
None
6. Public Comment
Burlingham thanked Amy Rinard for her service with the Farmland Commission. Burlingham stated that the National American Land Trust there was an article on the preservation of the Neupert farm.
7. Communications
None

8. Review & Approval of the April 14, 2014 Minutes
Motion made by Hadler, seconded by Poulson to approve the April 14, 2014 minutes. **Motion** carried on a voice vote with no objection.
9. Discussion on interest forms received for the PACE program
 - Wilke has not completed his conservation practice and Ristow is asking NRCS for an extension of the grant.
 - Lehmann believes the issues the Commission has identified on the property as the Counties issues and not his. Burlingham will be calling him and telling him that that the County will be refunding his application fee of \$750 and when his conservation practices are completed and underground storage tank passes inspection, he could reapply. The Commission stated that there are other landowners interested in the program and no longer want to hold up county funds for those landowners.
 - Haberman has paid the application fee and information has been forward to the Natural Heritage Land Trust so an application can be submitted to NRCS by the June 6th deadline for the Farmland Protection Grant.
 - Koch has just express interest in the program. Burlingham has talked to him about the program and related to him it may be a year before we will be able to look at this application.
 - Kunz is the next in line to pursue purchasing of an easement. Burlingham will contact him and he is still interested. She will be contact him to complete the application form and fee. There was a brief discussion on the number of available splits for this property. Staff will have maps available next meeting. It was mentioned that all easements must have a resolution from County Board and the Commission needs to contact Natural Heritage Land Trust when they need the resolution. Motion by Nass, seconded by Halder, to peruse the Kunz Trust easement. Motion passed on a voice vote with no objections.
10. Discussion on Farmland Conservation Easement Commission Budget for purchasing easements.
There was a discussion between the Commission and Christensen on amount of funds available to the Commission and the sources of those funds. There was discussion on how to obtain additional future funds. It was noted that the Commission would like to ask for \$55,000 of additional funding for 2015.
11. Jefferson County LWCD update on Baseline Documentation for easements
Kokkonen will be inspecting three of the donated easements and all of the purchased easements for compliance. The purchased easements are required by NRCS to be motoring every year. Christenson asked Kokkonen about motoring and Kokkonen explained to Christensen.
12. Discussion on future events in which the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission would like to participate
Burlingham stated the 4th grade farm tour was a success. She mention that the Commission should keep participating in this event. The dairy breakfast is in

June and the table tents will be available. See attached sheet for additional events discussed.

13. Future Meeting Dates

No changes to the meeting dates.

14. Suggestions for the Next Agenda

None

15. Adjourn

Motion by Nass, seconded by Poulson, to adjourn the meeting at 1:37 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