



Minutes of the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission Meeting

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

Monday, December 10, 2012 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 Vice-Chairperson Rinard at 12:32 pm.
2. Roll Call
Commission members present included Hadler, Rinard, John Molinaro (ex-officio), Nass and Poulson. County staff present was Michelle Staff (Zoning Department), Phil Ristow (Corporation Counsel), Heidi Johnson (UW-Extension Agriculture Agent) and Gerry Kokkonen (Land and Water Conservation Department).
3. Certification of Compliance With Open Meetings Law Requirements
Rinard and Staff verified that the meeting was being held in compliance with open meetings law requirements.
4. Review of Agenda
No changes to the agenda.
5. Public Comment
No public comment.
6. Communications
No communications.
7. Review & Approval of the November 12, 2012 minutes
Motion made by Nass, seconded by Hadler to approve the November 12, 2012 minutes. **Motion** carried on a voice vote with no objection.

Chairperson Burlingham arrived at 12:37 pm.

8. Discussion on interest forms received for the PACE program
 - a. Roger Lehmann
It was discussed that Lehmann still has not verified with the Town of Oakland how many available splits he has according to the Town of Oakland Land Use Plan. Lehmann will be contacting the Town and will receive a letter from the Town of Oakland stating the number of available lots. Lehmann has been working with Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department on his nutrient management plan.

b. Clifford Haberman

Haberman was present. Burlingham explained the program and the process to apply for consideration for a purchase of an easement. She asked if Haberman would fill out an application form. Burlingham also explained the donation process and Federal tax deductions that are available.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on 2011 PACE Applications
Dale Neupert and Greg Wilke.

The Neupert easement will not close by the end of the year. NRCS still needs to review the easement language and approve the hazard assessment plan. Ristow will be in touch with Neupert to see if he would like to close next year or would prefer a split payment between 2013/2014.

The Wilke easement cannot close because he has a barnyard runoff problem that does not meet NR151. NRCS will not close on an easement if the landowner does not meet these standards. Burlingham indicated that it is very critical that landowners meet with NRCS and Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation early in the process to make sure their land meets standards.

10. Discussion on forwarding a resolution to County Board for the purchase of Dale Neupert and Greg Wilke Farmland Conservation Easements.

The Commission passed the resolution at the last meeting, and it will be forwarded to the December 11 County Board meeting.

11. Discussion and Action on forwarding a resolution to County Board for acceptance of donation for farmland preservation.

The Commission received a donation for the preservation of farmland and it was discussed that according to County Board rules, the donation must be accepted by the County Board. Nass was going to talk to the donors, Anderson and Heidemann, to ask them if they want public acknowledgement for the donation. Burlingham was going to write the landowners a thank you letter.

12. Discussion on attending Town Board meetings in regards to the number of available splits according to the Town Land Use Plans for purchasing easement purposes.

It was discussed that this situation is similar to when Zoning receives an application for rezoning and the department will not process it until they have written recommendation from the township. Nass stated that the landowner should check with their township and get something in writing. **Motion** by Burlingham, seconded by Nass, to add to the application that the landowner must go to the Township to verify the number of lots available, according to the Town Land Use Plan. **Motion** passed on a voice with no objection.

13. Discussion on Possible Funding Source for the PACE Program

Tom Lyon and Rod Lea were present for the discussion. Burlingham stated that the State Farm Bureau has been opposed to the PACE Program in the past but recently with a new president has been more supportive. Farm Bureau's Board did not vote on this issue as an upcoming policy but county Farm Bureaus across the state have been passing policies in support of the program. It was mentioned that the DATCP Board is supportive of the program but the State Legislature is not interested in

passing legislation to fund the program. The Friends of Farmland and other interested groups are contacting State Legislators to ask for financial support for the program. The Commission discussed other forms of funding such as possible CRP and stewardship monies but at this time it appears that no additional monies are available.

14. Discussion on 2013 PACE Application

The County program needs funding in order to take advantage of the Farmland Protection Grant from NRCS. It was agreed upon that at this time there would not be an application period. The Commission is currently working with Lehmann and Haberman.

15. Future Meeting Dates

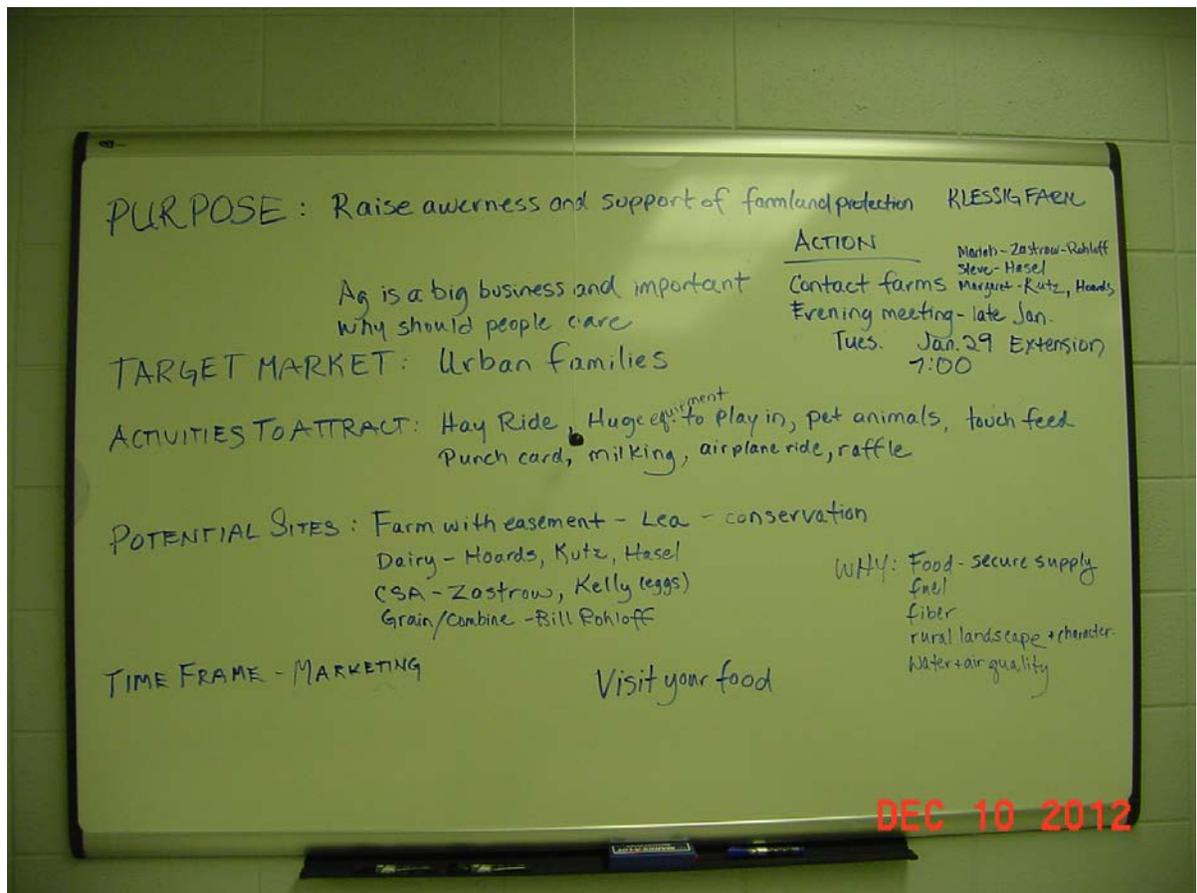
All meeting dates were acceptable to the Commission.

16. Suggestions for the Next Agenda

No additional suggestions were made for agenda items.

17. Discussion on Community Outreach in regards to possible Farm Tour for Farmland Preservation Awareness

There was discussion on a proposed farm tour for next fall. The Commission agreed that they would have a meeting with possible farm site landowners on January 29, 2013.



18. Adjourn

Motion by Nass, seconded by Poulson to adjourn the meeting at 2:35 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