

# Farmland Conservation Easement Commission

Jefferson County Courthouse, Room 202  
320 S. Main St.  
Jefferson, WI 53549

**Monday, February 8, 2010 12:00 pm**

Members: John Molinaro (Chairman), Margaret Burlingham (Vice Chairman), Steve Nass (Secretary), Daphne Holterman, and County Board Chairman Sharon Schmeling (ex-officio). County staff present was Steve Grabow (Community Resource Educator, UW-Extension).

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Molinaro at 12:05 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Commission members present included Molinaro, Nass, Schmeling, Holterman, and Burlingham.

**3. Certification of Compliance With Open Meetings Law Requirements**

Staff verified that the meeting was being held in compliance with open meetings law requirements.

**4. Review of Agenda**

No changes were proposed.

**5. Public Comment**

None

**6. Review and Approval of January 11, 2010 Meeting Minutes**

**Motion** by Holterman, seconded by Burlingham to approve the January 11, 2010 Meeting Minutes.

**Motion carried** on a voice vote with no objection.

**7. Correspondence**

A PACE program application was received after the application deadline and will be retained for the second application round.

**8. Discussion and possible action on amending application form**

The signature line for the landowner to release conservation plan information will appear on the application for the second application round. Jim Welsh will keep track of changes and follow up with Mark Watkins on the format of the signature line.

**9. Discussion and possible action on PACE applications**

Welsh distributed a memo on the state and federal PACE grant application timeline, which do not coordinate for 2010. The Wisconsin program application deadline is July 15, 2010 with awards announced October 13, 2010. The state match must be in hand to apply to the federal program, which has rolling deadlines.

Nass arrived 12:11.

Schmeling arrived at 12:14

**Motion** by Nass, second by Holterman to proceed with the applications ranked 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> (Lea, Schultz, Soleska, Brattset), use County funds for the administrative fees (which may be reimbursed by the State on successful applications), and inform applicants 1 through 4 that the Commission

would like to proceed with the appraisal and that they should be aware of the long timeline that may be required to finalize the easement. **Motion carried** on a voice vote with no objection.

Welsh will contact landowners 1, 2, and 3 and inform them of federal program restrictions and ask for \$1000 to be submitted to the County Clerk toward the appraisal or to sign a memorandum of understanding that they will pay \$1000. All other applications will be retained for the next application round. The Drumlin Area Land Trust is working with applicant 4. Landowners will be informed that the intent is to use federal funds as a match and additional restrictions may apply.

Welsh distributed two memos on monitoring requirements and state ranking criteria. The applications will be updated with the new state PACE program criteria to maximize points for the state program. Resolutions of support will be requested from the County Board, applicable Town Boards, and nearby cities and villages. Molinaro will contact Dennis Heling of the Economic Development Consortium about agricultural infrastructure and the economic development plan.

DATCP wants to see a monitoring plan in place by the time the contract is signed and the federal program has their own requirements. Mark Watkins of the Land and Water Conservation Department will be invited to the monitoring discussion at the next meeting.

An RFP will be drafted to solicit proposals from qualified appraisers for a package of four appraisals.

#### **10. Update and Discussion on new LESA maps**

Professor Poulson will update the LESA maps with the PACE application criteria for the March meeting.

#### **11. Discussion Agricultural Enterprise Areas proposed by DATCP**

**Motion** by Nass, second by Holterman, to authorize Chairman Molinaro to provide a letter of support to the Drumlin Area Land Trust from the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission for the Agricultural Enterprise Area application. **Motion carried** on a voice vote with no objection.

#### **12. Discussion on Chapter 91, State Statues, Farmland Preservation Program**

A draft bill has been proposed to delay the implementation of the conversion fees.

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

On the next agenda will be December 14, 2009 and February 8, 2010 minutes, discussion and possible action on PACE applications, update and discussion on new LESA maps, discussion of Agricultural Enterprise Areas proposed by DATCP, Discussion on Chapter 91, State Statues, Farmland Preservation Program, monitoring requirements including a list of county agribusinesses, and MOU to pay \$1000 toward appraisal.

#### **15. Future Meeting Dates**

- a. March 8, 2010 at Noon, Room 202
- b. April 21, 2010 at Noon, Room 202
- c. May 10, 2010 at Noon, Room 202
- d. June 14, 2010 at Noon, Room 202

#### **16. Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:55 p.m. was made by Nass, seconded by Burlingham. Motion carried on a voice vote with no objection.