

Farmland Conservation Easement Commission

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

Monday, April 21, 2010 12:00 pm

Members: John Molinaro (Chairman), Margaret Burlingham (Vice Chairman), Steve Nass (Secretary), and Daphne Holterman. County staff present was Steve Grabow (Community Resource Educator, UW-Extension) and Michelle Staff (Zoning Technician, Zoning Department).

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Molinaro at 12:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Commission members present included Molinaro, Nass, 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 March 8, 2010 Meeting Minutes

The Commission just received the minutes from Daphne and would like this item be placed on the May meeting to give them time to review the minutes.

7. Correspondence

Daphne Holterman resignation: Molinaro thanked Holterman for her many years of dedication on this Commission. Commission is sad to see her go but wishes her the best of luck in her new endeavors.

8. Discussion and possible action on monitoring requirements

As discussed in previous meeting, Land Conservation Department would be the logical department to monitor these easements due to the fact that they are monitoring conservation plans. Molinaro asked Jim Welsh to meet with Mark Watkins.

9. Discussion and possible action on PACE applications

Welsh indicated that he is moving forward with the three applications (Schultz, Soleska, Lea) and completing the applications for the state program by June 1st. Welsh indicated he will visit each site and take photos for the application. Welsh had questions regarding the application and would like to run them by the Commission. Welsh handed out a draft application form and had questions on letter a. (infrastructure), b. (economic development perspective) and c. (capital investments). Commission stated that for economic development the County has a new economic development plan emphasizing agriculture and the Farmland Preservation study. In addition, UW-Extension has studies demonstrating the impacts of residential construction in the rural areas. For capital investments, the appraisal should show the investments to the property.

The County resolution was passed by this Commission at the March meeting but it would be better if the resolution went to the May County Board due to the fact that April's will be a long meeting with the change in County Board. Commission discussed that members will have go to the Town Boards

and ask for signatures on the town resolutions. Molinaro will go to Oakland, Nass to Aztalan and Burlingham to Jefferson and Farmington. Signed resolutions will be given to Staff to give to Welsh. At the May meeting, Welsh will have the final draft of the applications for the Commission to review.

10. Update and Discussion on new LESA maps

Professor Grabow handed out and explained Professor Paulsen's memo concerning the LESA maps. In addition, a map was handed out and posted on the wall for discussion. Grabow focused on the last paragraph indicating that the total didn't add up to 100 points. The Commission commented that the maps emphasize 8-9 regions in the County for farmland preservation. The Commission discussed the use of the map such as regions of emphasis, relationship to parcels of interest, relationship to enterprise areas, further illustration of sound planning/decision making, use to "tweak" the PACE criteria, more emphasis on what is "worked land" (USDA vs. forest/wildlife), use in "farmland plan," gives sense of "are we on the right track?" backbone of western GHA and second swath on eastern region. Molinaro stated that this is a great resource for the Commission.

11. Discussion Agricultural Enterprise Areas proposed by DATCP

The Drumlin Area Land Trust is applying for the Agricultural Enterprise Area as proposed by DATCP.

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

Molinaro reads memo from Zoning Administrator Klotz. Will pick representative next month when all of the new members are present.

13. Discussion and possible action resolutions for Jefferson County and Towns.

The Commission assigned members to go to each town for the signing of the resolutions.

14. Suggestions for the Next Agenda

Molinaro states that many of the same items for this month should be on next month. Staff indicated the Commission needs to elect new officers.

15. Future Meeting Dates

Will discuss future meeting dates with new members in May.

16. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:04 p.m. was made by Holterman, seconded by Nass. Motion carried on a voice vote with no objection.

Minutes by Michelle Staff, Zoning Department