

**Farmland Conservation Easement Commission
Jefferson County Courthouse, Room 202
320 S. Main St.
Jefferson, WI 53549**

Monday, June 9, 2010 8:30 a.m.

Members: Margaret Burlingham (Chair), Amy Rinard (Vice-Chair), Mariah Hadler (Secretary), Steve Nass and Blane Poulson.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Burlingham at 8:30 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Commission members present included Nass, Molinaro (County Board Chair), Rinard, Hadler, Poulson and Burlingham. County staff present was Michelle Staff (Zoning Technician, Zoning Department). Jim Welsh, Natural Heritage Land Trust was present.

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.

5. Public Comment

None

6. Review and Approval of March 8, 2010, April 21, 2010 and May 10, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Nass, seconded by Molinaro to approve the March 8, 2010 minutes. **Motion carried** on a voice vote with no objection.

Motion by Nass, seconded by Molinaro to approve the April 21, 2010 minutes. **Motion carried** on a voice vote with no objection.

Motion by Hadler, seconded by Poulson to approve the May 10, 2010 minutes. **Motion carried** on a voice vote with no objection.

7. Correspondence

None

8. Introductions

Introductions were made among the Commission. Burlingham mentioned the Advisory Committee and asked Staff to e-mail the names of the members to the Commission.

9. Discussion on Co-Holder Agreement with Natural Heritage Land Trust

Welsh explained that the County would have a memo of understanding with the Natural Heritage Land Trust for monitoring and enforcement. Welsh explained that they have done this with the Town of Dunn and has an example of a MOU. Molinaro asked Welsh to give the example to Corporation Counsel Phil Ristow.

10. Discussion and possible action on PACE applications

a. Timothy Hunn (Carol Ann Hunn Joint Revocable Living Trust)

b. Weenonah Brattset

- c. Robert Schultz
- d. Jonathan Hartwig
- e. Rodell Lea
- f. Dale Neupert
- g. Edward Soleska
- h. Jeffery Hillmann
- i. Greg Wilke

Welsh stated that there were 35 applications statewide but our applications are looking strong. The County will know by August the results of those applications. The federal application is due June 24th but we haven't received the appraisals from the appraiser yet. The County may hear by August the status of their application from NRCS. There is a proposed model easement from the State being forwarded to the July 15 State PACE Commission meeting. Soleska has applied for the WRP with NRCS, has applied for a split on the south side of STH 18, is currently in CRP and WRP. Welsh mentions that an applicant must have gross farm receipts of at least \$6,000; in addition, the northern property is in an IRA and may be a problem. Soleska application will be on hold and if he is still interested will be re-ranked. Weenonah Brattset farm did apply for NRCS and the State program.

Nass stated that we will need to set up a timeline for the next round of applications and then contact the current applicants to see if they are still interested in the program. Burlingham stated for the next agenda we should add revisiting the timeline and reviewing application material. Welsh has been keeping a list of items that need to be revisited and will have suggestions next meeting.

11. Report from the Steering Committee on the 2010 Farmland Preservation Plan

Nass is chair of the Steering Committee. The first steering committee meeting was very educational. There will be 4 quadrant meetings and there will be focus groups established. The draft of the plan and ordinance must be submitted to DATCP for review and be certified by the end of 2011. Rinard states that the consultants have narrowed down the differences between the State statutes and the County ordinance. Staff mention to the Commission if they know of persons interested in being part of focus groups, please contact Klotz to give him their names.

12. Discussion on Agricultural Enterprise Areas proposed by DATCP

Sue Marx from the Drumlin Area Land Trust stated that they have not heard on the status of the proposed AEA zone.

13. Communication Plan Review

Burlingham explains that Daphne Holterman, with help from the Commission, created the communication plan. The Commission wants to advertise the purchase of conservation easements to the farming community. Molinaro suggested that the new members get a copy of the plan and review the plan for discussion at next month's meeting. Molinaro stated that the fair is coming up and if the Commission would like to have handouts they may.

14. Suggestions for the Next Agenda

Review the flyers and update.

15. Future Meeting Dates

July 14th at 8:30 am.

16. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 a.m was made by Rinard, seconded by Nass. Motion carried on a voice vote with no objection.

Minutes by Michelle Staff, Zoning Department