

Farmland Conservation Easement Commission

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

Monday, February 14, 2011 12:30 am

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 12:31 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Commission members present included Burlingham, Rinard, Hadler, Molinaro (ex-officio) and Poulson. Nass was absent. County staff present was Phil Ristow (Corporation Counsel) and Michelle Staff (Zoning Technician, Zoning Department).

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 change to the agenda.

5. Public Comment

Poulson stated that the County Board resolutions to support the new PACE applications passed County Board on February 8, 2011.

6. Review & Approval of the December 8, 2010 and January 10th, 2011 minutes

Motion by Rinard, seconded by Hadler to approve both the December 8, 2010 and January 10th, 2011 minutes. The motion was passed on a voice vote, with no objection.

7. Correspondence

None

8. Discuss DATCP/Federal Funding, Closing, Survey, Grant Requirements for the Lea and Schultz Conservation Easements

Burlingham reported that the County is still waiting for the approval of the easement language for the Lea and Schultz easements. If the County does not close on the easements by April, a new appraisal will be required for both easements.

12:40 pm Phil Ristow arrives.

Ristow indicated title work has been completed. Ristow indicated that after the easement language is approved by the State and Federal Government, the County will offer purchase agreements to Lea and Schultz. In addition, Ristow indicated that resolutions for the purchases will be on the March 8 County Board meeting.

9. Discussion, Ranking and possible action on PACE applications

Welsh sent an e-mail updating the Commission where we are at with the new easements. Welsh, Burlingham and Caleb Pourchot (Natural Heritage Land Trust) visited each farm and met with each

landowner. The County has submitted 4 applications to the State WLI PACE program (Gerner, Hookstead, Neupert, and Wilke). Welsh has contacted Scott Appraisal Company to start the appraisals.

10. Update from the Steering Committee on the 2010 Farmland Preservation Plan and discuss and possibly take action on policies for PACE and donated easements within new land use designations.

Staff passed out to the Commission the information regarding the next upcoming Steering Committee meetings and open house dates.

12. Update on Agricultural Enterprise Zones proposed by DATCP

Rinard just related to the Commission that the Town of Ixonia was not interested in joining the Ashippun/Oconomocwoc AEA. There was discussion between the Commission on the purpose and intent of the AEA.

Molinaro arrives at 1:05 pm.

Molinaro was updated briefly on the above discussions.

13. Future Meeting Dates

March 14th at 12:30 pm

April 11th at 8:30 am

May 9, 2011 at 8:30 am

14. Work Plan, Outreach and Communications Implementation

A) Discussion and development of application for Non-Profits to apply for Grant Monies from Jefferson County.

Burlingham e-mailed the proposed non-profit applications. All Commission members did not review it so it will be placed on next month's meeting for approval. The County would be a co-holder if grant monies are awarded.

B) Discuss Mapping of State PACE Criteria.

Burlingham stated that Kurt Paulson indicated that the map would not change from the Counties LESA map because much of the State criteria are similar to Jefferson County.

15. Suggestions for the Next Agenda

Burlingham suggested that we put publicizing the donation of easements on the next agenda, as well as, how the Commission can use face book and signs for the easements proposed to be purchased.

17. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:35 p.m. was made by Rinard, seconded by Hadler. Motion carried on a voice vote with no objection.

Mariah Hadler -- Farmland Conservation Easement Commission Secretary Date

Minutes transcribed by Michelle Staff, Zoning Department