

Farmland Conservation Easement Commission Minutes

**Jefferson County Courthouse, Room 112
320 S. Main St.
Jefferson, WI 53549**

Monday May 9, 2011 8:30 a.m.

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 Chairperson Burlingham at 8:33 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Commission members present included Burlingham, Rinard, Hadler, Nass, Molinaro (ex-officio) and Poulson. County staff present was 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

Burlingham announced that the Land Trust Alliance will be having a training session on May 23, 2011 about the legal language of easements. Burlingham will be attending.

6. Review & Approval of the February 14, 2011 minutes

Motion by Nass, seconded by Poulson to approve the March 14, 2011 minutes. The motion was passed on a voice vote, with no objection.

Motion by Rinard, seconded by Poulson to amend the minutes to reflect that Burlingham only went to the Neenah public hearing. The motion was passed on a voice vote, with no objection.

7. Correspondence

Burlingham received a letter from Assemblyman Kleefisch in response to the Commission letters about the 2010 PACE applications.

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

The Commission discussed how they have individually contacted State Representatives about the proposed state budget changes to the PACE program. Mr. Lea indicated to the Commission that he has contacted all of his representatives about funding his easement. The Schultz easement is still on hold by the feds. There hasn't been a replacement for Peggy James yet, so the Commission does not have a contact with the USDA for this program.

9. Discussion, Ranking and possible action on 2011 PACE applications

All of the applications are on hold until the state budget is passed.

10. Discuss and possibly take action on correspondence with state legislators, DATCP and Friends of Farmland Protection on the Working Lands Initiative PACE program.

This was discussed at number 8 of the agenda.

11. Discuss, Act and Forward to County Board a Resolution Supporting the State PACE Program.

Motion made by Nass, seconded by Rinard to forward the resolution to support the State PACE program. Motion passed on a voice vote with no objection.

12. 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

Nass updated the Commission on the process of the Farmland Preservation Plan.

13. Easement Donation Application from Tom & Margaret Burlingham in the Town of Palmyra
Burlingham stated that she was contacting an appraiser to complete the appraisal.

14. Update on Agricultural Enterprise Areas by DATCP

Currently the County does not have any agreements in the Palmyra AEA.

15. Work Plan, Outreach and Communications Implementation

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

The Commission liked the environmental hazard report as required by Dane County. They all agreed that the non-profit application will be available for organizations that are interested.

B) Discuss and possibly take action on brochures, signs, and publicity.

Motion made by Hadler, seconded by Poulson to approve the red logo for the Farmland Commission. Motion passed on a voice vote with no objection. Burlingham will contact sign companies and determine the cost to make signs for the farms that have easements. This logo will be used on Commission letterhead and promotional materials.

C) Discussion on farm-related events and Jefferson County Fair materials

May 21 will be the Dairy Breakfast at the Jefferson County Fair Park. Burlingham will take promotional material to the breakfast. June 18 & 19 will be the Watertown Dairy Breakfast. July will be the County Fair.

15. Future Meeting Dates

June 13, 2011 at 12:30 pm, Room 202

July 11, 2011 at 8:30 am, Room 202

August 8, 2011 at 8:30 am, Room 202

September 12, 2011 at 12:30 pm Room 202

16. Suggestions for the Next Agenda

None

17. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 am was made by Hadler, seconded by Rinard. Motion carried on a voice vote with no objection.

Mariah Hadler -- Farmland Conservation Easement Commission Secretary

Date