

Farmland Conservation Easement Commission Minutes

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

Monday, June 13, 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 8:35 a.m.

2. Roll Call

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

Lori Compas from City of Fort Atkinson was present and stated she was interested in hearing about the PACE program.

6. Review & Approval of the May 9, 2011 minutes

Motion by Poulson, seconded by Rinard to approve the May 9, 2011 minutes. The motion was passed on a voice vote, with no objection.

7. Correspondence

None

8. Discussion and possible action on Klaas & Susan van Zanten interest form.

Mr. van Zanten was out of the country and could not be present today. Burlingham talked to them at the dairy breakfast at the fairgrounds. Staff sent them a Zoning report with maps on the possible lots available. Burlingham stated that they will be placed on the next month's agenda when they are available.

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

The Commission discussed the state budget and proposed amendments to the state budget related to these easements. Burlingham stated that there was a new contact appointed from NRCS but that person has not started yet. There are still some questions from NRCS about the Schultz easement. Burlingham urged all members to contact their state representatives to ask them to reinstate the PACE program with funding.

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

No action on the new applications because the state budget has not been passed.

11. 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 9 of the agenda.

12. Update from the Steering Committee on the 2010 Farmland Preservation Plan

The draft plan and ordinances were forwarded to DATCP for review and recertification. The County will be awaiting response from DATCP.

13. Easement Donation Application from Tom & Margaret Burlingham in the Town of Palmyra

Burlingham stated that she needs to contact an appraiser to complete the appraisal.

14. Update on Agricultural Enterprise Areas by DATCP

Burlingham stated that some of her lands were in the AEA that she was unaware of and will be signing up for the agreement.

15. Work Plan, Outreach and Communications Implementation

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

Burlingham reported that she received three quotes for 17" x 22" signs and that prices varied. Commission discussed the quotes. They asked Burlingham to further look into prices that included shipping, holes, etc before they make a decision.

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

Commission discussed the Watertown Dairy Breakfast at the Tim Dettmann Farm on Sat. June 18th. They discussed placement of materials at the Jefferson County Fair in July. It was suggested that materials be left at the Agri-Business food tent. Finally, the Commission discussed having materials at the Pork Producers event on Friday June 24th; they will need to contact Don Bigelow from the Town of Jefferson.

15. Future Meeting Dates

Staff will confirm all meeting dates and room assignments.

16. Suggestions for the Next Agenda

Burlingham suggested that number 11 be renamed in anticipation of the passage of the state budget.

17. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 a.m. was made by Nass, seconded by Rinard. Motion carried on a voice vote with no objection.

Mariah Hadler -- Farmland Conservation Easement Commission Secretary Date

Minutes done by Michelle Staff, Zoning Department