

# Farmland Conservation Easement Commission Minutes

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

**Monday, July 11, 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 8:30 a.m.

**2. Roll Call**

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

**3. Certification of Compliance with Open Meetings Law Requirements**

Burlingham 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**

No Public Comment

**6. Review & Approval of the June 13, 2011 minutes**

**Motion** by Nass, seconded by Rinard to approve the June 13, 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.**

No action was taken due to the fact that Mr. and Mrs. van Zanten were not present.

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

The Commission discussed that the Lea farm was working with Land Conservation for certification of compliance. Jim Welsh stated that the appraisal needed to be updated and the easement needed to be updated through the state. Welsh stated that some of these costs may be reimbursed by DATCP. Welsh stated that closing should be in the fall and explained that DATCP won't have the money at closing. Molinaro stated that this happens with the park grants; he will put the item on the Finance Committee agenda.

Welsh stated that DATCP may not fund the Schultz easement. Burlingham will contact the state to see why they will not fund the easement.

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

There will be no funding from DATCP for the 2011 PACE applications. Burlingham stated that Gerner was willing to donate some of his easement. Burlingham stated that landowners have only until December 31<sup>st</sup> to donate to take advantage of the tax credit. Welsh stated that the federal funds require a 25% match. It was discussed that this item should be put on the next agenda to see if the applicants are willing to donate. Burlingham will write the applicants to invite them to the next meeting.

**11. Discuss and possibly take action on State Budget. Respond to State Budget in regards to Working Lands Initiative PACE program.**

The 2010 easements will be funded but all additional monies were removed from the PACE program until further notice.

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

Nass stated that the County received a letter stating that the application was complete. Now we need to wait until DATCP reviews the plan and ordinance.

**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**

None

**15. Work Plan, Outreach and Communications Implementation**

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

Burlingham reported that she received additional quotes from Badger Industries and Scenic on signs. Motion made by Nass, seconded by Rinard, to buy 10 one-sided signs and 10 two-sided signs that will not exceed \$650. Motion made by Nass, seconded by Rinard to give one sign to each landowner that has a Jefferson County Agricultural Conservation Easement. If they want additional signs, they will need to pay for them at cost.

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

Burlingham stated that the Commission had materials out at the Watertown and Jefferson dairy breakfasts, County Fair, Pork Producers dinner and in the Rock River Coalition newsletter.

**C) Land Trust Alliance National Land Conservation Conference October 13-16.**

Burlingham will not be available to attend the conference but she would strongly recommend that someone from the Commission attend. Burlingham will bring the materials to the next meeting.

**15. Future Meeting Dates**

Burlingham will not be at the October 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**16. Suggestions for the Next Agenda**

Burlingham suggested that the work plan be reviewed.

**17. Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 a.m. was made by Rinard, seconded by Nass. Motion carried on a voice vote with no objection.

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Mariah Hadler -- Farmland Conservation Easement Commission Secretary                      Date