

Land & Water Conservation Committee (LWCC) Minutes July 18, 2012

1. Call to order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Walt Christensen at 8:31 a.m. Committee members Sarah Bregant and Matt Foelker were present. County Board Chairman John Molinaro was also present. Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Beth Klotz, LWCD; Patricia Cicero, LWCD; Paul Babcock; and Greg David attended. Scott Zimmerman arrived at 8:33 a.m. Dick Schultz arrived at 8:42 a.m.

2. Roll call (establish a quorum):

A quorum was established.

3. Certification of compliance with the Open Meetings Law:

It was determined that the committee was in compliance with the Open Meetings Law.

4. Review of the July agenda:

The July agenda was reviewed by the committee members.

5. Review and approval of the June 20, 2012, meeting minutes:

Foelker made a motion to approve the June 20, 2012, meeting minutes as written, Bregant seconded. Motion carried, 3/0.

6. Communications:

There were no communications at this time.

7. Citizens comments:

There were no citizen comments.

8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) report:

Dennis Vollmer was unable to attend but submitted a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) report. See attached. The report was accepted and placed on file.

9. Lake Management Planning Grant Program grant resolution for near shore fish survey:

Cicero distributed a budget and summary and also a resolution to request and implement a DNR grant for Near Shore Fish Surveys on Rock Lake and Mud Lake to the LWCC. See attached. This project will see what species and habitat types are in the near shore area on both lakes.

Foelker moved and Bregant seconded to forward the resolution as presented to the County Board. Motion carried, 4/0.

10. Town & Country Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) report:

Christensen informed the LWCC that he had attended a RC&D meeting on Wednesday, July 11, 2012. He reported and provided handouts from the meeting to the LWCC. See attached. Christensen highlighted an upcoming pasture walk, Farm to Institution, and several programs offered by the RC&D. He urged people to friend the RC&D on Facebook.

11. Discussion and possible action on highway facility study:

Molinaro informed the LWCC that there is no current offer existing for the Old Countryside Home. Jefferson County is currently trying to determine if the asbestos has been remediated or encapsulated. Corporation Counsel is determining which committee is authorized to make an offer to purchase. The county will be meeting with the City of Jefferson to discuss the potential of locating a highway facility at this location. Christensen distributed a draft resolution supporting Old Countryside Home location as the location for the highway facility. See attached. No action was taken on the resolution. Molinaro stated that he anticipates that an offer to purchase the Old Countryside Home property will be made contingent on the remediation of the asbestos issue and the City of Jefferson zoning issue will be brought before the county board.

Christensen moved and Zimmerman seconded that the Land & Water Conservation Committee supports the ongoing efforts to pursue the purchase of the Old Countryside Home site in lieu of Site C for the location of a highway facility. Motion carried, 4/0.

12. Discussion and possible action on information land values study:

There is nothing new to report on this item at this time. This item will be on the August agenda.

13. Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) program information:

Watkins had distributed copies of the PACE interest form and an informational sheet regarding the program. See attached. Molinaro stated that funding for the PACE program is not available. The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Board unanimously voted to have the state find funds to support the PACE program. Currently Jefferson County has been partnering with NRCS for land projects.

14. Potential ditch on county farm update:

Watkins stated that there have been no current water issues due to the drought. He has two requests for bids out but has not received any bids at this time. He anticipates that this project will be done in the fall or winter.

15. Notice of Non-compliance with Soil and Water Conservation Requirements – Farmland Preservation Program (FPP)

Francis Gross requested to be removed from the Farmland Preservation Program.

Foelker moved and Bregant seconded to remove Francis Gross from the Farmland Preservation Program. Motion carried, 4/0.

16. Southern Area Association (SAA) of Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) summer tour update:

Watkins informed the LWCC that tour plans are ongoing. The tour will be held on August 28, 2012. It will begin at Dorothy Carnes Park. Other sites visited will be the Sullivan Weather Station and Standard Process. The fee will be \$25 and registrations will be limited to the first 55 applicants.

17. Discussion & possible action on the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) certification fee:

In order to defray costs and offset a grant revenue reduction, Watkins requested an increase in the annual FPP certification fee to \$25. Historically participants were paying \$25 annually (\$20 to Zoning and \$5 to LWCC).

Foelker moved and Bregant seconded to increase the annual Farmland Preservation Program certification fee to \$25. Motion carried, 4/0.

18. 2013 Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) budget

Watkins presented a copy of the proposed 2012 LWCD budget to the LWCC. See attached. The department was directed to limit their budget to a levy impact of \$204,936. The proposed budget's levy impact is \$204,366.

19. Monthly Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) financial report:

The most current revenue and expenditure sheets were distributed. See attached. The department is on target for expenses and revenues at this time.

20. Set next meeting and possible agenda items:

It was decided by the members that the next scheduled meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Committee will be held on Wednesday, August 15, 2012 at 8:30 in Room 202. Possible agenda items include: Monthly financial report, discussion and possible action on proposed highway facility study, and discussion and possible action on information regarding land values, potential ditch on county farm update if necessary.

21. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Zimmerman and seconded by Foelker at 9:29 a.m. Motion carried, 4/0.