

Farmland Conservation Easement Commission Agenda

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

Monday, November 10, 2008 12:00 pm

Members: John Molinaro (Chairman), Margaret Burlingham (Vice Chairman), Steve Nass (Secretary), Daphne Holterman, Carlton Zentner and County Board Chairman Sharon Schmeling, ex-officio.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Molinaro at 12:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Commission members present included Molinaro, Schmeling, Burlingham, Zentner, and Nass. Members absent Holterman. County staff present were Steve Grabow and Michelle Staff.

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

Molinaro would like Professor Paulsen to start with his presentation and then follow up with Dan Paulson.

5. Review and Approval of October 13, 2008 and October 27, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Nass, second by Burlingham to approve the October 13 and October 27 minutes as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote with no objection.

6. Public Comment

No Public Comments

7. Review Letter to be sent to Department of Administration in regards to the Annexation of Farmland.

Motion made by Nass, seconded by Burlingham to table the letter until next meeting so Holterman can be present. Voice Vote, no objection, motion passed.

8. Professor Paulsen on Mapping of Criteria for the Purchase of Development Rights.

Paulsen passed out a handout and maps. Paulsen explained the table seen on the handout of the criteria that the Commission discussed. Map 1 shows all criteria having equal weights. Map 2 shows for more points for lands with high development potential. Map 3 shows lands that are clustered around environmental corridors. Map 4 gives greater points for parcels size and prime farmlands. Commission went into discussion about muck farmer and lands that are undevelopable. Molianro explained how the DNR may consider using stewardship monies to protect farm land. Paulsen stated he will contact the DNR for the GIS layer of the National Heritage Project areas. Agricultural Enterprise zones would only be for 10 to 15 years. Grabow explained this is really what our Land Use Plan is doing. Zentner mention that if people are willing to donate a percentage of their rights, they should be moved up on the list. Paulsen stated that many states do this but unfortunately that can not be mapped.

9. Dan Paulson speaking on “Lessons from Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, Ultimate Land Use Study Tour.”

John Koepke from the Town of Oconomowoc, Waukesha County and Dan Paulson from the Town of Palymra was present to speak to the Commission on the land use tour. Koepke read and submitted a letter summarizing this experience on the tour. Paulson explained the relationship between town and counties in the eastern states. Koepke handed out pictures he took on the trip and explained them to the Commission. Koepke stated that what makes this program happen is the population density are so great that preserving farm land is valued. Molarino asked Paulson from this experience, what advise would he give to Jefferson County’s program. Paulson stated that each of the towns in Pennsylvania had Farm Commissions and he said this program works so well because it was coming from the farmers. Koepke stated that the agricultural lands are going up in price, even ones that are protects because of the urban sprawl. Paulson says it took a lot of education for these programs to work out east and most of the states started this program back in the 1970’s. Molarion suggested to the Commission that they start contacting Townships and speaking to the Towns Association.

10. Possible Land application for donation of Farmland Conservation Easements

None at this time. Molinaro mention that he sent letters to the two landowners adjacent to Aztalan State Park.

11. DATCP/American Farmland Trust presentation on Farmland Preservation at Jensen’s in Fort Atkinson

Burlingham stated that Rick Stadelman called her to ask if one of the Commission members would speak at the farmland preservation land use workshop in December. Burlingham would be willing to speak and have hand outs for the meeting. Molinaro express concern that there will be a fee for the workshop because the only persons willing to come are persons interested in the program. It will not get the message out to persons on the fence about the program or other persons who are opposed to the program.

12. Suggestions for the Next Agenda

Review Zenter's letter, discuss approaching Townships on farmland commissions and discuss if the Commission can get organized other farm organizations and farmers to start spreading the idea.

13. Future Meeting Dates

- a. December 8, 2008 at Noon Room 202
- b. January 12, 2009 at Noon Room 202

14. Adjourn

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

***The Commission may discuss and/or take action on any item specifically listed on the agenda.

Individuals requiring special accommodations for attendance at the meeting should contact the County Administrator at 920-674-7101 24 hours prior to the meeting so appropriate arrangements can be made.

MJS