



Minutes of the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission Meeting

Jefferson County Courthouse, Room 203
311 S Center St
Jefferson, WI 53549

Monday, June 9, 2014, 12:30 pm

Members: Margaret Burlingham (Chairperson), Steve Nass (Vice-Chairperson), Walt Christensen, Mariah Hadler (Secretary), and Blane Poulson.

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Burlingham at 12:31 pm.
2. Roll Call
Commission members present included Nass, Christensen, Poulson, Hadler and Burlingham. Also present was Jim Schroeder, County Board Chairman. County staff present was Phil Ristow (Corporation Counsel) and Michelle Staff (Zoning Department).
3. Certification of Compliance With Open Meetings Law Requirements
Burlingham and Staff verified that the meeting was being held in compliance with open meetings law requirements.
4. Review of Agenda
No changes proposed.
5. Public Comment
None
6. Communications
None
7. Review & Approval of the May 12, 2014 Minutes
Motion made by Christensen, seconded by Hadler to approve the May 12, 2014 minutes with the change that on number 6, that should read Natural Heritage Land Trust. Staff stated she would make the change. **Motion** carried on a voice vote with no objection.
8. Discussion on interest forms received for the PACE program
 - Wilke has not completed his conservation practices. Ristow explained the details that need to be completed before closing on the easement. The Commission must get another appraisal for the property but Burlingham stated she isn't going to do this until the conservation practices are completed.
 - Haberman easement application has been submitted to NRCS. They did not require the appraisal at application but if the grant for the easement is awarded by NRCS, the Commission must get an appraisal and bring a resolution to County Board with the purchase amount.

- Burlingham has talked to Kunz and they are still interested in the easement. Burlingham told them to fill out the application form and submit the application fee of \$750. Burlingham stated that the Natural Heritage Land Trust will not be helping the Commission further with the easement applications.
 - Koch is still interested but at this time there is no funding for this easement. The Commission will keep them as a future potential easement candidate.
9. Jefferson County LWCD update on Baseline Documentation for easements
Kokkonen sent an update to the Commission via e-mail. A copy of this e-mail is attached to the minutes. He will be inspecting the easements and sending the required paperwork to NRCS.
10. Discussion on Natural Heritage Land Trust and County support of the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission.
Nass explained that the Administration and Rules Committee discussed that the Farmland Commission should be placed under a department. There was discussing about choosing either the Land and Water Conservation or Zoning Department. It was explained that the County Administrator will be discussing with the department heads the best location for the Commission. Burlingham stated that the Commission would like to apply for a grant for Kunz as soon as possible. Burlingham would be willing to apply but would like to get compensated for it and didn't know the County's policy on this. She didn't know if this was a conflict of interest. There was discussion between the Commission and Ristow about his issue. Nass suggested that Burlingham talk to Ben Wehmeier, County Administrator about this issue. Ristow stated that the deadline has already passed so this easement may not get funding. Motion made by Hadler, seconded by Nass, to hire LanDesign by Margaret Burlingham LLC to write the grant at \$12.00 an hour but not to exceed an total amount of \$200. Motion carried on a voice vote with Burlingham abstaining.
11. Discussion on future events in which the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission would like to participate
Burlingham stated that the Kutz 4th grade farm tour was a success. The Farmland Commission was a major presence because all of the adult leaders and high school students wore the Commission shirts. The kids with the t-shirts were on the front page of the newspaper. It was a great investment for \$100 from the Commission.

The table tents are ready for the dairy breakfast and Nass will be taking them to put up on the tables. In addition, they will be saved to use at the Watertown dairy breakfast. All of the 4-H kids had the t-shirts on which again promoted the Farmland Commission. The next event is the County Fair. There was some discussion on putting up the Commission signs. Poulson was going to touch base with the fair park staff to ask about where they can put the signs.

Lea stated that in March he got a call from a college student from UW-Whitewater who picked three farms for a project: Roger Anderson, Bill Erhke, and himself and their family farms are on display at the Hoard Museum.

12. Future Meeting Dates

No changes to the meeting dates. Nass stated he may not be present for the July 14th meeting.

13. Suggestions for the Next Agenda

None

14. Adjourn

Motion by Hadler, second by Christensen, to adjourn the meeting at 1:46 p.m.

Motion carried on a voice vote with no objection.

Secretary Signature

Date

Minutes by Michelle Staff, Zoning Technician, Jefferson County Planning and Zoning Department