



## ***Farmland Conservation Easement Commission Minutes***

***Jefferson County Courthouse***

***311 S Center Ave, Rm 203***

***Jefferson, WI 53549***

***Monday, August 10, 2015 @ 12:30 pm***

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

**1. Call to Order:**

The monthly meeting was called to order by Margaret Burlingham at 12:38 pm. Committee members Margaret Burlingham (Chair), Walt Christensen (Vice Chair), Steve Nass (Secretary), and Mariah Hadler were present. Also in attendance were Blair Ward, Jefferson County Corporation Counsel; Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Gerry Kokkonen, LWCD; Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; and Michelle Staff, Planning & Zoning Department. Blane Poulson was absent.

**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. Approval of the August Agenda:**

The August agenda was reviewed by the committee members. No changes were proposed.

**5. Approval of the July 13, 2015 Meeting Minutes:**

Walt Christensen made a motion to approve the July 13, 2015 meeting minutes as written, Margaret Burlingham seconded. Motion carried 4/0.

**6. Communications:**

Margaret Burlingham received a thank you card from the Jefferson County Dairy Breakfast.

**7. Public Comment:**

There were no comments at this time.

**8. Discussion on Rodell Lea's Easement Compliance:**

See attached. It has been determined that the building is in violation of Rodell Lea's easement. Mark Watkins spoke with representatives from DATCP and was informed that the building needed to be moved within the farmstead area to maintain compliance with the easement contract. Steve Nass suggested that Rodell Lea contact NRCS to make sure he's following the easement language. Mariah Handler asked that Rodell Lea have NRCS contact the commission with their recommendations to fix this issue since Jefferson County is responsible for enforcing the easement.

**9. Discussion on Dale Neupert's Easement Compliance:**

Corporation Counsel Blair Ward will draft a letter informing Dale Neupert that he's in violation of his easement and he needs to rescind the sale of Parcel #030-0813-1733-002 to Kurt Skalitzky.

**10. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) applications:**

**a. Greg Wilke, Town of Waterloo**

Gerry Kokkonen is waiting for the easement language to be confirmed, the title is clear, Greg Wilke is in conservation compliance, and the aforementioned building has been removed (deadline of 9/1/15) before updates to the baseline documents are made.

**b. Cliff Haberman, Town of Milford**

Gerry Kokkonen; the County surveyor needs to finish the legal description of Haberman's buildings at the home farm and the description should be complete this fall. NRCS is working on a forest management plan and grazing plan for Haberman's which will be reviewed and approved within the next month by NRCS. Cliff Haberman is completing his environmental assessment checklist and he is currently in compliance with Jefferson County's Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) and State standards.

**11. Discussion on Jefferson County Land & Water Conservation Report on Baseline Documentation for Easements:**

Baseline Documentation was discussed within item # 10.

**12. Discussion on the 2016 Budget:**

Due to a request from the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission, Mark Watkins added \$55,000 to the 2016 budget, enough to fund one easement. Mark Watkins meets with the Finance Committee 8/18/15 to start the budget process.

**13. Discussion on Strengthening AEAs:**

This discussion was postponed due to the absence of Blane Poulson.

**14. Discussion and Possible Action on Future Funding of Farmland Conservation Easements:**

Walt Christensen and Steve Nass each drafted a resolution in regard to future funding. See attached; Christensen # 14 A, Nass # 14 B. Walt Christensen and Steve Nass asked that these resolution drafts be brought to the Land & Water Conservation Committee (LWCC) and the Planning & Zoning Committee's next meetings for their support. Walt Christensen will attend the LWCC meeting 8/19/15 and Steve Nass plans to attend a Planning & Zoning meeting in the near future. The commission would like to submit these resolutions to the County Board at the September 2015 meeting.

**15. Discussion on Future Events that the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission would like to participate in and Community Outreach:**

Lake Mills Fall Festival in October

**16. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:**

Items # 8 - 15

**17. Next Scheduled Meeting:**

September 14, 2015 @ 12:30 pm in Room 203.

**18. Adjournment:**

Walt Christensen made a motion to adjourn at 1:40 pm, Margaret Burlingham seconded. Motion carried 4/0.