



Farmland Conservation Easement Commission Minutes

Jefferson County Courthouse

311 S Center Ave, Rm 203

Jefferson, WI 53549

Monday, March 14, 2016 @ 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 12:30 pm. Committee members Margaret Burlingham (Chair), Walt Christensen (Vice Chair), Steve Nass (Secretary), and Blane Poulson were present. Also in attendance were Gerry Kokkonen, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); and Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD. Mariah Hadler 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 March Agenda:

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

5. Approval of the February 8, 2016 Meeting Minutes:

Steve Nass made a motion to approve the February 8, 2016 meeting minutes as written, Walt Christensen seconded. Motion carried 4/0.

6. Communications:

Margaret Burlingham submitted a letter to the commission sent from Senator Tammy Baldwin's office. See attached.

7. Public Comment:

There were no comments at this time.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) Applications:

The commission has done everything possible and is now waiting on NRCS. NRCS is in the process of reviewing the appraisals.

a. Greg Wilke, Town of Waterloo

A new appraisal has been completed for Greg Wilke. Gerry Kokkonen will send Greg Wilke a letter to clarify the appraisal and what the next steps are.

b. Cliff Haberman, Town of Milford

Gerry Kokkonen found an easement on Cliff Haberman's property from 1955 with WE Energies. See attached. Gerry Kokkonen will speak to Cliff Haberman to discuss asking WE Energies to vacate the easement.

- 9. Discussion on Jefferson County Land & Water Conservation Report on Baseline Documentation for Easements:**
Nothing new at this time. Gerry Kokkonen will make a minor revision to Cliff Haberman's baseline to include the WE Energies easement language if not vacated by quit claim.
- 10. Discussion on County Committee Structure:**
Steve Nass discussed the possibility of the Land & Water Conservation Committee merging with the Farmland Commission and the potential benefits of merging the two committees. This topic will be discussed at the next County Board meeting.
- 11. Discussion and Possible Action on Restructuring the Appraisal Fee Structure, i.e. Administrative Guidelines:**
Gerry Kokkonen submitted a suggested fee structure letter to attach to the easement applications as an administrative guideline. See attached. Gerry Kokkonen will research federal guidelines and rules for imposing the fees and bring back to Commission.
- 12. Discussion and Possible Action on Planning 2016 Goals, Events, and Community Outreach:**
4th Grade Farm Tour
- 13. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:**
Items # 8 - 14
- 14. Next Scheduled Meeting:**
April 4, 2016 @ 12:30 pm in Room 203.
- 15. Adjournment:**
Walt Christensen made a motion to adjourn at 1:40 pm, Steve Nass seconded. Motion carried 3/0.