

Agenda
Jefferson County Land & Water Conservation Committee (LWCC)
"Working Together to Protect & Enhance the Environment"
Jefferson County Courthouse, 311 S Center Ave, Rm 112
Jefferson, WI 53549-1701
Wednesday, October 15, 2014 ~ 8:00 am

Committee Members: Frank Anfang, Matthew Foelker, Peter Hartz, Ed Morse, Carlton Zentner

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call (Establish a Quorum)
3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law
4. Review of the October Agenda
5. Review and Approval of the September 17, 2014 Meeting Minutes
6. Citizen Comments
7. Communications
 - Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP) October 2014 Report
8. Dave Terrell - USDA Wildlife Services - 2014 Crop Damage Prices - 2015 Budget Approval
9. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report (NRCS)
10. Agricultural Plastics Recycling Program Discussion
 - Update From Regional Meeting - Gerry Kokkonen
11. Adaptive Management Potential Partnership with the City of Oconomowoc
12. Fall Animal Waste Handling Update
13. Notice of Noncompliance - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP)
14. Cancellation of Noncompliance - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP)
15. Monthly Financial Report
16. Set Next Meeting (Tentative November 19, 2014) and Possible Agenda Items
17. Adjournment

Note: If committee members are not able to attend please notify the LWCD

The committee 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.

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

September 17, 2014

1. Call to Order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Matt Foelker at 8:03 am. Committee members Frank Anfang, Matthew Foelker, Peter Hartz, Ed Morse, and Carlton Zentner were present. Also in attendance were Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; Sharon Ehrhardt, Jefferson County Solid Waste; and Dennis Vollmer, NRCS.

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 September Agenda:

The September agenda was reviewed by the committee members.

5. Review and Approval of the August 20, 2014 Meeting Minutes:

Carlton Zentner made a motion to approve the August 20, 2014 meeting minutes as written, Frank Anfang seconded. Motion carried 5/0.

6. Citizen Comments:

There were no citizen comments.

7. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP) September Report. See attached.

8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

Dennis Vollmer discussed the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) report. See attached

9. Agricultural Plastics Recycling Program Discussion:

- **Recycling Efforts** - Sharon Ehrhardt, Jefferson County Solid Waste: Sharon Ehrhardt has spoken to farmers in Jefferson County and they aren't showing an interest in an Ag plastic recycling program. It's easier and more cost effective for them to just get a dumpster. Sharon Ehrhardt has looked into the cost involved in starting a program and has found that the cost outweighs the value and the start-up costs are prohibitive.
- **Grand Funding** - Mark Watkins contacted DATCP to check into the possibility of grant funding for Ag Plastics. DATCP informed Mark Watkins that Ag plastics are not acceptable for grant funding at this time.

- **Partnering Efforts** - Mark Watkins has spoken to the neighboring counties in this regard. Other counties would be interested in receiving Ag plastics if they can get it delivered at no cost to existing programs. At this time there are no funds available to offer producers or incentives to participate.

10. Deer Donation Program for Fall 2014:

See attached. The committee agreed that this program was beneficial to all parties involved. Carlton Zentner made a motion to keep the program going in Jefferson County, Ed Morse seconded. Motion carried 5/0.

11. Adaptive Management Potential Partnership with the City of Oconomowoc:

Mark Watkins spoke to the committee about a partnership with the City of Oconomowoc for Adaptive Management. Peter Hartz informed the committee that if we partnered with Oconomowoc for these practices, it could very well stretch our limited staff too far. Adaptive Management isn't well received by the municipalities and we would meet with some resistance. Peter Hartz thought it would be good for the county to partner with Oconomowoc, if they took the lead. Our staff and budget is already limited and Oconomowoc has the resources. The committee asked that we revisit this item at our next meeting after Mark Watkins speaks with the City of Oconomowoc again to get a better understanding on how they plan to proceed.

12. Notice of Noncompliance with Soil and Water Conservation Requirements – Farmland Preservation Program (FPP):

Voluntary Notice - Joseph & Gale Yaeger Trust - The committee accepted the voluntary notice.

13. Cancellation of Noncompliance – Farmland Preservation Program (FPP):

Timothy & Carol Ann Hunn - The committee accepted the cancellation.

14. Monthly Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) Financial Report:

As the finance department is completing work on the 2015 county budget, an August financial report was unavailable at this time.

15. Set next meeting and possible agenda items:

It was decided by the members that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Committee will be held on October 15, 2014 at 8:00 in Room 112. Possible agenda items include: Items #9 and #11

16. Adjournment:

Frank Anfang made a motion to adjourn at 9:32 am, Carlton Zentner seconded. Motion carried 5/0.

RESOLUTION NO. 14-9A-099

AGENDA NO. 12.A.6.(1)

**RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Land Conservation Committee
INITIATED BY



Thomas Sweeney
DRAFTED BY

Land Conservation Committee
SUBMITTED BY

August 28, 2014
DATE DRAFTED

**LONG TERM FINANCIAL STABILITY OF THE
PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (PACE)**

- 1 **WHEREAS**, the Rock County PACE program's intent is to identify productive agricultural parcels in
2 the highest priority areas of the county, as determined through the program manual, and purchase
3 agricultural conservation easements from willing landowners on the specified parcels; and,
4
5 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors has supported this program through various resolutions
6 including the program launch to financial support as demonstrated in the following whereas clauses;
7 and,
8
9 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 09-2B-219 which allocated one half of the
10 ATC Environmental Impact Fee for a utility project, which amounted to \$740,000 being allocated to
11 the PACE program; and,
12
13 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 09-6B-311 approving the Rock County
14 PACE Program to commence with the formation of the PACE Ad Hoc Committee; and,
15
16 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 11-1A-250 approving the start of the PACE
17 program and approval of the program manual; and,
18
19 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 12-11D-179 which allocated \$228,000 to
20 the PACE program from the sale of 5 additional acres of the Rock County Farm to the GOEX
21 Corporation for the construction of a new manufacturing plant; and,
22
23 **WHEREAS**, the Land Conservation Committee (LCC) requested staff to provide a review of the
24 PACE program financial status as it relates to short term goals and long term stability of the program
25 and present findings to the LCC; and,
26
27 **WHEREAS**, the Land Conservation Department (LCD) conducted the internal analysis of the program
28 funding and presented the preliminary findings to the LCC, after which the LCC directed staff to
29 consider three stable funding sources. These sources include: the rent receipts from the county farm
30 lease, sales tax receipts and the tax levy; and,
31
32 **WHEREAS**, the LCC also identified proceeds from future sale(s) of county owned real estate
33 holdings, with the exception of park land and IN REM properties, as an additional funding source.
34 However this source is unstable at best; and,
35
36 **WHEREAS**, at its August 2014 meeting the Rock County PACE Council recommended easements to
37 be purchased on four properties totaling 412.5 acres in 2015, which will reduce the account balance for
38 the program to approximately \$40,000; and,
39
40 **WHEREAS**, the LCC concludes that to continue the Rock County PACE program into the foreseeable
41 future, the LCD must request financial assistance from the Board of Supervisors with an annual budget
42 appropriation of \$200,000 commencing with the 2015 budget; and,
43
44 **WHEREAS**, the funding sources to be used during any given year, will be at the discretion of the
45 County Administrator and approved by the County Board through their annual budget process.

14-9A-099
660-96-41

Long Term Financial Stability of the PACE Program

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46 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors in session this
 47 _____ day of _____, 2014, approves apportioning \$200,000 annually to the Rock County
 48 PACE program until an alternative outside funding source can be located with final approval through the
 49 annual budget process; and,

50

51 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that proceeds from the sale of County owned real estate holdings,
 52 with the exception of park land and IN REM properties, will be deposited into the PACE account to
 53 assure that the short and long term goals of the program are met. If proceeds from said sales are available
 54 they should not be used to reduce the annual budget appropriation requested.

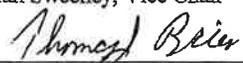
Respectfully submitted,

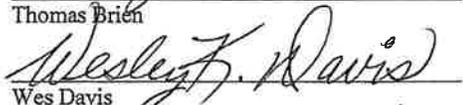
LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE


 Richard Bostwick, Chair

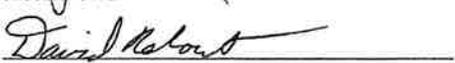
EXCUSED

Alan Sweeney, Vice Chair


 Thomas Brien

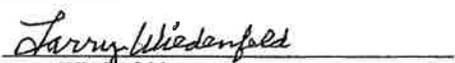

 Wesley K. Davis


 Jason Dowd


 David Rebout, FSA

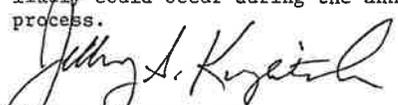
DISSENT

Rick Richard


 Larry Wiedenfeld

LEGAL NOTE:

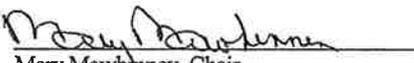
The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to secs. 59.01, 59.03 and 59.51, Wis. Stats. This resolution proposes apportioning \$200,000 to the Rock County Pace program annually. While the County Board can take this action, this is a voluntary payment. Unlike a debt service payment, the County Board can depending on financial condition, modify, delete, or increase such payments in the future. This likely could occur during the annual budget process.


 Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch
 Corporation Counsel

FINANCE COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT

Reviewed and approved on a vote of

2-3


 Mary Mawhinney, Chair

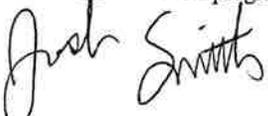
FISCAL NOTE:

This resolution appropriates \$200,000 to the PACE program annually until the County Board takes action otherwise. Three possible funding sources are mentioned: tax levy, farm lease revenues and sales tax revenues. Since the County farm lease revenue is a direct offset to County levy, any redirected lease revenue would need to be filled with tax levy. The County continues to operate under strict levy limits. Our estimated maximum allowable levy increase for all departments and programs in 2015 is \$441,000.


 Sherry Oja
 Finance Director

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

As described in the fiscal note, the effect of State-imposed levy limits will restrict the ability of the County to utilize tax levy or County farm lease revenue in 2015. Consequently, if the resolution is approved, the 2015 administrator's recommended budget would include \$200,000 in sales tax revenue for the PACE program.


 Josh Smith
 County Administrator

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The vision and goal statement for the PACE Program is: The Rock County Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) Program will work in cooperation with local governments to enhance Rock County's quality of life by building consensus towards a regional vision, to include preservation of agricultural land, the agricultural economy, and the County's rural character, and responsible growth and development in appropriate areas.

The County Board has supported the PACE Program in the recent past as identified by the numerous resolutions adopted. This resolution requests the County Board to continue the support for the PACE program in the form of an annual budgetary appropriation to the program in the sum of \$200,000. This request will allow the program to continue into the future. This request is a direct result of the Land Conservation Committee (LCC) requesting the Land Conservation Department staff to conduct an internal analysis for the PACE program funding, which concluded that the program will exhaust existing funds within two years if additional funds are not allocated to the program. As noted in the program's manual, this program is not a short term commitment. An American Farmland Trust report dated 2010, identifies numerous local government programs nearing or exceeding their 20th year of operation. The closest long term PACE program is located in the Town of Dunn, Dane County WI.

The LCC, with assistance from the PACE Council, will develop policies that will cap the value of easement purchase price, which will likely be below the USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service program maximum of 75% of the easement appraised value. The LCC will also establish a cap for the annual acreage allowed into the program or the number of applications approved, whichever is below the established acreage threshold. Other policies and provisions that will increase the cash flow efficiency of this program will be evaluated in the future. These proactive actions/policies are needed to assist with the overall cash flow of the program. Also, the resolution will only be effective until such time that alternative outside funding sources are made available.

The PACE program has a direct and indirect impact to the economy of Rock County, by not only providing a payment to landowners (which can then be used to make future investments in the operation) but also by protecting a valuable resource. Furthermore, by providing local funding for the PACE Program the County is providing the means necessary to secure funding from the federal government. On average, for every dollar the county contributes to the purchase price of an easement, \$2.66 has been contributed by the federal government under the USDA-NRCS program. Without a local entity like Rock County to provide the local contribution, those dollars would be going to another area or even another state.

The resolution also requests the County Board to defer the receipts from sales of real estate holdings to the PACE program. Exceptions to this request include any IN REM property and/or any sale of county park land.