

Farmland Conservation Easement Commission

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

Monday, July 13, 2009 12:00 pm

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

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Molinaro at 12:04 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Commission members present included Molinaro, Nass, Holterman, and Burlingham. Member absent: Schmeling. Molinaro stated that Zentner has resigned from the Commission. County staff present was Michelle Staff (Zoning).

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

No changes were proposed.

5. Review and Approval of June 8, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Holterman, seconded by Molinaro to approve the June 8, 2009 minutes. **Motion carried** on a voice vote with no objection.

6. Public Comment

None

7. Correspondence

Holterman would like an official letter sent on letterhead to the Bank of Cambridge to ask for donations to the Commission. Holterman asked Staff if she could put the letter on official letterhead.

8. Possible land application for donation of Farmland Conservation Easements

None at this time.

9. Review Changes to PACE selection criteria by Jim Welsh – Natural Heritage Land Trust

Welsh made the changes requested by the Commission from the last meeting. Molinaro asked who designates century farms; Holterman believed it was the State Fair but will look it up. Molinaro stated that the Historical Preservation Committee would also like the list of Century Farms. The Commission would like the criteria to be in a format that the public can easily be read.

Discussion moved to the Public Forum. Welsh made the flyers and all meeting sites have been reserved. Molinaro will give the press release to Tammie Jaeger in Administration to distribute

to the press. Molinaro would like to get the flyers to all County Board members and Town Board members. Holterman and Staff would work on envelopes for all Town Board members since Holterman had the members on an excel list. Molinaro stated that the Town of Waterloo wanted \$125 for use of the town hall for one of the public forums. Molinaro didn't know the Town would charge to use the facilities. Welsh will be presenting the PACE program on a power point presentation with the proposed criteria.

10. Identify 5-10 Landowners to Test Criteria

The Commission discussed not identifying landowners, but instead having the public fill out the criteria at the public forums. Then the public can comment on the process on their own farm. Molinaro asked to add 15 minutes to the agenda to go through the criteria with the audience.

12:30pm Burlingham arrives

11. Review Draft Agenda for Public Forum

The Commission discussed the agenda and would like from 8:00 - 8:30 be criteria and final comments and from 7:40 - 8:30 to be question and answer session. Nass mentioned that the Commission should videotape the public forum and post it on the internet. Nass will contact Greg David to see if he is available to video tape. All comments should be recorded; Staff will be available to take notes and will be voice recording the public forum. Molinaro will talk with radio stations and may be able to speak to Michael Klisch from WFAW. Nass stated that he will bring some Agricultural Preservation Plans. Holterman will be providing string cheese and milk. Molinaro will provide cookies. Burlingham will bring a projector and laptop for the presentation. Additional speakers are needed for the Waterloo and Jefferson public forums. Welsh will be contacting Town of Dunn and possible others to see if they are available to speak. Staff will post agendas and meetings because there may be a quorum present. Nass stated he will not be able to make all the public forums because of conflicts in his schedule.

12. Discuss Flyer and Press Release and Finalize Distribution List

Molinaro stated this was discussed in number 9.

13. Review Strategies Activity Chart and Workplan

Burlingham reviewed the current workplan and stated that the next step in the timeline is to start taking applications. Burlingham also mentioned that the Commission needs to start thinking about management of applications such as forms for applications, reviewing criteria, etc.

14. Update on Assembly Bill AB75

Molinaro refers to Interim Zoning Administrator Klotz's e-mail expressing concerns on the new Farmland Preservation Law. Molinaro reads Klotz's e-mail, reading questions 1 through 6. The Commission stated they do not have any monies except what is currently in the bank and are hoping for DNR, Federal Funds, and others. The Commission understands that the State monies from the new Farmland Preservation Law are just a potential revenue source and is not guaranteed. Nass stated that this is not really a concern of the Commission at this time. Molinaro stated we need to keep moving forward as we have been but stated that Klotz's concerns are duly noted. Staff handed out the new Farmland Preservation law to the Commission.

15. Suggestions for Next Meeting

After the September 21st public forum, the Commission will have all the feedback from the public forums and will then focus on getting applications for the new program. The hope is to have applications in hand when the County goes through the budget process. Nass stated that the Commission will need new maps once the criteria is finalized. Discussed Klotz's e-mail and the PACE program through the State of Wisconsin. At the August 10 meeting the Commission will finalize the forum agenda and will discuss the final details of the forum. Holterman will not be at the next meeting.

16. Future Meeting Dates

- a. August 31, 2009 Public Forum, Palmyra, WI at 7:00pm
- b. September 14, 2009 at Noon, Courthouse Room 202
- c. September 14, 2009 Public Forum, Jefferson, WI at 7:00pm
- d. September 21, 2009 Public Forum, Waterloo, WI at 7:00pm
- e. October 12, 2009 at Noon Room 202

17. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:20 p.m. was made by Burlingham, seconded by Holterman. Motion carried on a voice vote with no objection.