

# **Farmland Conservation Easement Commission**

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

**Monday, August 10, 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 12:07 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Commission members present included Molinaro, Nass, Schmeling, and Burlingham. Holterman was absent. County staff present were Steve Gambow (UW-Extension) and 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 July 13, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

**Motion** by Burlingham, seconded by Nass to approve the July 13, 2009 minutes. **Motion carried** on a voice vote with no objection.

**6. Public Comment**

None

**7. Correspondence**

Staff handed to the Commission questions and answers she received from the DATCP on the new farmland program.

Staff passed out the Land Use Leadership Tour for Maryland and Pennsylvania brochure. Burlingham stated that this tour was more expensive than the previous tours but is a very good tour and would recommend it.

**8. Possible land application for donation of Farmland Conservation Easements**

Staff handed out maps of the proposed property to be donated by Thomas and Margaret Burlingham. Staff indicated that the property is all prime farmland and only one prime lot would be permitted by the Jefferson County Zoning Ordinance. Molinaro stated that this item will be put on next months agenda due to the fact that Holterman was absent.

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

**10. Review Draft Agenda for Public Forum**

## **11. Review Draft Power Point Presentation about PACE**

The Commission reviewed sections 1-3 with the possibility of 40 points for Section 1 and 30 points for Sections 1-2. Grabow handed out Professor Kurt Paulsen's e-mail on his comments and suggestions of the criteria. Commission reviewed and discussed Section 1 and Section 2 of Paulsen comments. Molinaro stated that Paulsen's comments may be taken in account with all the other public comments and will not make a decision today on this. Grabow stated that Paulsen is willing to follow-up on the Commission changes. Molinaro stated that 4 and 5, was something the Commission already discussed. Nass's comment's on Paulsen number 6 is that lands designed in the Glacial Heritage Areas should get more points. Burlingham stated that the Commission may want to change 3a to say State designated projects, which would include GHA, County Parks, etc so that would include not just the Glacial Heritage areas but other potential State and County projects. Under section 4 of the Commission criteria to add other sources of funding such as State and Town. Discussion on Paulsen's number 7 historical landscapes. Welsh explains there isn't a value you can put on scenic values. Scenic for one person means something else to another. Burlingham also stated that centry farms are not protected from being split up. Discussion ended on Paulsen's comments and moved to the public forum.

Molinaro asked if the proposed points be removed for the public forums. After discussion between the Commission, it was agreed that the points would be removed. The Commission wants comments from the public on the criteria in general at this time. Molinaro will start the meeting with welcoming comments. Welsh will present a powerpoint presentation and explain that it is a voluntary program. Nass will ask Supervisor Greg David to film the presentation. Staff will audio tape the presentation. The Commission discussed different outlets to post the flyer to announce the public forums. Welsh stated we need speakers for Jefferson and Waterloo. Holterman will present the proposed criteria to the audience. Nass will not be available but Tom Lyons and Dan Paulson will be available. Welsh went over the power point with the Commission and will make some modifications as directed by the Commission.

## **12. Discuss Interm Zoning Administrator's E-mail and Pace Program through State**

Molinaro, Schmeling and Nass were at the Planning and Zoning Committee meeting to discuss the Working Lands/Farmland Preservation program. The Planning and Zoning Committee requested an extension to Jefferson County certification. We would continue to work with DATCP to fix the problems with the law and work at a reasonable pace to amend our plan, if necessary.

## **13. Suggestions for Next Meeting**

Reflect how the first public meeting went, put Burlingham's request on the agenda and continue to talk about criteria.

## **14. Future Meeting Dates**

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

## **15. Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:21 p.m. was made by Nass, seconded by Burlingham. Motion carried on a voice vote with no objection.