

Farmland Conservation Easement Commission

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

Monday, September 14, 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 12:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Commission members present included Molinaro, Nass, Holterman, Schmeling, and Burlingham. 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 Holterman, seconded by Burlingham to approve the August 10, 2009 minutes.
Motion carried on a voice vote with no objection.

6. Public Comment

None

7. Correspondence

- a) DATCP Working Land Training Session September 2009 – Burlingham has indicated she could attend but the other commission members could not.

8. Possible land application for donation of Farmland Conservation Easements

Thomas and Margaret Burlingham have withdrawn their application. No other applications submitted.

9. Discussion, Comments and Review of August 31, 2009 Public Forum

- a. **Discuss changes in PACE Criteria**
- b. **Discussion of Conservation Easements covering small portions of the farm**
- c. **Discuss Federal and State Programs rank applications that protect only small land areas**

There was a question about timeline. Molinaro stated that we want to take applications by the end of the year. Welsh stated the format went well.

Schmeling arrived at 12:12 pm

Questions came up at the forum about the purchase of conservation easements for part of the farm. Nass stated that the finding of fact will tell the number of splits available. Staff indicated that there are other factors that may lessen the amount of splits such as driveway access approvals, Town land use plans, 20% slopes, soil limitations, etc. She stated to really know the number of splits available, you need to go through the rezoning process. Nass stated we can just check with the towns on how many lots they allow. Discussion between the Commission on notifying the towns on proposed easements to purchase. Welsh stated that the Federal Programs requirements for conservation easement require the easement to be on the entire farm. There was a question at the forum about if woods will be protected. Welsh recommend that the Commission focus on the farm criteria. The Commission stated that they need to stretch the money as far as we can.

Welsh will bring all the comments together from all three forums. Molinaro stated we hope to approve the criteria at the October meeting so we can get applications as soon as possible. The Commission discussed notifying the public about the application process by publishing another press release, LCWD newsletter, Farm Bureau newsletter and the web page.

10. Suggestions for Next Meeting

Finish the criteria, application process with return date, press release.

11. 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 --- Burlingham will not be able to make the October 12 meeting.

12. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:37 p.m. was made by Holterman, seconded by Nass.
Motion carried on a voice vote with no objection.