

## Minutes of the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission

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

Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012 12:30 p.m

Members: Margaret Burlingham (Chairperson), Amy Rinard (Vice-Chairperson), Mariah Hadler (Secretary), Steve Nass and Blane Poulson.

1. Call to Order  
The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Burlingham at 12:32 p.m.
2. Roll Call  
Commission members present included Burlingham, Nass, Rinard, John Molinaro (ex-officio), Poulson and Hadler. County staff present was Michelle Staff.
3. Certification of Compliance With Open Meetings Law Requirements  
Burlingham and Staff verified that the meeting was being held in compliance with open meetings law requirements.
4. Review of Agenda  
No changes to agenda.
5. Public Comment  
None
6. Review & Approval of the February 13, 2012 minutes  
**Motion** made by Hadler, seconded by Rinard to approve the February 13, 2012 minutes. **Motion** carried on a voice vote with no objection.
7. Communications  
Staff handed out to the Committee a report from the Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection on the Farmland Preservation Program called the "Biennial Farmland Preservation Program Report 2010-2011."
8. NRCS/Federal update on Conservation Easements  
Burlingham and Molinaro have been in contact with federal representatives to ask them to extend the enhanced tax credits for donation of conservation easements. The bill has many co-sponsors that are Wisconsin representatives.
9. Discussion and action on forwarding the Timothy Hunn donated easement resolution to County Board.  
The Commission discussed acting on a resolution at the April meeting and sending the resolution on to County Board in May. Burlingham is going to contact Mr. Hunn to explain his next steps in the process such as appraisals, easement language, legal counsel, etc.
10. Discussion and possible action on 2011 PACE applications  
Dale Neupert, Jeffrey & Monica Gerner and Greg Wilke.

Staff gave a copy of the letter submitted by the Town of Oakland in regard to the Gerners' property and number of splits that were available according to the Town. The Commission discussed whether they would continue with the process for Gerners. It was explained that the federal grant application would be late (deadline April 1) and late applications will be considered if additional grant monies were available. The Commission asked Mr. Gerner if he still would like to proceed, realizing that the application would be late and not guaranteed to be funded. Gerner indicated he would like to proceed with the easement.

11. Discuss with Mark Watkins (Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department) about Baseline Reports and Monitoring of Conservation Easements  
Watkins was present and indicated to the Commission that his department would be willing to do the baseline reports for the three proposed easements. In addition, the Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department will be monitoring all farmland conservation easements that the County currently holds.
12. Revise the Commission's Overall Strategy/Work Plan for 2012 and 2013  
Burlingham has indicated that for the next meeting the Commission will be reviewing the application and criteria for easements and will update as needed.
13. Update on Agricultural Enterprise Zones  
No report.
14. Discussion and possible action on proposed brochures  
Hadler passed out a draft brochure for the Commission to review. There was discussion on the content and layout of the brochures. Kathy Hart from Central Duplicating was present to advise the Commission on costs of the brochure. Hart indicated that printing a color brochure would cost 21 cents a copy and 11 cents for black and white. The Commission determined that they should print 100 copies at a time as demand warrants more copies.
15. Discuss involvement of Farmland Commission Advisory Committee  
The Commission would like the Advisory Committee to get more involved by attending fairs, dairy breakfasts and other agricultural events to promote the Commission.
16. Future Meeting Dates  
There was no objection to the meeting dates.
17. Suggestions for the Next Agenda  
Burlingham suggested discussion of the brochures, Hunn easement and review of the application.
18. Adjourn  
**Motion** by Poulson, seconded by Nass, to adjourn the meeting at 1:25 p.m. **Motion** carried on a voice vote with no objection.

Minutes by Michelle Staff, Zoning Technician, Jefferson County Planning and Zoning Department

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Secretary Signature

Date