

Land & Water Conservation Committee (LWCC)

Minutes

March 21, 2012

1. Call to order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Mike Burow at 8:32 a.m. Committee members Walt Christensen and Ed Morse were present. Scott Zimmerman arrived at 8:34 a.m. County Board Chairman John Molinaro was also present. Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Beth Klotz, LWCD; Dennis Vollmer, NRCS; Karyn Spory, Daily Union were also in attendance.

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 March agenda:

The March agenda was reviewed by the committee members.

5. Review and approval of the February meeting minutes:

Christensen made a motion to approve the February meeting minutes as written, Morse seconded. Motion carried, 3/0.

6. Communications:

There were no communications at this time.

7. Citizens comments:

There were no citizen comments.

8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) report:

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

9. Discussion and possible action on highway facility study:

Watkins reported that Bray and Associates are working on the proposal. On Friday the county administrator will be meeting with a landowner on County A to discuss the price of their property, which could be a potential site of the highway facility. Molinaro said the City of Jefferson will be stating during public comment at an upcoming county board meeting what they would like the county to do.

10. Discussion and possible action on information land values study:

The landowner on County A is asking \$9,000,000.00 for his property at this time.

11. 2001-2011 History of the County Farm budget

A spreadsheet was distributed to the LWCC depicting the 2001-2011 history of the County Farm budget. See attached. Watkins stated that a total of \$863,659 in rental income has been generated by the county since 2001. The major expenses for the county farm have been repairing drain tiles. The State Historical Society designated Potter's Field is located on the County Farm and is maintained with dignity.

12. Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) staffing grant update:

Watkins stated that there will be a \$14,000 - \$16,000 shortfall in the staffing grant for 2012. He is hoping to negate this with additional TSP work for NRCS and other avenues of funding.

13. 2012 Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) dues

A letter and invoice for the 2012 WLWCA dues were distributed to the LWCC. See attached. \$1603.13 is the invoiced amount. \$1400 has been budgeted for the WLWCA annual dues in 2012. WLWCA and the Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees (WALCE) have voted to merge. Membership fee requirements for the new WLWCA have not yet been determined.

Burow moved and Morse seconded to approve payment of \$1603.13 for the 2012 WLWCA membership dues. Motion carried, 4/0.

14. Notice of Non-compliance with Soil and Water Conservation Requirements – Farmland Preservation Program (FPP)

James Saxby; and Alton and Jerome Keck requested to be removed from the Farmland Preservation Program.

Christensen moved and Zimmerman seconded to remove James Saxby; and Alton and Jerome Keck from the Farmland Preservation Program. Motion carried, 4 /0.

15. Cancellation of Notice of Non-compliance with Soil and Water Conservation Requirements – Farmland Preservation Program (FPP)

Richard and Karen Nelson Trust, Fort Atkinson, have requested cancellation of their Notice of Non-compliance with Soil and Water Conservation Requirements.

Christensen moved and Burow seconded to cancel Richard and Karen Nelson Trust's Notice of Non-compliance with Soil and Water Conservation Requirements. Motion carried, 4/0.

16. Monthly Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) financial report:

The books for 2011 have closed. The LWCD has not received revenue and expenditure sheets from the finance department for 2012. The department is on target for expenses and revenues at this time.

17. Set next meeting and possible agenda items:

It was decided by the members that the next scheduled meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Committee will be held on Wednesday, April 18, 2012 at 8:30 in Room 202. Possible agenda items include: Monthly financial report, discussion and possible action on proposed highway facility study, and discussion and possible action on information regarding land values.

18. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Christensen and seconded by Zimmerman at 9:18 a.m. Motion carried, 4/0.