



Minutes of the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission Meeting

**Jefferson County Courthouse, Room 203
320 S. Main St.
Jefferson, WI 53549**

Monday, January 14, 2013 12:30 pm

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 Vice-Chairperson Rinard at 12:34 pm.
2. Roll Call
Commission members present included Hadler, Rinard, John Molinaro (ex-officio), Nass and Poulson. Member absent was Burlingham. County staff present was Michelle Staff (Zoning Department), Phil Ristow (Corporation Counsel), Heidi Johnson (UW-Extension Agriculture Agent) and Gerry Kokkonen (Land and Water Conservation Department).
3. Certification of Compliance With Open Meetings Law Requirements
Rinard and Staff verified that the meeting was being held in compliance with open meetings law requirements.
4. Review of Agenda
No changes to the agenda.
5. Public Comment
No public comment.
6. Communications
No communications.
7. Review & Approval of the December 10, 2012 minutes
Motion made by Poulson, seconded by Nass to approve the December 10, 2012 minutes. **Motion** carried on a voice vote with no objection.
8. Discussion on interest forms received for the PACE program
 - a. Roger Lehmann
Lehman is on the Town of Oakland Board meeting agenda tonight to determine the number of available splits on the property. When he has a letter from the Town of Oakland verifying the number of lots available, the Commission will discuss it further.
 - b. Clifford Haberman
Haberman has submitted an application for the purchase of agricultural easements but has not submitted the application fee due to the fact it is unclear if there will be any monies available for the purchase.
9. Discussion and Possible Action on 2011 PACE Applications

Dale Neupert, Gerner and Greg Wilke.

Ristow has contact Neupert regarding closing on the easement in 2013. All of the paperwork has been updated by Ristow for this year and the Commission awaits NRCS approval of the easement language before they can close on the easements.

No new update on the Wilke easement; they still have to correct the barnyard runoff problems before the easement can be purchased.

Staff indicated that Burlingham has called Gerner but Gerner has not returned her call to confirm whether or not he wants to participate in the program. If Gerner does not want to participate, the monies for his project will be allocated to another easement.

10. Discussion and Action on forwarding a resolution to County Board for acceptance of donation for farmland preservation.
Ristow passed out a draft resolution for the donation that the Commission received. Nass indicated that the donor would like to remain anonymous. Ristow will change the resolution to indicate that it was an anonymous donation.
Motion made by Nass, seconded by Poulson, to forward the resolution to the County Board with the change to the resolution to reflect the anonymous donor.
Motion passed on a voice vote with no objection. The resolution will be on the February 12, 2013 County Board meeting.
11. Discussion on Possible Funding Source for the PACE Program
Rinard indicated that nothing has changed from other discussions. Nass indicated that this may be discussed more with item 13.
12. Discussion on 2013 PACE Application
It was discussed that at any time the County is accepting applications and at any time landowners may donate.
13. Discussion on January 29, 2013 Workshop Scheduled
The Commission will be meeting with the farmland advisory committee on that night and other persons who have expressed interest have been invited. Nass and Hadler reported that they have contacted a couple of landowners regarding the proposed event and they have indicated that when there are more details they may want to participate; they also had received invitations.
14. Future Meeting Dates
All meeting dates were acceptable to the Commission.
15. Suggestions for the Next Agenda
Lea indicated that he would like to donate an easement on his recently purchased farm. Staff indicated that there were no residential building lots available on that farm and Lea indicated that he was aware of that but would just like to donate an easement to the County. Rinard asked that it be placed on the Commission's next agenda for future discussion.
16. Adjourn
Motion by Nass, seconded by Poulson to adjourn the meeting at 1:05 p.m. **Motion** carried on a voice vote with no objection.

Secretary Signature

Date

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