



Farmland Conservation Easement Commission Agenda

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

Monday, December 9, 2013 12:30 pm

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

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Certification of Compliance With Open Meetings Law Requirement
4. Review of Agenda
5. Public Comment
6. Communications
7. Review & Approval of the October 14, 2013 meeting minutes
8. Discussion on interest forms received for the PACE program
 Roger Lehman – Town of Oakland
9. Discussion and possible action on 2011 PACE applications
 - a. Dale Neupert, Town of Waterloo
 - b. Greg Wilke, Town of Waterloo
10. Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Report on Baseline Documentation for Easements.
11. Discussion on future events that the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission would like to participate in.
12. Future Meeting Dates
 - a. January 13, 2014 at 12:30 pm in Room 203
 - b. February 10, 2013 at 12:30 pm in Room 203
13. Suggestions for the Next Agenda

14. Adjourn

***The Commission may discuss and/or take action on any item specifically listed on the agenda. Individuals requiring special accommodations for attendance at the meeting should contact the County Administrator at 920-674-7101 24 hours prior to the meeting so appropriate arrangements can be made.



Minutes of the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission Meeting

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

Monday, October 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 Chairperson Burlingham at 12:30 pm.
2. Roll Call
Commission members present included Poulson, Burlingham, Nass, John Molinaro (ex-officio) and Rinard. Hadler was absent. County staff present was Gerry Kokkonen (Land and Water Conservation) and Michelle Staff (Zoning Department).
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 were proposed to the agenda.
5. Public Comment
Burlingham was present at the Gathering Waters award ceremony honoring Thomas Lyon on September 26th and she passed around photos of the event.
6. Communications
Burlingham passed around the 2012 annual report of the Lancaster Farmland Trust from Pennsylvania. In addition, Burlingham has another newsletter from the Natural Heritage Land Trust. Staff will scan and e-mail materials to the Commission.

Bill Berry from the American Farmland Trust has asked Burlingham to be present at his meeting with DATCP Secretary Brancel to discuss the easement program and AEAs. Others present will be Gathering Waters and Tom Lyon. Burlingham will report back to the Commission on the outcome at the next meeting.
7. Review & Approval of the September 9th, 2013 Minutes
Motion made by Nass, seconded by Rinard to approve the September 9th minutes. **Motion** carried on a voice vote with no objection.
8. Discussion with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on possible funding sources for easements
Burlingham contacted DNR several weeks back about the Roger Lehmann property and terms of the DNR easements with the Natural Glacial Heritage program. They didn't give Burlingham the answers she was looking for so Burlingham contacted Pam Foster Felt, DNR NR Financial Assistance Specialist, who stated that the DNR would require public access to any

easement. Foster Felt stated that there are ten grant programs and none are specifically for agricultural land protection. In addition, any of the grant monies given by the DNR must be used in the same year that the grant award was given. This would be a concern for the Commission because NRCS takes over a year to close on an easement. It doesn't seem feasible at this time to use any DNR monies for agricultural easements.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on 2011 PACE Applications

Burlingham reported that the Federal Government is shut down at this time and until they reopen, the easement is on hold.

Wilke's easement is still waiting for the sediment basin to be constructed before any additional paperwork is completed.

10. Jefferson County LWCD update on Baseline Documentation for easements

Kokkonen inspected Lea's farm for compliance of the conservation easement. NRCS requested a copy of this inspection. Kokkonen stated he hasn't completed Wilke's baseline because he would prefer to do the baseline report when it is closer to the closing. Neupert's baseline is complete and Kokkonen has given Neupert a copy.

11. Recap and discussion of the farmers' market events and the event at the Lea farm

Burlingham stated that she took some photos at the Lea's farm event. She will be sending an article thanking the sponsors with photos of the event attached. It was estimated that there were about 100 or more people during the 3 hours. Rinard stated the food and ice cream was very good. The band made the event "festive." The wagon rides were full every time they went out. It was noted that the farmers' market booth was a lot of work. There was a brief discussion on the positives of the farmers' markets. It was noted there may be other events in which the Commission could participate such as Oktoberfest in Lake Mills or the fourth grade farm tour sponsored by the Agri-Business Club instead of all the farmers' markets. There was discussion on all different types of agriculturally related events in the county. Burlingham will contact the Land Trust from Lancaster County and find out what types of events they do.

Burlingham stated that in January the Commission will start planning for 2014 and what the Commission will be accomplishing for the year.

12. Future Meeting Dates

Molinario stated that since the federal government is closed down we may not need to meet in November. Burlingham will determine closer to the meeting date if she will cancel the November meeting.

13. Suggestions for the Next Agenda

None

14. Adjourn

Motion by Nass, seconded by Rinard, to adjourn the meeting at 1:10 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