

Land & Water Conservation Committee
Minutes
January 21, 2009

1. Call to order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Committee Chairperson, Michael Burow at 8:32 a.m. Committee members Carlton Zentner, George Jaeckel and Greg Torres were present. Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department; Beth Klotz, Administrative Clerk; Patricia Cicero, Water Resource Management Specialist and Brian Resch, NRCS were also in attendance. Phil Ristow, Corporation Counsel and Joe Nehmer, Parks Director arrived later.

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 meeting law.

4. Review of the January Agenda:

The January agenda was reviewed by the committee members.

5. Citizen Comments:

There were no citizen comments. Mark Watkins introduced Beth Klotz as the new Land & Water Conservation Department's part-time Administrative Clerk.

6. Review and Approval of the December Meeting Minutes:

A correction was made to the December meeting minutes. For the adjournment section it should read, Torres moved and Zentner seconded to adjourn.

Zentner made a motion to approve the December meeting minutes as corrected. Torres seconded. Motion carried.

7. DNR Grant Application for Lower Spring Lake Plant Management Plan

Patricia Cicero distributed information regarding a grant application to update the Lower Spring Lake Aquatic Plant Management Plan. See attached. The project activities would involve performing an aquatic plant survey and data analysis, analyzing water quality data, assisting in determining a long term strategy for aquatic plant management, obtaining citizen input and writing an update to the aquatic plant management plan. The total budget for the project is \$4,655. Included in this budget is \$612 to be applied to a student intern's wages. The county's required grant match would be provided in staff time.

Burow moved and Jaeckel seconded to send a resolution authorizing grant application for Lower Spring Lake to the County Board. Motion carried 3/1. Zentner opposing.

8. NRCS Report (Natural Resources Conservation Service) – Brian Resch:

Mr. Resch discussed the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) report. A hand-out was provided. See attached report.

9. 2009 Staffing Allocation & Cost Share Program:

Watkins distributed the 2009 Final Allocations of DATCP Funding worksheet. Due to the current budget situations, he is anticipating a 10% cut in the Cost-Sharing SEG portion of the LWRM Plan Implementation portion of the allocation. This would result in a decrease of \$8,400. Watkins is accepting applications for cost share program projects but is not signing contracts until the budget is finalized.

10. WLWCA Intern Scholarship Program:

Watkins stated that Gary Petre, County Administrator, supports the hiring of a student intern if it is entirely funded by outside sources. An application has been submitted for the Conservation on the Land Internship Program. If the grant is awarded, the department will receive \$2000 to be put toward the intern's wages. The required county matching funds would be provided by the \$612 awarded through the DNR Lower Spring Lake Plant Management Plan grant discussed in item 7 of this agenda. The intern will only be hired if both grants are awarded.

11. Gypsy Moth Suppression Program:

A public hearing will be held on February 12, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. at UW-Extension regarding the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program. The Statewide Coordinator will present information at the hearing. The targeted area for the program is 36 acres in Oakland Township. This may be expanded to 50 acres. A public notice regarding the hearing will be in the paper on February 5, 2009.

12. Potential Sale of Gravel:

An aerial photo was distributed to the committee showing two areas on the county farm in which gravel could be mined and sold for the upcoming Highway 26 road construction project. One area is annexed to the City of Jefferson so they would have input regarding the potential sale of the gravel. It was suggested that the Committee request proposals regarding the gravel removal and sale project. There were some concerns expressed regarding the removal of portions of the glacial drumlins, which could never be replaced creating a short term gain with a long term loss. A restriction could be put on the short term project that the land be reclaimed as soon as possible, potentially into farmland.

Jaeckel moved and Torres seconded to request proposals regarding the sale of the gravel from the two areas on the county farm depicted on the aerial photo. Motion carried.

Ristow will put the paperwork together for this request for proposals.

Distribution of 2007 State Conservation Program Report:

Watkins distributed the 2007 State Conservation Program Report to the committee. This report shows how the program funds were used.

13. Correspondence:

There was no correspondence at this time.

14. Set next meeting and possible agenda items:

It was decided by the members that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Committee will be held on Wednesday, February 25, 2009, at 8:30 in Room 202. Possible agenda items include: Potential sale of timber from County properties, proposals regarding the potential sale of gravel, and a report on the Rome Pond Grant money.

15. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Zentner and seconded by Jaeckel at 10:08 a.m. Motion carried.