

Land & Water Conservation Committee
Minutes
December 16, 2009

1. Call to order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Mike Burow at 8:32 a.m. Committee members Greg Torres, George Jaeckel, and Karen Christian were present. Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Beth Klotz, LWCD; Nancy Lannert, LWCD; and Josh Odekirk, NRCS were also in attendance. Carlton Zentner arrived at 9:03 a.m.

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 December Agenda:

The December agenda was reviewed by the committee members.

5. Citizen Comments:

There were no citizen comments.

6. Review and Approval of the November Meeting Minutes:

Torres made a motion to approve the November meeting minutes as written, Jaeckel seconded. Motion carried, 4/0.

7. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

Odekirk stated that on January 4, 2010, Dennis Vollmer will begin his position as the NRCS District Conservationist. They have also been approved to hire a full time technician for the Jefferson office.

8. Review Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) Certification Form

Lannert stated that the department will be utilizing certification forms on 8 x 11 paper rather than postcards. This change was made due to the implementation of the \$5.00 certification fee that begins in 2010. See attached form, which was reviewed at the meeting. It was suggested that (Owner or Operator) be inserted below the statement "Please answer the following questions:"

9. Review 2009 Tax Information Letter

The Tax Information Letter will be sent with the FPP Certification Forms. This letter is a cooperative effort between the Zoning Department and LWCD. The letter, see attached, was reviewed by the Committee at the meeting.

10. Discussion regarding January LWCC Meeting

Due to the fact that the County Board will not be meeting in January, it was decided that the LWCC will not meet in January unless an important timely action item arises. If this would occur, Burow and Watkins will confer and set up the meeting.

Burow moved and Torres seconded to not hold the January 2010 Land and Water Conservation Committee meeting unless something important comes up. Motion carried, 4/0.

11. Approve 2009 DATCP Contract Carry Over

Due to various factors, extensions of nine Land and Water Resource Management projects need to be requested from DATCP. See attached form.

Torres moved and Christian seconded to approve the extension requests of the 2009 Soil & Water Resource Management Grant projects. Motion carried, 4/0.

12. County Farm Cropland Access Update

Due to the construction of the by-pass, access issues have arisen on the county farm. Watkins will be meeting with Mark Vesperman, DOT, to discuss options. Watkins will share the results of this meeting with the committee at the February LWCC meeting.

13. Monthly Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) Financial Report

The Department is on target with revenues and expenditures. Watkins has requested a carry forward of maintenance funds to complete the Quonset hut and gravelling of the low area of the potter's field access lane.

14. Correspondence:

Watkins distributed a letter from Winner, Wixson & Pernitz (see attached) requesting access to open records pertaining to the W.D. Hoard & Sons Company's project.

There is a Land and Water Resource Management Plan meeting being held at the courthouse this Friday. All committee members are invited to attend and/or provide input regarding the plan.

15. 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 17, 2010 at 8:30 in Room 202. Possible agenda items include: Monthly financial report and County Farm Cropland Access Update.

16. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Torres and seconded by Jaeckel at 9:24 a.m. Motion carried, 5/0.