

Land & Water Conservation Committee
Minutes
February 25, 2009

1. Call to order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Committee Co-Chairperson, Greg Torres at 8:33 a.m. Committee members Carlton Zentner, George Jaeckel and Karen Christian were present. Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department; Beth Klotz, Administrative Clerk; Patricia Cicero, Water Resource Management Specialist; Brian Resch, NRCS; Randy Stampfl, DNR; Dave Terrel, Animal Damage Claims; Greg David; and Joe Nehmer 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 February Agenda:

The February agenda was reviewed by the committee members.

5. Citizen Comments:

There were no citizen comments.

6. Review and Approval of the January Meeting Minutes:

Jaeckel made a motion to approve the January meeting minutes as written. Christian seconded. Motion carried.

7. Animal Damage Claims – Dave Terrel

Dave Terrel gave a brief overview of the Wildlife Damage Abatement Program. He distributed copies of the Jefferson County Wildlife Damage Program 2008 Claim Summary to meeting attendees. The only claim in Jefferson County was made by Carl Weider with a payable loss of \$2,563.79.

Zentner moved and Jaeckel seconded to approve Carl Weider's claim for \$2,563.79 and to submit a harvest waiver exemption. Motion carried.

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

Mr. Resch discussed the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) report. He also informed the group of the EQIP FY09 Limited Resource Farmer Qualifications. Hand-outs were provided. See attached reports.

9. Discussion and possible decision on harvesting trees on County owned property

Handouts were distributed. Jefferson County owns 388.51 acres of woodlands. Actively managing these woodlands, including harvesting trees, is being looked at by the Parks Department. Stampfl, DNR Forester, stated that the DNR could assist by doing inventories, offering recommendations, creating management plans, and offering the benefits of the community forest program. Actively managed forests can manage competition, take out the worst trees and leave the best, create a healthier stand, encourage natural regeneration, and diversify the species. It was suggested that a tour be taken of Dane County's actively managed forests.

Jaeckel moved and Torres seconded to move this issue of forest management forward and work cooperatively with the Jefferson County Parks Department. Motion failed, 2/2, Zentner and Christian opposing.

10. Consider RFPs for gravel/borrow from County property on Hwy W

Phil Ristow, Corporation Counsel, was unable to attend today's meeting. Watkins stated that Ristow informed him that only one person has contacted him to do a couple corings. The contractor bids are not due to the State until June for the bypass project. This item will be placed on the next LWCC meeting agenda.

Joe Nehmer informed the group that public input during planning processes has shown the majority of the public desires to emphasize preservation and protect the aesthetic quality of the land.

11. Report on Rome Pond, Hope and Mud Lake Projects

Patricia Cicero gave reports on the Rome Pond, Hope and Mud Lake Projects. Handouts were distributed. These projects are funded by DNR grants. The Rome Pond Project is about halfway done. Tasks to be completed: Map Development, Public Meeting on Management, Training for Volunteer Monitors and Management Plan. An extension was granted for the Mud and Hope Lakes Project due to the extra staff time expended on the Hoards Dairyman Farm issue. Tasks to be completed: Public Meeting, WILMS model to estimate pollutant loading and Management Plan.

12. Status update on Gypsy Moth Project

Watkins stated that a public hearing was held on February 12, 2009. Carlton Zentner, Jim Mode, Mark Watkins, Mark Guthmiller and an entrepreneur seeking the spraying contract attended the hearing. The spraying is planned to take place in April. Watkins and Joe Strupp will attend as spotters. 36 acres, located in the Oakland Trailer Court, will be sprayed.

13. Correspondence:

Watkins stated that the State grant allocation for the LWCD will be as follows: Staffing - \$148,000; LWRM plan - \$25,000; NMP - \$30,000.

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, March 18, 2009, at 8:30 in Room 202. Possible agenda items include: Report on Ash tree die-off and bio-mass option, update on gravel/borrow from County property on Hwy W, management of forest report if needed.

15. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Christian and seconded by Jaeckel at 10:14 a.m. Motion carried.