

Land & Water Conservation Committee
Minutes
April 21, 2009

1. Call to order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Committee Chairperson, Mike Burow at 8:31 a.m. Committee members Greg Torres, Carlton Zentner, George Jaeckel and Karen Christian were present. Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department; Beth Klotz, Administrative Clerk; Phil Ristow, Corporation Counsel were also in attendance. Craig Ficenec, Town & Country RC&D arrived at 8:36 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 April Agenda:

The April agenda was reviewed by the committee members.

5. Citizen Comments:

There were no citizen comments.

6. Review and Approval of the March Meeting Minutes:

Christian made a motion to approve the March meeting minutes as written. Jaeckel seconded. Motion carried, 5/0.

7. Update on Town & Country RC&D – Craig Ficenec

Ficenec gave an overview of the Town & Country RC&D. It is a non-profit organization that has support from the NRCS. The Town & Country RC&D is comprised of 13 counties from the southeast corner of Wisconsin. Projects of the RC&D include the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, assistance with the Farm Fresh Atlas, finding ways to offset costs associated with the Emerald Ash Borer and exploring growing bio-mass crops. Jefferson County contributes \$100 per year in membership dues to the RC&D. Ficenec encourages participation from Jefferson County in the Town & Country RC&D, headquartered in Jefferson County.

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

Mr. Resch, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) was unable to attend the meeting but sent a report. See attached report.

Burow moved and Zentner seconded to put the submitted NRCS report into the record. Motion carried, 5/0.

9. Lease Reassignment for the County Farm

It was stated that the B&O Farms, which was currently leasing the County Farm, is going out of business. The farm manager, Jeff Gerner, a member of the B&O Farms and has been doing the work on the farm for many years, would like to take over the lease. Gerner has already paid the rent.

Zentner moved and Jaeckel seconded to forward a resolution to County Board authorizing the assignment of the County Farm lease to Jeff Gerner. Motion carried, 5/0.

10. Proposal to Develop a Forestry Management Plan on County Lands

Burow requested that the proposal to develop a Forestry Management Plan on county lands issue be revisited by the LWCC. Discussion ensued regarding potential benefits and also costs of a plan.

Burow moved and Torres seconded to work cooperatively with the forestry section of the DNR and the Jefferson County Parks Department to develop a Forestry Management Plan on county lands. Jaeckel proposed an amendment to the motion to: Hire someone at an open bid price that would result in a positive net cost for the plan. He subsequently withdrew his amendment. The motion, as was originally made, carried, 4/1.

11. Consider RFPs for Gravel/Borrow from County Property on Hwy W

The county will have to obtain permission from the city for any gravel/borrow activity on the County Farm that is within the city. A conditional use permit has been submitted to the City of Jefferson. The DOT does not have to follow the Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation Program through the county because they have their own reclamation requirements.

12. Gypsy Moth Aerial Suppression Program Update

The final bill for the spraying has been submitted in the amount of \$ 1,169.64. This money will be reimbursed to the county by the people who are receiving the gypsy moth suppression application. Staff members of the LWCD have completed the aerial spraying spotter training. The application will take place at approximately 4:30 in the morning. Trained spotters will be attending to watch the drift of the product. The application date has yet to be determined.

13. AB 75 – Proposed Working Lands Initiative (Farmland Preservation Program)

Handouts were distributed that gave a brief synopsis of the program. Jefferson County is #3 in the state for participation in the Farmland Preservation Program. The major change which would result from AB 75 is that the county would be able to obtain reimbursement for credit given on property that is removed from the Farmland Preservation Program.

14. Resolutions

A. Authorizing County Administrator to Negotiate Fill Contracts

It was discussed that if the County Administrator had the authorization to negotiate the fill contracts progress could be made more quickly. Discussion occurred regarding the pros and cons of selling the fill.

Burow moved and Torres seconded forward a resolution to County Board to authorize the County Administrator to negotiate fill contracts. A roll call vote was taken. Burow – yes; Torres – yes; Jaeckel – yes; Zentner – no; Christian – yes. Motion carried, 4/1.

B. Authorizing Assignment of Farm Lease

This was addressed in item #9.

15. Cancellation of Non-Compliance Farmland Preservation

Eva Diestelmann failed to return her certification card by the deadline and was removed from the program. She has requested reinstatement to the Farmland Preservation Program.

Zentner moved and Christian seconded to accept the cancellation of non-compliance in the Farmland Preservation Program for Eva Diestelmann. Motion carried, 5/0.

16. Correspondence:

None

17. 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, May 20, 2009, at 8:30 in Room 202. Possible agenda items include: First quarter financial review; Deer donation program; Fill contract.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Jaeckel and seconded by Torres at 9:58 a.m. Motion carried.