

Land & Water Conservation Committee
Minutes
September 16, 2009

1. Call to order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Committee Chairperson, Mike Burow at 8:30 a.m. Committee members Greg Torres, George Jaeckel, Carlton Zentner and Karen Christian were present. Brian Resch, NRCS; Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); and Beth Klotz, LWCD 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 September Agenda:

The September agenda was reviewed by the committee members.

5. Citizen Comments:

There were no citizen comments.

6. Review and Approval of the August Meeting Minutes:

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

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

Resch discussed the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) report. See attached. Most of the CRP is not eligible for reenrollment due to woody vegetation and weed pressure.

Resch's replacement should begin within about 6-8 weeks of his departure. Watkins, on behalf of the department, and Burow, on behalf of the committee, thanked Resch for all his hard work.

8. NRCS – Contribution Agreement

Of the 25 plans reviewed by the department for reenrollment, only two are eligible. The LWCD will be reviewing four more areas to determine eligibility.

9. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Readiness Plan

Watkins informed the committee that the department could apply for a Wisconsin Urban Forestry Grant to prepare a readiness plan for Emerald Ash Borer. The plan would determine what containment measures would be recommended to the citizens of Jefferson County if the borer appeared in the area.

Jaeckel moved and Zentner seconded to not pursue the grant at this time, but to revisit the matter in the future if necessary. Motion carried, 5/0.

10. Root Cellar/Quonset Hut Update

The Jefferson County Parks Department has agreed to remove the trees from the Quonset hut in October or November at no cost to the LWCD. This will prepare the hut for razing.

11. Potter's Field Access Lane Gravel

A lower area, prone to flooding, in the Potter's Field access lane needs to be graveled to permit access for maintenance.

It was determined that maintenance funds from the 2009 budget will be requested for carry over and combined with the 2010 maintenance funds. These funds will be used for the Quonset hut project and gravel project which will be completed in 2010.

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

Copies of the latest Statement of Revenue & Expenditures for LWCD were distributed. See attached. The Department is on target with revenues and expenditures.

13. 2009/2010 Tree Seedling Sale Update

Watkins suggested that the rates be raised three dollars per bundle for this year's sale to \$25.00 per bundle of 25 trees. This is the first price increase in several years.

Zentner moved and Jaeckel seconded to approve the price increase for the trees. Motion carried, 5/0.

14. Land & Water Resource Management Plan Update Preparation

The Land & Water Resource Management Plan needs to be updated every five years, with a major update being made every ten years. It is time to perform the major update. Grant funding is tied to the plan. The department is in the process of doing this update and is forming a citizen's advisory committee. Committee members are welcome to be members of the advisory committee.

15. Correspondence:

See attached. Due to budget cuts in the DNR, Randy Stampfl will now cover all of Jefferson County. Mary Ann Kroehn Buenzow will no longer cover the southern half of the county. Watkins also informed the committee that the WLWCA convention will be held in La Crosse on December 9 & 10th.

16. 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 Tuesday, October 20, 2009, at 8:30 in Room 202. Possible agenda items include: Monthly financial report, NRCS Contribution Agreement, 2010 budget and Quonset hut.

17. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Torres and seconded by Jaeckel at 9:45 a.m. Motion carried, 5/0.