

# Land & Water Conservation Committee (LWCC)

## Minutes

June 16, 2010

**1. Call to order:**

The monthly meeting was called to order by Mike Burow at 8:32 a.m. Committee members Greg Torres, Walt Christensen, Carlton Zentner and Karen Christian were present. Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Beth Klotz, LWCD; Nancy Lannert, LWCD; John Molinaro, County Board Chairperson; and Dennis Vollmer, NRCS and two members of the public 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 June Agenda:**

The June agenda was reviewed by the committee members.

**5. Review and Approval of the May Meeting Minutes:**

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

**6. Citizens Comments:**

There were no citizen comments.

**7. Introduction of Student Intern – Janelle Dunley**

Watkins informed the committee that Janelle Dunley is the new Land and Water Conservation Department Intern. This position is grant funded.

**8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:**

Dennis Vollmer discussed the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) report. See attached. It was requested that the use of acronyms be eliminated on the reports.

**9. Public Inland Waters (33.28) Appointments to Lake Management Districts**

The Land and Water Conservation Committee is the committee that recommends people for the County Board to appoint to the Lake Management Districts. In the future, the review will run concurrent with the County Board election schedule.

Burow moved and Torres seconded to approve the current appointments to the Lake Management Districts. Motion carried, 5/0.

**10. Cancellation of Notice of Non-Compliance**

Neal Travis requested that his notice of non-compliance for the Farmland Preservation Program be cancelled. He is currently in compliance.

Zentner moved and Torres seconded to approve the cancellation of notice of non-compliance for Neal Travis. Motion carried, 5/0.

The committee would like to explore the possibility of charging late fees for the Farmland Preservation Program. This will be put on the July agenda.

## **11. Working Lands Initiative Discussion**

### **A. Steering Committee Report from Representative – Walt Christensen**

Christensen distributed a report from the Working Lands Initiative Steering Committee meeting. See attached. There are five main areas for consideration: Conditional use vs. a conversion fee, housing on small parcels, housing on prime soils, the approach to pre-existing residences, and the approach to zoning map amendments. Documents are available on-line on the Jefferson County Zoning Department's website. Town quadrant meetings will be held in July. It was requested that any suggestions for stakeholders be given to Rob Klotz or Michelle Staff of the Jefferson County Zoning Department.

### **B. Update on Program Preparations**

The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has offered to send informational letters to Farmland Preservation Program participants if a county chooses. Because of this a dedicated phone line has been established that will have a call tree, giving callers options to learn about the new program requirements. That number is 920-674-8776. A dedicated email address has been established as well for inquires. That email address is [workinglandsinfo@jeffersoncountywi.gov](mailto:workinglandsinfo@jeffersoncountywi.gov)

For status review and future monitoring for Working Lands Initiative, the county has been divided up into quadrants. Normal farm checks for 2010 have been conducted in the south east quadrant. The required checks were completed in about one third of the time it has taken in the past. About 25 to 50 fewer checks were done this year.

Complete compliance evaluations on 12 randomly selected landowners in the south east quadrant will be done. These evaluations will be done later this summer. Staff has been working to develop a check sheet for compliance.

## **12. County Farm Cropland Access Update**

Watkins informed the committee that the costs incurred for the four access points were \$3460.80. A reimbursement request has been submitted to the Department of Transportation (DOT).

The cost to raze the Quonset hut was \$2398.67. The funding for this project was covered by the 2009 and 2010 County Farm maintenance fund.

Watkins was made aware of the fact that there is a potential access issue occurring due to the J overpass. He will be meeting with a DOT representative today to discuss the issue and report back to the committee at the next meeting.

## **13. Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) Dues Update**

Julian Zelosky, WLWCA will be attending the July LWCC meeting to present information regarding the WLWCA dues.

## **14. Follow up Discussion and Possible Support of Outagamie Proposed Legislation and Resolution - Support Increase to the Taxpayer to Claim the Dairy Farm Modernization and Expansion Credit**

Assembly Bill 756 has passed the Joint Finance but has received no Senate action. This Bill would increase the tax credit for expanding the buildings/facilities of a dairy from \$50,000 to \$75,000.

Zentner moved and Christensen seconded to forward to County Board a resolution to support the increase to the taxpayer to claim the Dairy Farm Modernization and Expansion Credit. Motion carried, 3/2.

## **15. Land & Water Resource Management (LWRM) Draft Plan Review and Resolution Advance to County Board**

The final draft of the Land & Water Resource Management Plan was presented to the Land and Water Conservation Committee at the meeting. See attached.

Burow moved and Christensen seconded to accept the 2011-2021 Land and Water Resource Management Plan and advance it to the County Board. Motion carried, 4/1.

**16. 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, with the exception of the access points for the county farm. Reimbursement for these expenditures has been requested from DOT.

**17. Correspondence:**

The Southern Area Association summer tour will be held in Columbia County on July 28, 2010.

**18. 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, July 21, 2010 at 8:30 in Room 202. Possible agenda items include: Monthly financial report, farm access issue, WLWCA dues report.

**19. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Torres and seconded by Christensen at 10:17 a.m. Motion carried, 5/0.