

Land & Water Conservation Committee (LWCC)

Minutes

July 27, 2011

1. Call to order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Mike Burow at 8:34 a.m. Committee members Walt Christensen, Greg Torres, Carlton Zentner and Scott Zimmerman were also present. Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); and Beth Klotz, LWCD were also in attendance. Jan Roou arrived at 9:58 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 July agenda:

The July agenda was reviewed by the committee members.

5. Review and approval of the June 15, 2011 and June 30, 2011 meeting minutes:

Burow made a motion to approve the June 15, 2011 and June 30, 2011 meeting minutes as written, Zimmerman seconded. Motion carried, 5/0.

6. Citizens comments:

There were no citizen comments.

7. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) report:

Dennis Vollmer was unable to attend the meeting. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) report was distributed. See attached.

8. Update and review of most recent correspondence regarding the County Farm land use:

Christensen distributed a letter written by Anthony Peyer to the committee. See attached. The letter states that both prospective sites on the County Farm for the new Highway Department would be on the best soils and cropland. Building on these areas would also devalue any remaining cropland on the farm. He also pointed out that the County Farm can be a good example of mixed land use. He requests that the county continue to use the land as it is.

The LWCC will send a letter to Mr. Peyer thanking him for all his effort and support regarding this matter.

9. Discussion and possible action on proposed Highway Department location on the county farm:

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the proposed Highway Department location on the county farm. The LWCC attempted to put a value on the county farm land where there is a proposal to build a new highway shop facility. There needs to be a consideration for the value of the proposed building site, and the loss of future property taxes included in the cost of a new facility on County owned land. Burow presented a detailed analysis of the potential value of the site to the LWCC. See attached.

Zentner moved and Torres seconded that if it is decided by the Jefferson County board to build a new Jefferson County Highway department facility, the Jefferson County Land & Water Conservation committee, as stewards of the county farm land, recommends that it not be built on county owned land for the following reasons:

1. Premature loss of prime farmland.
2. Loss of department yearly non-tax levy income.

3. Loss of future income from sale of land and tax income from improvements, on what we consider the most valuable land that Jefferson County currently owns.

4. The proposed site(s) may create drainage issues on the remaining land, that could affect future rent income and expenses. NOTE: If the C1 or C2 sites are used, the new building will go right over the top of extensive field drain tiles. This will totally disrupt the existing system, and will need to be replaced. The addition of asphalt drives and parking lots, and extensive roofs will only add to an already wet area and create more drainage issues.

5. One of the reasons for not staying at the current site is that it is in a residential area. The new site will also be in a residential area and may affect the value of the remaining land.

6. Other sites, or the current site, are available.

7. Insufficient credible analysis of the Puerner and other existing industrial sites unfairly elevates the county farm site as the preferred site in the Barrientos report.

Motion carried, 5/0.

Torres moved and Zimmerman seconded to have an item be placed on the next County Board agenda in order to present a report which includes this motion and the information that was analyzed to create and substantiate the previous motion which was just passed. A letter will be sent within the next few days to all County Board members with this information also. Motion carried, 5/0.

10. Operational agreement between Jefferson County Wisconsin and the US Department of Agriculture NRCS

The five year operational agreement between Jefferson County Wisconsin and the US Department of Agriculture NRCS is ready for renewal. The main change in the agreement is that it now also needs to be signed by the chairperson and vice-chairperson on the county board.

Zimmerman moved and Torres seconded to approve the operational agreement between Jefferson County Wisconsin and the US Department of Agriculture NRCS. Motion carried, 5/0.

Watkins will consult with Corporation Counsel to find out if this needs to go before the entire County Board for approval.

11. NRCS contribution agreements authority for new grant

LWCC approval was requested that would delegate signatory authority to Mark Watkins, County Conservationist to sign all Contribution Agreements and payment reimbursement documents between Jefferson County and the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Torres moved and Christensen seconded to approve to delegate signatory authority to Mark Watkins, County Conservationist to sign all Contribution Agreements and payment reimbursement documents between Jefferson County and the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. Motion carried, 5/0.

12. Notice of Non-Compliance with the Soil and Water Conservation Requirements – Farmland Preservation Program (FPP)

Jean and John Reeb, Marian Ainsworth, Robert and Gail Zastrow and Ronald Griebenow request to be removed from the Farmland Preservation Program.

Zentner moved and Torres seconded to approve Jean and John Reeb, Marian Ainsworth, Robert and Gail Zastrow and Ronald Griebenow's Voluntary Notices of Non-participation which will allow them to be removed from the Farmland Preservation Program database. Motion carried, 5/0.

13. 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.

14. Correspondence:

Watkins presented a letter from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) notifying the LWCC of a delay in the 2012 joint allocation planning process. See attached.

Torres informed the LWCC that he has accepted a job in Madison. He will not be able to attend daytime meetings. He requested that the LWCC move their meetings to the evenings. The LWCC will look into the logistics of this matter.

15. Set next meeting and possible agenda items:

It was decided by the members that the next scheduled meetings of the Land & Water Conservation Committee will be held on Wednesday, August 17, 2011 at 8:30 in Room 202. Possible agenda items include: Monthly financial report

16. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Zentner and seconded by Zimmerman at 10:32 a.m. Motion carried, 5/0.