



Minutes of the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission Meeting

**Jefferson County Courthouse, Room 203
320 S. Main St.
Jefferson, WI 53549**

Monday, July 8, 2013, 12:30 pm

Members: Margaret Burlingham (Chairperson), Amy Rinard (Vice-Chairperson), Mariah Hadler (Secretary), Steve Nass and Blane Poulson.

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Burlingham at 12:30 pm.
2. Roll Call
Commission members present included Hadler, Burlingham, Nass, Poulson and Rinard. No members were absent. County staff present was Gerry Kokkonen (Land and Water Conservation Department.)
3. Certification of Compliance With Open Meetings Law Requirements
Burlingham verified that the meeting was being held in compliance with open meetings law requirements.
4. Review of Agenda
No changes were proposed to the agenda.
5. Public Comment
No public comment.
6. Communications
Burlingham is leaving the newsletter from the Land Trust Alliance with Staff and Staff will scan it.
7. Review & Approval of the June 10, 2013 Minutes
Motion made by Nass, seconded by Rinard to approve the June 10, 2013 minutes with the correction of Kannard changed to Rinard. **Motion** carried on a voice vote with no objection.
8. Discussion on interest forms received for the PACE program
 - a. Roger Lehmann
On hold until concerns are addressed by Lehmann.
 - b. Clifford Haberman
Haberman is not in a hurry.
 - c. Gary & Mary Kunz
Burlingham called Mr. & Mrs. Kunz and they would like to do a PACE easement. They saw the Commission stand at the dairy breakfast and are doing estate planning. Burlingham briefly explained the physical characteristics of the farm.

d. Wayne McDermott

Burlingham briefly explained the property. McDermott was present. McDermott explained the amount of acreage he has, what parts are in the Village and Town, and the physical characteristics of the property. McDermott asked that it be a paid easement because of the bank. Burlingham asked how much of the land is tillable. McDermott stated about 100 acres and it is in a farm program right now. Burlingham asked if there is road access to the parcels. McDermott explained the access points but they are within the Village limits. Burlingham explained that the paid easements would need to have lots available and explained the donation program. There was a discussion about the reasons why the Commission does not except easements with Village and City limits. There was discussion between McDermott and the Commission about removing the property from the Village of Sullivan.

Burlingham explained to McDermott about the monies available, the NRCS requirements on easement language and possible problems from NRCS with the impervious surfaces. Burlingham stated that we are asking the landowners to donate 25% of the easement. Burlingham said that she would ask NRCS if they would have issues with the hangars and impervious surfaces. There was more discussion on public road access and potential lots. Burlingham stated that the tillable land is less than 50% of the total acreage and that it would get scored lower through the State. Burlingham stated that we could accept a donated easement for the lands not within the village or that McDermott could talk to a land trust which might be interested. Burlingham thanked McDermott for his interest in the program.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on 2011 PACE Applications

Burlingham stated that Neupert's land has had the second appraisal and it has been submitted to NRCS.

Wilke is ready to do a sediment basin but hasn't done it yet. The Commission will not start the second appraisal process for Wilke until the sediment basin construction has started.

10. Jefferson County LWCD update on Baseline Documentation for easements

Kokkonen stated that the Miller property is almost ready and he has talked to the owner about the baseline study.

11. Discussion on Possible Funding Sources for the PACE Program

There was no new information on funding sources. Poulson stated that we should add additional monies in the budget for this program. There was discussion on the amount of money to ask for in the budget. At this time, there was no change from the original \$50,000 asked for from the last meeting.

12. Discussion on possible farmers' market events, County Fair and summer event at the Lea farm

The last farmers' market was rained out. The next farmers' market is July 27th with Burlingham and Poulson planning to attend. Burlingham stated that the Lake Mills farmers' market is held every week on Wednesday. Burlingham will

e-mail the kids to see if they would like to participate in the Lake Mills farmers' market.

The discussion moved on to Lea's event in October. Burlingham asked if there was any new news. Hadler talked to the musicians and the main musician stated that he would donate the band. Burlingham stated that the Commission members need to talk to companies/people to sponsor the event. There was discussion on ideas of companies that might be interested in sponsoring the event or portions of the event. Hadler was concerned about getting the word out to the public about the event. Rinard said that we will do press releases. Hadler stated that we could do this now and not have to wait until the last minute. At our August meeting, we need to get lists together regarding sponsors. Hadler stated that she was working with John Molinaro and the County Fair persons about placement of the materials for the fair. There was discussion on distributing materials for the County Fair.

13. Future Meeting Dates

Poulson will not be at the August 12 meeting.

14. Suggestions for the Next Agenda

None

15. Adjourn

Motion by Rinard, seconded by Poulson to adjourn the meeting at 1:25 p.m.

Motion carried on a voice vote with no objection.

Secretary Signature

Date