

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

August 17, 2016

1. Call to Order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Matt Foelker at 8:00 am. Committee members Matthew Foelker (Chair), Ed Morse (Vice Chair), Peter Hartz (Secretary), Gregg Patrick (Member), Laura Payne (Member), Frank Anfang (FSA Rep), and Margaret Burlingham (Public Member) were present. Also in attendance were Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; Gerry Kokkonen, LWCD; and Joe Strupp, LWCD. Kathy Turner, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) was absent.

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. Approval of the August Agenda:

The August agenda was reviewed by the committee members. No changes were proposed.

5. Approval of the July 20, 2016 Meeting Minutes:

Margaret Burlingham made a motion to approve the July 20, 2016 meeting minutes as written, Gregg Patrick seconded. Motion carried 7/0.

6. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP) August Report. See attached.
- Margaret Burlingham received an invitation from Wisconsin Land+Water to be part of the conversation about the future of our most precious resources: Food, Land and Water August 23, 2016 in Steven's Point.

7. Public Comment:

There were no comments.

8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

Kathy Turner was unavailable for the meeting today. See attached emailed report and flyer.

9. Discussion on Permanent Shared Management of the Jefferson and Waukesha County Farm Service Agency (FSA):

Mark Watkins - Effective July 1, 2016, the Jefferson and Waukesha Counties entered into a permanent shared management agreement for FSA program delivery and office supervision. Debra J. Schut, County Executive Director (CED), for Jefferson County will now be the manager for both the Waukesha and Jefferson County FSA offices. Prior to becoming a CED, Deb worked as a program technician for 15 years. She has been the CED in Jefferson County since 2001 and is looking forward to working with the producers in both Jefferson and Waukesha Counties.

10. Discussion on NR 151 Regulations - Joe Strupp:

Joe Strupp illustrated NR 151 Regulations for the new Committee members. See attached.

11. Discussion on High Capacity Wells:

Mark Watkins spoke with Jefferson County Corporation Council Blair Ward and Richard Castelnovo, DATCP to discuss the legalities of High Capacity Wells within the county and whether or not Jefferson County can legally impose any regulations. County regulations are not allowed to supersede state laws. Other ground water protections will be looked into. Pete Hartz made a recommendation to keep this item on the agenda and to follow the situation developing in Kewanee County. See attached.

12. Discussion on Hoard's Dairyman Manure Pit:

Mark Watkins - Nothing new to report at this time. The pit sits idle.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Notices of Noncompliance - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP):

John & Nancy Hoffmann

Gregg Patrick made a motion to accept the notices, Frank Anfang seconded. Motion carried 7/0.

14. Discussion and Possible Action on Cancellations of Notices of Noncompliance - FPP:

There were no cancellations at this time.

15. Review of the Monthly Financial Report (June):

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures (June) was distributed. See attached. The LWCD is right on track with the Budget. The Staffing & Operations Grant has been received and deposited.

16. Discussion on the 2017 Budget Request:

See attached draft 2017 Budget Request.

17. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easements (PACE) Applications: Cliff Haberman, Town of Waterloo:

No new applications at this time. Margaret Burlingham sent an article to the Farm Bureau outlining the PACE program.

Gerry Kokkonen - Cliff Haberman's easement has received an extension to recalculate the payout to reflect the road abandoned by the Town of Waterloo on Haberman's property. The deed language has been tentatively approved by NRCS and all other documents adjusted to reflect the easement exception acreage as surveyed.

18. Discussion on Jefferson County Land & Water Conservation Report on Baseline Documentation for Easements:

Gerry Kokkonen - All the Haberman documentation was revised to reflect the change in acreage as discussed in item #17.

19. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include: Items #8, 11-18, Marketing Farmland Conservation Easements, Kewaunee County High Capacity Wells discussion

20. Next Scheduled Meeting:

- September 21, 2016 @ 8:00 in Room 202

21. Adjournment

Gregg Patrick made a motion to adjourn at 8:55 am, Frank Anfang seconded. Motion carried 7/0.