

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

June 21, 2017

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) (via teleconference and abstained from all votes), Gregg Patrick (Member), Lloyd Zastrow (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; Nancy Lannert, LWCD; Joe Strupp, LWCD; and Cody Calkins, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

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 June Agenda:

The June agenda was reviewed by the committee members. Item #17 was moved to #8.

5. Approval of the May 17, 2017 Meeting Minutes:

Lloyd Zastrow made a motion to approve the May 17, 2017 meeting minutes as written, Greg Patrick seconded. Motion carried 6/0.

6. Public Comment:

Anita Martin from Lake Mills stated the Directors Report is a welcome addition to the LWCC meetings and has questions in regard to drones being used in Jefferson County. Mark Watkins will address this topic along with the Directors Report, item #9.

7. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP) June 2017 Report. See attached.
- Margaret Burlingham attended a meeting with the Food, Land & Water Project sponsored by WI Land + Water. A report is expected to be ready to submit to the State Legislature in the fall of 2017.

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

Aaron & Lois Johnson, A&L Johnson, Inc. (Includes Aaron L Johnson, Aaron R Johnson, Brent R Johnson, Jennifer L Johnson, Connie Kottwitz, Adrienne L Rouse), Edward & Sharon Nelson, Darren Schroeder, David & Diana Schroeder

- Convene Hearing on Notices of Noncompliance - FPP *Due to the contested nature of the Notice of Noncompliance, the LWCD is required to hold a hearing to review the pending notice.

David Schroeder, Darren Schroeder, Aaron Johnson, and Ed Nelson were in attendance. Nancy Lannert (LWCD) & Joe Strupp (LCWD) gave a power point presentation outlining the issues found during spot check. David Schroeder, Darren Schroeder, and Aaron Johnson stated the agreed upon conservation plan wasn't followed, but didn't consider the way the land was farmed to be a problem.

Frank Anfang made a motion to place the affected parcels on a schedule of compliance to be rechecked for compliance on or before June 2018, Lloyd Zastrow seconded. Motion carried 6/0.

Voluntary Notices; Lewis & Carol Eck, James & Carol McBride

Gregg Patrick made a motion to accept the notices, Margaret Burlingham seconded. Motion carried 6/0.

- 9. Discussion on LWCD Directors June 2017 Report:**
Mark Watkins discussed the Directors Report. See attached. Mark Watkins spoke about the Drone workshop. Jefferson County does not currently use drone technology. A drone workgroup has been set up to outline the requirements of use.
- 10. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:**
Cody Calkins discussed the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) report. See attached.
- 11. Discussion on High Capacity Wells:**
Mark Watkins gave an update on High Capacity Wells. Governor Walker signed a bill (Senate Bill 76) which lets farms and businesses keep, transfer and repair their large-scale wells without added oversight from the DNR.
- 12. Discussion on NR 151 Rule Changes:**
Mark Watkins updated the committee on the new NR 151 Rule changes. Consistent with state statutes, NR 151 directs the DNR to promulgate rules and performance standards that address specific issues geographically or by activity. The new rules are scheduled for public hearing soon.
- 13. Discussion on Hoard Dairyman Facility:**
Mark Watkins has been in contact with Hoard's and the engineering team that has been contracted by Hoard's. The team has put forth a plan to abandon or offer alternative plans for the current pit and build a new pit in another location. Mark Watkins will update the committee as more information is available.
- 14. Discussion on Tree Removal at the County Farm:**
Mark Watkins discussed tree removal on the County Farm property line where trees were found to be dead and laying on another property. The Jefferson County Parks department removed and chipped the trees with the chippings to be used throughout the County Parks.
- 15. Discussion and Possible Action on Potter's Field Historical Site Designation:**
Ed Morse informed the committee that the site designation is moving along and will be revisited during the Historical Society's July meeting.
- 16. Discussion and Possible Action on Accepting Recaptured Grant Contract Funds Due to Noncompliance:**
Due to a contractual compliance failure, cost share funds were required to be returned to the LWCD. A formal acceptance of those funds is required by the conservation committee to have them available for use with other projects. Frank Anfang made a motion to accept the recaptured grant funds to be used for conservation projects, Gregg Patrick seconded. Motion carried 6/0.
- 17. Discussion and Possible Action on Cancellations of Notices of Noncompliance - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP):**
There were no cancellations at this time.
- 18. Review of the Monthly Financial Report (April):**
The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures (April) was distributed and reviewed. See attached.
- 19. Discussion on 2018 Budget Requests:**
Mark Watkins discussed the 2018 Budget process with the committee. The committee will revisit this item in July and take any action needed for 2018 requests. A reminder to include a PACE funding request was made.
- 20. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easements (PACE) Applications:**
Margaret Burlingham informed the committee there are no new applications at this time. An application period will begin in conjunction with the Jefferson County Fair in July.

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

Gerry Kokkonen, along with a representative from NRCS have visited each easement this spring and have found each to be in compliance.

22. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include: Items #8 - 9, 12, 16 - 21

23. Next Scheduled Meeting:

- July 19, 2017 @ 8:00 in Room 112

24. Adjournment

Frank Anfang made a motion to adjourn at 10:25 am, Lloyd Zastrow seconded. Motion carried 6/0.