

Land & Water Conservation Committee
Minutes
October 15, 2008

1. Call to order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Committee Chairperson, Michael Burrow at 8:30 a.m. Committee members Greg Torres, Karen Christian, Carlton Zentner, and George Jaeckel were present. Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department; Deb Miller, Administrative Clerk; Brian Resch, NRCS were also in attendance. Dave Terrall, USDA Wildlife Specialist arrived at 8:45. Deb Schutt, FSA arrived at 9:40.

2. Roll Call (establish a quorum):

Two officers were present to establish a quorum

3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law:

It was determined by the chairperson that the committee was in compliance with the open meeting law.

4. Review of the October Agenda:

The October agenda was reviewed by the committee members.

5. Citizen Comments:

There were no citizen comments.

6. Introduction of new committee members:

Mr. Watkins introduced Mr. Zentner and Mr. Jaeckel as new members on the Land & Water Conservation committee.

7. Review and Approval of the September Meeting Minutes:

Mrs. Christian made a motion to approve the September meeting minutes as written. Mr. Burrow seconded. Motion carried.

8. NRCS Report (Natural Resources Conservation Service) – Brian Resch:

Mr. Resch discussed the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) report. A hand-out was provided. See attached report.

9. USDA (US Department of Agriculture):

Mr. Dave Terrall from the USDA attended the meeting to discuss the 2009 Budget, Crop Prices and the Cooperative Service Agreement.

- 1.) **2009 Budget** -He explained the Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program (WDACP) to the members. He said that the program has requirements that farmers need to fulfill for assistance. The requirements focal point of the program is to allow hunting access on an enrolled participants land. However, hunting is only allowed for the species causing the damage, unless authorized by the homeowner. There are nine participants in the full enrollment program and four in Act 82. Act 82 is for deer damage only. Mr. Burrow made a motion to accept the 2009 Jefferson WDACP Budget. Mr. Torres seconded. Motion carried. A hand-out was provided. See Attached.
- 2.) **2008 Crop Price Proposal** - Mr. Terrall provided the members with the 2008 crop price proposal. After discussion Mr. Zentner made a motion to accept the prices as proposed. Mr. Jaeckel seconded. Motion carried. A hand-out was provided. See attached.

- 3.) **Cooperative Service Agreement** – The purpose of the agreement is to cooperate in a County/State/Federal wild deer, elk, Canadian goose, turkey and black bear damage management program to help farmers with crop damage. This is a five year agreement between Jefferson County and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. (WDNR). After discussion Mrs. Christian made a motion to accept the Cooperative Service Agreement as stated. Mr. Zentner seconded. Motion carried. A hand-out was provided. See attached.

10. Jonas Farm Tile – Update:

Mr. Watkins confirmed with corporation counsel that the Jonas Farm property will be up for sale. He explained that due to the potential sale, the tile should be repaired. The repair should cost around \$900-1,200. After further discussion, Mr. Burow made a motion to repair the tile prior to the sale. Mr. Jaeckel seconded. Motion carried.

11. Surplus Property Sale:

Mr. Watkins informed the members about two dead trees that were leaning towards falling into a pond on county property. According to corporation counsel the trees are listed as surplus property. The land conservation department conducted a bidding procedure to sell the trees. Only one bid was submitted. The trees were sold for a minimal amount.

12. Endangered/Threatened Species-Yellow Giant Hyssop:

Discussion ensued regarding moving the Giant Hyssop to another location. The Hyssop is considered an endangered/threatened species. So, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) would like to save it. Mr. Zentner made a motion to allow the DNR to remove the Hyssop to another location. Mr. Jaeckel seconded. Motion carried 4-1.

13. 2009 Budget Request Update:

Mr. Watkins informed the members that due to budget constraints that there will be no intern, County Cost-Share money for Best Management Practices (BMP), and new vehicle for 2009. Also, the administrative clerk position has been downsized to ½ time.

14. Southern Area Association (SAA) Fall Business Meeting:

Mr. Watkins reminded the members about the SAA Fall Business meeting which is on October 23rd. The location of the meeting will be at the Wildcat Lanes in Verona. An agenda will be given to the members when it becomes available.

15. Correspondence:

There was no correspondence.

16. 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, November 19th, at 8:30 in room 202. Possible agenda item: LWCD programs.

16. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Burow and seconded by Mr. Torres at 9:52. Motion carried.