

**LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES
May 21, 2008**

1. Call to Order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Mark Watkins at 8:30 a.m. Committee members Greg Torres, Mike Burow, Karen Christian were all present. Deb Miller, Administrative Clerk; Joe Strupp, Resource Conservationist and Brian Resch, NRCS were also in attendance.

2. Roll Call (establish a quorum):

Committee members were present to establish a quorum, before elections of officers was completed.

3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law:

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

4. Review of the May Agenda:

The May agenda was reviewed by the committee members.

5. Election of Officers:

Motions were made and seconded to elect Mr. Burow as Chairperson, Mr. Torres as Vice Chairperson and Mrs. Christian as Secretary. Motion carried.

6. Citizen Comments:

Mr. Carlton Zentner addressed the group saying that he had enjoyed being on the committee and that Mr. Watkins has done a great job.

7. Review of Board Rules relating to the Land & Water Conservation Committee (LWCC)

Mr. Watkins briefly summarized the board rules to the new committee members. Hand-outs were provided. See attached.

8. Review and Approval of the March Meeting Minutes:

Mrs. Christian made a motion to accept the March meeting minutes as written. Mr. Torres seconded. Motion carried.

9. Review & Discuss Land & Water Conservation Committee (LWCC) Responsibility Document

Mr. Watkins summarized the Land & Water Conservation Department Authority, Policies and Personnel document provided to the committee members. He explained some of the department duties such as maintaining the tree planter, handling manure complaints, non-metallic mining and other items. The committee members also agreed to continue meeting at 8:30 on the third Wednesday of each month. Hand-outs were provided. See attached.

10. NRCS Report – Brian Resch

Mr. Resch gave a brief overview of the various programs and discussed the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) report. Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program for agricultural landowners. They can receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, approved conservation practices.

Conservation Security Program (CSP) will help owners and operators of agricultural lands maintain conservation stewardship and maintain conservation practices. The program has three tiers and maximum payments. Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program offering financial assistance to help off-set the costs of eligible conservation practices. Through EQIP farmers may receive financial and technical help with structural and management conservation practices on agricultural land. The National Resources Inventory (NRI) is an inventory of land cover and use, soil erosion, prime farmland and wetlands. Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program for people who want to develop or improve wildlife habitat on private lands. Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is also a voluntary program to restore and protect wetlands on private property. It gives the landowner an opportunity to receive financial incentives to enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring part of their agricultural land. A hand-out was provided. See attached report.

11. Jonas Farm Tile Repair

Mr. Watkins informed the committee members of tiling on county grounds that has broken and ceased functioning. Due to the deteriorating tile, water is backing up on a nearby landowners' property. Mr. Watkins explained there is money in the budget to cover these types of repairs. Mr. Torres made a motion to get an estimate of the cost to repair the tile and possibly cost-sharing it with the landowner. Mrs. Christian seconded. Motion carried. This item will be discussed further at the June meeting.

12. LCC Training Sessions

The committee members were given information about the upcoming Land Conservation Committee (LCC) training in June. Mr. Watkins explained that this is a great opportunity for newly elected supervisors and encouraged the members to attend. Hand-outs were provided. See attached.

13. SAA Meeting on May 22nd – Wildcat Lanes in Verona

Mr. Watkins offered the committee members an opportunity to attend the Southern Area Association meeting in Verona. He gave a brief overview of the organization and provided an agenda to the group. Hand-outs were provided. See attached.

14. Correspondence

Mr. Watkins told the group about the recent Gypsy Moth outbreak. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) needs to have a contact number and department for the public to call about concerns. Up to now, the contact person has been from the county clerk's office. Mr. Watkins suggested that the LWCD be the lead coordinator to handle concerns/questions regarding the Gypsy Moth program. The committee decided to address this issue again at the June meeting.

15. Set next meeting and agenda

It was decided by the committee members that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Committee will be held on **Wednesday, June, 18th, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 202.**

16. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Torres and seconded by Mrs. Christian at 9:38 a.m. Motion Carried