

LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES

August 20, 2008

1. Call to Order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Committee Chairperson Mike Burow at 8:31. Committee member Greg Torres; Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation; Deb Miller, Administrative Clerk; Nancy Lannert, Resource Conservationist were present. Committee member Karen Christian arrived at 8:36.

2. Roll Call (establish a quorum):

Two officers were present to establish a quorum.

3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meeting Law:

It was determined that the open meeting law was in compliance.

4. Review of the August Agenda:

The August agenda was reviewed by the committee members.

5. Citizen Comments:

There was no citizen comment.

6. Review and Approval of the July 16, 2008 Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Torres made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Mr. Burow seconded. Motion Carried.

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

Mr. Resch was unable to attend the meeting however, he did provide the NRCS report for the committee's review. A hand-out was provided. See attached.

8. WLWCA Dues (Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association):

A letter was sent from WLWCA to Mr. Watkins requesting the 2009 membership dues. The Association's budget expenses reflect an increase in the counties dues. The WLWCA is a non-profit advocacy organization committed to representing county conservation interests in the legislature, governor's office and state agencies. The organization also is a lobbying arm for additional funds from the federal government to support local conservation in Wisconsin. The WLWCA administers the Conservation on the Land Partnership Internship Program whereby participating counties receive matching funds for their summer interns. Hand-outs were provided. See attached.

9. FPP Review (Farmland Preservation Program):

Ms. Lannert gave an in depth FPP report in which she explained what the program is about and the general requirements. The three key elements of FPP is 1. It provides tax relief to agricultural land owners. 2. Helps preserve agricultural land through local planning and zoning. 3. Preserves soil and improves water quality by insuring that good conservation practices are used on farmland. She talked about the various components of the program and how it benefits the land owners and the department. Hand-outs were provided. See attached.

10. Potential increase of committee members from three to five-discussion:

Mr. Watkins informed the committee members that he was approached by the administrator and corporation counsel to consider increasing the committee size from three to five. After discussing the issue, Mr. Burow made a motion to increase the size of the committee from three to five members and to forward it on to the county board for approval. Mr. Torres seconded. Motion carried.

11. Jonas Farm Tile Update:

Mr. Watkins notified the committee members that the water has finally receded. A contractor can now go in and do an assessment of the broken tile. A cost estimate for replacement will be given to the committee members. There is a maintenance account set-up in the LWCC budget to handle this type of expense. A decision on who will pay for the repair will be determined at a future meeting.

12. Gypsy Moth Resolution Update:

The county board voted to implement a Gypsy Moth Suppression Program. Mr. Watkins told the group that the DNR (Department of Natural Resources) is providing training on September 23rd. He also told the group that the department will need to conduct an egg mass survey and develop a spray map block from calls received.

13. Southern Area Tour:

Mrs. Christian gave a summary of the SAA tour. Highlights of the tour were: stopping at a cheese factory, (the only one in the U.S. that makes Limburger Cheese) an ethanol plant and Swiss Colony. She said the tour was very informative and she enjoyed the day. A Southern Area Business meeting was conducted.

14. Correspondence:

- 1.) The department received a thank you letter from the Andersen's. They were able to get county cost-share money to restore their lakeshore. They are enjoying the many species of wildlife that are visiting the garden. A hand-out was provided. See attached.

15. Set next meeting and possible agenda items:

It was decided by the committee that the next meeting of the LWCC will be held on September 17, 2008 at 8:30. Possible agenda items include: Jonas Farm Tile.

16. Adjourn:

Motion was made to adjourn by Mrs. Christian and seconded by Mr. Torres at 9:36. Motion carried.