### **Agenda - Revised**

### Jefferson County Land & Water Conservation Committee (LWCC) "Working Together To Protect & Enhance the Environment" Jefferson County Courthouse 320 S Main St - Room 202 Jefferson, WI 53549 Wednesday, September 18, 2013 8:30 A.M.

Committee Members: Sarah Bregant, Walt Christensen, Matthew Foelker, Carlton Zentner, Scott Zimmerman

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Roll Call (Establish a Quorum)
- 3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law
- 4. Review of the Agenda
- 5. Review and Approval of the August 21, 2013 Meeting Minutes
- 6. Communications
- 7. Citizen Comments
- 8. Jefferson County Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Quarantine by the Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP) Christopher Deegan
- 9. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report (NRCS) Dennis Vollmer
- 10. Federal Farm Bill & Possible Resolution Development Walt Christensen
- 11. 2014 Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) Budget Mark Watkins
- 12. Notice of Noncompliance Farmland Preservation Program (FPP)
- 13. Cancellation of Noncompliance Farmland Preservation Program (FPP)
- 14. Status of Cropland at Old Countryside Home Farm
- 15. Monthly Financial Report
- 16. Set Next Meeting and Possible Agenda Items
- 17. Adjournment

Note: If committee members are not able to attend please notify the LWCD

The committee may discuss and/or take action on any item specifically listed on the agenda. Individuals requiring special accommodations for attendance at the meeting should contact the County Administrator at 920-674-7101 24 hours prior to the meeting so appropriate arrangements can be made.

### Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes September 18, 2013

### 1. Call to Order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Walt Christensen at 8:30 a.m. Committee members Sarah Bregant, Walt Christensen, Matthew Foelker, Carlton Zentner, and Scott Zimmerman (@ 8:34) were present. Also in attendance were Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; and Christopher Deegan, Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP).

### 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. Review of the September Agenda:

The September agenda was reviewed by the committee members.

### 5. Review and Approval of the August Meeting Minutes

Sarah Bregant made a motion to approve the August meeting minutes as written, Matt Foelker seconded. Motion carried 4/0.

### 6. Communications

There were no communications at this time.

### 7. Citizen Comments:

Beth Gehred, Town & Country Resource Conservation & Development, Inc., talked to the committee in regard to programs being offered by Town & Country. Waterstar webinars have resumed. September 24, 2013 North Central Technical College in Wausau, WI will host a workshop, Income Opportunities in Agriculture, geared toward women, minority and urban farmers. Town & Country's Vision Team's final meeting for this year will be October 10, 2013.

8. Jefferson County Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Quarantine by DATCP - Christopher Deegan
The EAB was first identified in 2002 in Michigan. UW-Whitewater was the first to identify it our
region which prompted a search of the campus area. The search showed signs of EAB just inside
Jefferson County. Continued checks then showed it in Watertown (@ Riverside Park) and
Oconomowoc which lead to Jefferson County's quarantine. EAB only affects Ash Trees. All Ash
products are to stay in the quarantined area. Hardwood firewood, regardless of species, is also to
stay in the quarantined zone. An EAB infestation is very hard to identify without peeling the bark of
the tree, which would also kill the tree. It may take 4-5 years to know that the tree is infected and
only takes 5-6 years for EAB to kill the tree. DATCP and the Department of Natural Resources are
working on many types of treatments such as hybridization with the Asian Ash which tolerates the
borer and bio-control (using other bugs to fight EAB).

### 9. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

See attached. Dennis Vollmer was absent. The report will be revisited during the October meeting.

### 10. Federal Farm Bill & Possible Resolution Development - Walt Christensen

This item will be added to next month's agenda for further review. Part of the bill has been delayed due to the house having trouble agreeing on certain programs, i.e. SNAP and food stamps. Walt requested that this committee put together a resolution of support for County Board approval, supporting the bill. We, as a committee, should support this bill. It's important to our farmers and our county as a whole.

### 11.2014 Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) Budget - Mark Watkins

We are under the target and levy limit for 2014. See attached.

### 12. Notice of Noncompliance with Soil & Water Conservation Requirements - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP):

None at this time

### 13. Cancellation of Noncompliance - Farmland Preservation Program:

None at this time

### 14. Status of Cropland at Old Countryside Home Farm - Mark Watkins

Status remains the same. Demo of the old building will start soon. After this is complete we'll have a better picture of the site. As of now, we think there will be approximately 22 acres of cropable land. It's not known how long it would take to get this land back into production. It may take years. Scott Zimmerman made a motion to draft a letter to Ben Wehmeier, County Administrator and John Molinaro, County Board Chairman/Supervisor, in regard to having the highway shop site construction manager keep track of the topsoil on site. None of the topsoil should leave the grounds and it should be placed for cropland. Matt Foelker seconded. Motion carried 5/0.

### 15. Monthly Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) Financial Report - Mark Watkins

Due to county-wide 2014 budget meetings, we haven't received an updated financial report for this month. A verbal report was given by Mark Watkins stating the department's budget remains healthy.

### 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 October 16, 2013 at 8:30 in Room 112. Possible agenda items include: Items #9 - #15.

### 17. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Scott Zimmerman and seconded by Matt Foelker at 9:37 a.m. Motion carried 5/0.

### Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes August 21, 2013

### 1. Call to Order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Walt Christensen at 8:30 a.m. Committee members Walt Christensen, Matthew Foelker, Carlton Zentner, and Scott Zimmerman (@ 8:32) were present. Also in attendance were Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; Gerry Kokkonen, LWCD; Ben Wehmeier, County Administrator; John Molinaro, County Board Chairman/Supervisor; and Dennis Vollmer, NRCS. Committee member Sarah Bregant 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. Review of the August Agenda:

The August agenda was reviewed by the committee members. Walt Christensen requested that item # 13 be moved up in the agenda because of a visiting speaker. Item # 13 has been moved to # 8.

### 5. Review and Approval of the June Meeting Minutes:

Matt Foelker made a motion to approve the July meeting minutes as written, Carlton Zentner seconded. Motion carried 4/0.

### 6. Communications:

There were no communications at this time.

### 7. Citizen Comments:

There were no citizen comments.

### 8. Town & Country Discussion - Erlene Ronk, Vice Chair of Town & Country See attached.

### 9. BR Amon Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation Update - Gerry Kokkonen (LWCD)

60 day notice sent to Lake Mills Blacktop c/o Hometown Bank in Fond du Lac. See attached paperwork for additional information on the BR Amon Reclamation status.

### 10. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

Dennis Vollmer discussed the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) report. See attached. Due to budget short falls, Jody's (NRCS assistant) hours will be reduced. She will be in Jefferson County 2 days a week and the other 3 will be in Rock County. Dennis mentioned that Brian Risky would be leaving Jefferson County NRCS September 20, 2013 for a position in Altoona.

### 11. Notice of Noncompliance with Soil and Water Conservation Requirements - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP):

Timothy Marsden, Dale & Nancy Zastrow. Carlton Zentner made a motion to accept the notices, Matt Foelker seconded. Motion carried, 4/0.

### 12. Cancellation of Noncompliance - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP):

Bernard Partoll, Curtis & Mary Pernat, Robert & Laurel Selberg. Matt Foelker made a motion to accept the cancellations, Scott Zimmerman seconded. Motion carried, 4/0.

### 13. Transitional Planning for Retiring Employees:

Ben Wehmeier, County Administrator, informed the committee after the 2014 budget season has completed, he will meet with the department heads to discuss a plan of action. The department heads, the administration department and Ben Wehmeier will work together to make this happen.

### 14.2013/2014 Tree Sale - Mark Watkins (LWCD)

See attached form. Our cost from the nursery has increased slightly and in turn our sale price has increased. Carlton Zentner showed some concern as to whether or not this was a cost effective program. Mark Watkins indicated that even with the increases, it is cost effective and the sale is well-received within the members of the County.

**15.Monthly Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) Financial Report: Mark Watkins**See attached. One item not listed on this report is the staffing grant money we recently received. We are on track with our current budget and see no indication that it will change.

### 16.Set next meeting and possible agenda items:

Revisit items 10, 11, 15. The County Farm lease will expire in September. Carlton Zentner would like the status of the farmland on the new Highway Shop site to be reintroduced to the agenda as a reoccurring item. John Molinaro would like to discuss grant opportunities for the wetland on that site also. Scott Zimmerman indicated that we should discuss using the "four corners" of the highway site as a "best display" of our county mission so we can show the taxpayers and other counties what we do.

### 17. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Scott Zimmerman and seconded by Matt Foelker at 9:26 a.m. Motion carried 4/0.

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# Committee Meeting Sign-In Sheet

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City or Township	Person/Firm Representing	Item # or General Comment
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	City or Township	Person/Firm Repr

### Jefferson County Board Report 9/18/2013

### **EQIP** practices in progress

- Brendon has been working on over a dozen construction sites
  - o There are 2 spring blowout projects to repair (Fall 2013/Spring 2014)
- Several grassed waterways/WASCOB's/diversions have been installed
  - o Currently working on Farmstead structural practices (Pits/manure systems)
- The goal is to work on construction thru September and then certify/pay practices by mid-October
- Several other agronomic (cover crops/grazing) practices have been paid on over the past month
- Completed PRS (Performance reporting)
- 2014 EQIP signup
  - Application deadline is likely to be around Thanksgiving (Earlier than normal)
    - This is good as it will allow more time for field work prior to snow
      - New changes may be coming to the ranking process

### Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP)

• Working on modification for Ken Thomas

### Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

- General CRP sign up occurred from May 20<sup>th</sup> thru June 14
  - o This includes Highly Erodible Land
  - o 13 contracts were accepted and contracted for Jefferson County
    - Walt signed all contracts on 9/11 (Thanks for stopping in)
- Continuous CRP
  - o Field eligibility reviews are complete
    - 10 applications were contracted
      - Walt signed all contracts on 9/11 (Thanks for stopping in)

### General

- Wetland/HEL Determination requests to complete:
  - ~10-12 have yet to be looked or are being reviewed, but not yet completed
  - o 0 are waiting to be digitized
  - o 1 is waiting to be approved/signed
- The past month consisted of: designing practices for 2013 fall construction, summer construction, practice certification and payments, wetland reviews, compliance review follow up, PRS reporting and CRP signups
  - The next month should consist of: completing fall construction practices, certification and payment of completed practices, existing contract management (Cleanup), working on 2014 EQIP media releases and application taking, compliance review follow up and performance plan reviews for employees
- Local Working Group meeting was held on 9/12 @ 9:30 in Jefferson NRCS meeting room
- NRCS attended the Sheep and Wool festival 9/6-9-8

### 070 LAND CONSERVATION

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### 070 LAND CONSERVATION

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### 070 LAND CONSERVATION

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