

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

November 16, 2016

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), Gregg Patrick (Member) (@ 8:02), Laura Payne (Member) (@ 8:03), 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; 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 November Agenda:

The November agenda was reviewed by the committee members. Item #11 was moved to item #8.

5. Approval of the October 19, 2016 Meeting Minutes:

Frank Anfang made a motion to approve the October 19, 2016 meeting minutes as written, Margaret Burlingham seconded. Motion carried 5/0.

6. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP) November Report. See attached.
- DATCP 2015 Annual Report.
- Historic Sites Commission letter.

7. Public Comment:

There were no comments.

8. Discussion on Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Conservation Plan Revision:

Nancy Lannert gave the committee an overview of CREP. A new landowner needs to have the perpetual CREP easement on his new land revised. LWCD updated the conservation plan in accordance with the CREP contract. Because the conservation plan was part of a CREP Contract full committee approval of the change was needed by rule. Frank Anfang made a motion to accept the updates, Gregg Patrick seconded. Motion carried 7/0.

9. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

Cody Calkins discussed the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) report. NRCS is currently taking Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Applications.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on County Farm Lease Extension:

Mark Watkins outlined the lease extension. See attached. Gregg Patrick made a motion to proceed with the lease extension, take it out of draft form, and forward it for implementation and signatures, Frank Anfang seconded. Motion carried 7/0.

11. Discussion on Hoard's Dairyman Manure Pit Repair Plan & Test Addendum:

Mark Watkins gave an update on the Hoard's pit. A repair plan has been submitted and is awaiting approval by the Planning & Zoning Committee which is required under the conditional use permit process. The repair plan has been approved by the NRCS State Engineer. Mark Watkins observed work being performed on the pit without zoning approval. Further action by the Planning & Zoning Committee will take place on November 28, 2016.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Notices of Noncompliance - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP):

Carl Feldkirchner Trust, Kathy McCrea, J&C McNally Trust, Mark & Diane Origer, and Ann Weilbacher for failure to certify compliance with the standard.

Frank Anfang made a motion to accept the notices, Laura Payne seconded. Motion carried 7/0.

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

There were no cancellations at this time.

14. Review of the Monthly Financial Report (September):

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures (September) was distributed. See attached.

15. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easements (PACE) Applications:

There are no new applications at this time. Mark Watkins informed the committee that the reimbursement for Cliff Haberman's easement should be here by the end of this year.

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

All easements are up to date.

17. Discussion on Monitoring Easements:

All easements are up to date.

18. Discussion on Marketing Farmland Conservation Easements:

Margaret Burlingham submitted articles outlining Farmland Conservation Easements to the Farm Bureau, Lake Ripley Ripples, and the Watertown Daily Times. An article on Cliff & Susan Haberman's easement has been published in the Jefferson County Daily Union also.

19. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include: Item # 8 - 10, 13 - 16, 18, and 19. An application period for the PACE program, information for the WI Land+Water Annual Conference.

20. Next Scheduled Meeting:

- December 21, 2016 @ 8:00 in Room 112

21. Adjournment

Gregg Patrick made a motion to adjourn at 9:15 am, Frank Anfang seconded. Motion carried 7/0.