

Land & Water Conservation Committee
Minutes
November 18, 2009

1. Call to order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Greg Torres at 8:30 a.m. Committee members George Jaeckel and Karen Christian were present. Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Beth Klotz, LWCD; Josh Odekirk, NRCS; and Jeff Gerner were also in attendance. Sharon Schmeling, County Board Chairperson, arrived at 8:40 a.m.

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 November Agenda:

The November agenda was reviewed by the committee members. Item #10 was moved to and discussed between item #4 and item #5.

5. Citizen Comments:

There were no citizen comments.

6. Review and Approval of the October Meeting Minutes:

Christian made a motion to approve the October meeting minutes as written, Torres seconded. Motion carried, 3/0.

7. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

Odekirk gave an update on various NRCS programs. He also informed the committee that the new District Conservationist should start sometime after the first of the year.

8. Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) – Notices of Non-Compliance

Lannert stated that Joseph Falk and James Marek have failed to return the annual certification cards and are in non-compliance with the program requirements.

Christian moved and Jaeckel seconded to remove Joseph Falk from the Farmland Preservation Program. Motion carried, 3/0.

Jaeckel moved and Christian seconded to remove James Marek from the Farmland Preservation Program. Motion carried, 3/0.

9. Farmland Preservation/Working Lands Initiative Discussion

Watkins gave a brief history of the Farmland Preservation/Working Lands Initiative program. An ICC meeting was attended by several representatives from Jefferson County on Monday to discuss the issues regarding the program. One of the main issues is the convergence fees. From a land conservation viewpoint, this is a good program. Jefferson County has requested a two year extension for revising their plan.

10. County Farm Cropland Access

Due to the construction of the by-pass, access issues have arisen on the county farm. Jeff Gerner showed the committee the limited/no access points on an areal photo and suggested ways to make the entire farm accessible. Because these issues were created by the construction of the by-pass, Watkins will contact Corporation Counsel regarding mediation compensation from the DOT.

Jaeckel moved and Christian seconded to make the entire county farm safely accessible for cropping and harvesting and to have DOT contacted regarding compensation. Motion carried, 3/0.

11. Monthly Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) Financial Report

The Department is on target with revenues and expenditures.

12. Correspondence:

Watkins stated the registration deadline for the WLWCA Conference has passed.

13. 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, December 16, 2009, at 8:30 in Room 202. Possible agenda items include: Monthly financial report, county farm cropland access update and working lands initiative update if needed.

14. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Christian and seconded by Jaeckel at 9:22 a.m. Motion carried, 3/0.