

**Land & Water Conservation Committee**  
**Minutes**  
**May 20, 2009**

**1. Call to order:**

The monthly meeting was called to order by Committee Chairperson, Mike Burow at 8:31 a.m. Committee members Greg Torres, George Jaeckel and Karen Christian were present. Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department; Beth Klotz, Administrative Clerk, and Tim Lizotte, DNR were also in attendance.

**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 May Agenda:**

The May agenda was reviewed by the committee members.

**5. Citizen Comments:**

There were no citizen comments.

**6. Review and Approval of the April Meeting Minutes:**

Torres made a motion to approve the April meeting minutes as written. Jaeckel seconded. Motion carried.

**7. Wisconsin Deer Donation Program – Tim Lizotte**

Handout provided. Tim Lizotte, DNR, provided a brief history of the Wisconsin Deer Donation Program. The program funds the processing of donated deer and gives the venison to local food pantries for distribution. The program is funded by a surcharge placed on deer licenses. In 2002, many counties discontinued program participation due to the uncertainty regarding Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). It has since been determined that there are no human health risks from CWD from eating venison. All donated deer will be tested for CWD. In accordance with State statute, the county must administer the program in order to access the surcharge funds. The county would be a pass through agency for the funds. There would be no county levy funds used for the program. Administration time would be minimal for the county because USDA would handle most of the paperwork. Once a year, the Committee would need to approve the payment to the butchers, which would be reimbursed to the county. The county has participated in the past with much success.

Torres moved and Jaeckel seconded to participate in the Wisconsin Deer Donation Program and authorize the Land & Water Conservation Department staff to administer the program. Motion carried, 4/0.

**8. NRCS Report (Natural Resources Conservation Service) – Brian Resch:**

Mr. Resch, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) was unable to attend the meeting but sent a report. See attached report.

Burow moved and Torres seconded to put the submitted NRCS report into the record. Motion carried, 4/0.

**9. 2008-2009 Tree Seedling Sale Report – Beth Klotz**

Klotz stated that over 11,800 trees were distributed as a result of the 2008-2009 tree program. Revenues were generated in the amount of \$9,529.96. Expenditures were approximately \$7,907.50 resulting in a positive balance of approximately \$1,622.46 from the sale. Expenditures included the cost of the trees, U-Haul rental, trash bags. Watkins stated that equipment rental for planting and spraying was down this year.

**10. Possible Action Opposing AB 75 – Working Land Initiative**

Handout provided. Many counties are opposed to Assembly Bill 75. One of the reasons for the opposition is the fact that zoning fees will go up in excess of \$800 / acre to change zoning from Farmland Preservation zoned property. The bill will increase the work load for the Zoning Department. The bill would allow the county to collect a flat fee for past FPP payments provided on land that is rezoned. Watkins will send each committee member a copy of AB-75 to review. Rob Klotz, Interim Zoning Administrator, will be invited to present information regarding the impact the bill has regarding zoning at the next LWCC meeting.

**11. First Quarter Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) Financial Report**

Burow stated that Administrator Gary Petre would now like financial reports to be presented at each monthly meeting. Watkins reviewed each account unit with the committee. Handout provided. Many of the accounts are grant funded with no levy impact to the county. The entire LWCD budget levy impact is less than 1% of the entire county budget. If substantial cuts need to be made in the LWCD budget, they will need to be made through personnel reductions.

**12. Root Cellar/Quonset Hut Discussion**

The Quonset Hut located on the county farm on Annex Road is becoming a safety concern due to its reduction in structural integrity. Photos provided. Due to the fact that the hut is approximately 100 years old, John Molinaro would like to work with the committee to determine the historical value of the hut. There is not enough money in the LWCD budget to repair or tear down the hut. Watkins will check with Corporation Counsel regarding the liability regarding the hut and potential posting of No Trespassing signs. Phil Ristow, Corporation Counsel and John Molinaro, Historical Preservation Committee, will be invited to present information at the next meeting.

**13. Gravel/Borrow Contracts Update**

Watkins will attend the public hearing which is being held this Thursday night regarding this issue. No conditional use permit is needed from the City, but an erosion control permit will be needed. The City has been paid the \$25 permit fee and been provided plans. State bids are due June 9, 2009. The County Administrator has authority to enter into a contract for this project. This could provide a one-time revenue of \$250,000 to \$500,000 to the county. This item will be discussed again at the next meeting.

**14. Voluntary Notice of Non-Compliance**

George and Laurie Sayre, Hwy J, Jefferson, request to be removed from the Farmland Preservation Program.

Torres moved and Christian seconded to approve George and Laurie Sayre's application to be removed from the Farmland Preservation Program. Motion carried, 4/0.

**15. Correspondence:**

Watkins distributed registration forms and information regarding the annual Southern Area Association tour which will be held in Shullsburg, Wisconsin. The committee is welcome to attend and may self register or contact the LWCD office to be registered.

**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 Wednesday, June 17, 2009, at 8:30 in Room 202. Possible agenda items include: AB – 75, Root Cellar/Quonset Hut, monthly financial report including potential fee increases, and gravel/borrow contracts update.

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn was made by Jaeckel and seconded by Christian at 9:33 a.m. Motion carried, 4/0.