

**Land & Water Conservation Committee**  
**Minutes**  
**January 27, 2010**

**1. Call to order:**

The monthly meeting was called to order by Mike Burow at 8:30 a.m. Committee members Greg Torres, George Jaeckel, Carlton Zentner and Karen Christian were present. Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Beth Klotz, LWCD; Patricia Cicero, LWCD; Dennis Vollmer, NRCS; and Dave Terell, USDA were also in attendance. Several members of the public also attended.

**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 January Agenda:**

The January agenda was reviewed by the committee members. Agenda item #5, Public Comment, was moved to after Animal Damage Claims agenda item.

**5. Review and Approval of the December Meeting Minutes:**

Torres made a motion to approve the December meeting minutes as written, Christian seconded. Motion carried, 5/0.

**6. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:**

Dennis Vollmer was introduced as the NRCS District Conservationist. He gave a brief presentation about his background and informed the committee that he is ready to work with them and the LWCD.

**7. Animal Damage Claims – Dave Terell**

Terell handed out the Jefferson County Wildlife Damage Program 2009 Claim Summary. Jaeckel Brothers claims a payable loss of \$2,655.58 of corn damage from geese.

Burows moved and Torres seconded to approve the animal damage claim for Jaeckel Brothers in the amount of \$2,655.58. Motion carried 4/1, Jaeckel abstained.

**8. Citizen Comments: (Was agenda item #5, moved to here)**

Hope Oostdik, stated that she is opposed to the requested letter of support from the LWCD until the property owners are involved and included in the process.

Stan Smoniewski does not support the grant request until the landowners are included, the final report from the past grant is reviewed, and an explanation is given as to why there is no implementation of a bid process for the consultant. He thanked the LWCD for all their assistance.

Betsy Delorey supports the letter request. There are documented problems with Rock Lake that need to be addressed. These grants would be used to study and improve the lake and protect the resources. She is concerned with decreased property values, and also decreased fishing and recreational use of the lake.

**9. Discussion on Letter of Support for Rock Lake Improvement Association (RLIA) Grant Application**

Jan Jenrich is in support of the letter. She stated that there is a problem with sediment, phosphorus and bacteria in the lake. Members of the RLIA committee sent a letter in November informing the landowners of the proposed grant applications and then met with seven of the land owners on the channel last week and they are in favor of having the committee pursue the grant applications. More studies need to be done on the lake to know what can be done to eliminate the problems.

Jenrich distributed a packet that included the grant applications, a copy of a past letter of support from the LWCD for the last grant, maps, photos and other items. The grants would be funded by state money and the RLIA.

Watkins stated that a packet of information was distributed to meeting members with a background summary of this project and various types of correspondence regarding this issue. He is not opposed to moving the project forward, but questions the process that is currently being used. Conflicts can cause failure of projects. A bidding process has always been used by the county for projects of this size. Also, the Jefferson County Parks Department, overseer of Korth Park which is located on this lake, has not been contacted regarding this project.

Joe Nehmer, Director of the Jefferson County Parks Department, stated that he has not had any correspondence regarding this issue from the RLIA. He is wondering if the Parks Department will have to participate and what would be the cost to the department.

Jenrich stated that the grants are for more study to be performed on the lake. There will be no impact to the Parks Department.

Neal O'Reilly, Hey and Associates, stated that they would be collecting data to see where something could be placed to take care of the lake problems. Nothing would be placed in wetlands or environmental corridors; therefore, Korth Park would be off limits.

Patricia Cicero stated that she agrees that there is a problem with the lake and something should be done. She is in disagreement in the process and opposed to the timing of the grant application. The final report for the last grant was completed yesterday and should be reviewed. She feels everybody should be included in the process.

Zentner stated that staff time should not be devoted to surface water. The DNR and RLIA should handle the grant.

Jenrich stated that the RLIA is requesting no time or money from the LWCD, just a letter of support for the grants stating that this is a needed project.

Burow stated that there is support for the project. The problem is with the procedure. The landowners should be contacted and the department should be presented with a scope of project.

Burow moved and Jaeckel seconded to defer this letter of support until such time as the RLIA is able to provide the LWCD with proof that the landowners have been contacted and agree to allow testing or work done on their land, and that the scope of the project is provided for our review. Once that is done to the satisfaction of Mark Watkins, he is authorized by this committee to write the letter of support for the grant acquisition. Motion carried, 3/2 Torres and Zentner opposed.

Zentner suggested bringing the issue back to Committee.

Status update is to be given at the next LWCC meeting.

#### **10. Jefferson County Land & Water Resource Management Plan**

Watkins informed the committee that the draft of the Jefferson County Land & Water Resource Management Plan is due to the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) in February. A copy of this draft will be given to the committee for review. Upon committee approval, it will be forwarded to the County Board, then presented at a public hearing, and finally given to DATCP for approval.

This plan is required for eligibility of the grant that funds 2.5 LWCD staff members. Chapter 91 mandates that there be a Land and Water Conservation Department.

**11. County Farm Cropland Access Update**

Due to the construction of the by-pass, access issues have arisen on the county farm. Because the county is in litigation with DOT regarding the fee paid for the corridor nothing will be done by DOT until the litigation is settled.

Watkins will invite Phil Ristow, Corporation Counsel, to the next LWCC meeting to discuss options regarding the access issue. He will also bring a copy of the escape clause that was put in the lease contract.

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

The Department is awaiting the final 2009 budget sheets. Overall, the department came in roughly 3% below budget for expenditures in 2009.

**13. Discuss February Meeting Switch**

In order to save the taxpayers money, the LWCC will not hold a meeting in February unless a timely issue arises. If this occurs, Watkins will contact Torres to make meeting arrangements.

**14. Correspondence:**

There was no correspondence at this time.

**15. 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, March 17, 2010 at 8:30 in Room 202. Possible agenda items include: Monthly financial report, County Farm cropland access update, Quonset hut update, RLIA letter update and LWRM Plan update.

**16. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Jaeckel and seconded by Torres at 10:26 a.m. Motion carried, 5/0.