

Land & Water Conservation Committee (LWCC)

Minutes

October 20, 2010

1. Call to order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Mike Burow at 8:33 a.m. Committee members Walt Christensen, Greg Torres, Carlton Zentner and Karen Christian were also present. Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Beth Klotz, LWCD; Dennis Vollmer, NRCS; Sue Marx, Dave Terrall, Dave Habeck and Jan Roou 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 Agenda:

The agenda was reviewed by the committee members.

5. Review and Approval of the September Meeting Minutes:

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

6. Citizens Comments:

There were no citizen comments at this time.

7. Prioritization of Areas for Conservation Easements – Sue Marx

Sue Marx asked if the LWCC could identify areas as high priority farmland. This would help gain points on PACE applications. It was suggested that criteria could be developed to rate the farmland in the county and this criteria would determine the high priority farmland. Watkins was directed to check with the Farmland Preservation Committee, to avoid duplication of effort, and offer our assistance with this project. This item will be put on the November agenda.

8. Animal Crop Damage Presentation – Dave Terrall

Dave Terrall distributed the proposed 2011 WDACP Preliminary Budget and the 2010 Crop Price Proposal for Jefferson County. See attached. He gave a brief overview of the program and requested approval of the budget and crop prices.

Zentner moved and Torres seconded to accept the proposed 2011 WDACP Preliminary Budget. Motion carried, 5/0.

Torres moved and Zentner seconded to accept the proposed 2010 Crop Price Proposal for Jefferson County. Motion carried, 5/0.

9. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

Dennis Vollmer discussed the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) report. See attached.

10. Bid Opening for County Farm

Watkins stated that the County Farm is leased in a three year cycle which ends this year. Two acres were removed from the cropland for the bike path. The opportunity to bid has been advertized in the newspaper of record. The 2011 LWCD budget has a placeholder of \$200 per acre for rent. The farm is divided into two parts for leasing purposes: The east side is 262 acres and the west side is 103 acres.

The bids were opened as follows:

Milky Way Dairy Farm – Dave Habeck – Bid \$71,100.00 for the west side - which computes to \$230.09 / acre.

John Stork – Bid \$201,000.00 for the entire farm - \$150,000.00 for the east side and \$45,000.00 for the west side – which computes to \$190.83 / acre for the east side and \$145.63 / acre for the west side.

Gerner Grain Farms – Jeff Gerner – Bid \$278,130.00 for the entire farm - \$199,644.00 for the east side and \$78,486.00 for the west side – which computes to \$254.00 / acre for the east side and \$254.00 / acre for the west side.

Torres moved and Zentner seconded to award the lease to the highest bidder, Gerner Grain Farms, Jeff Gerner, at \$278,130.00 for the entire County Farm. Motion carried, 5/0.

11. Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) Voting Proxy

Watkins stated that the WLWCA annual conference will be held at the Chula Vista in Wisconsin Dells on December 9 & 10, 2010. Committee members are welcome to attend. Zentner expressed interest in attending. If no committee member is able to attend, Watkins could be granted to ability to vote at the meeting with an approved proxy form.

Zentner moved and Torres seconded to approve and accept the proxy to allow Mark Watkins to vote at the WLWCA meeting if no committee member is able to attend the meeting. Motion carried, 5/0.

12. WLWCA Board Nomination

Watkins stated that the WLWCA is looking for committee members to serve on the WLWCA Board. November 5, 2010 is the deadline to submit resumes and applications.

13. Allowing Drain Tile Project to Cross Over County Owned Property

Watkins stated that Bill Glander has requested permission to put in a tile line across part of the county's property. A map was distributed of the potential area, see attached. Watkins informed the Committee that Phil Ristow, Corporation Counsel, recommended that a revocable license be drafted if this were to be approved.

Burow moved and Torres seconded to allow the drain tile to cross county land at no cost to the county and with a revocable license. Motion carried, 5/0.

14. Notice of Non-Compliance

There were four notices of nonparticipation presented: Wedl Farms LLC, Thomas, John and Irene Kemmeter, Charles Benisch and Gerald and DeeLila Murray.

Torres moved and Christensen seconded to approve Charles Benisch's, Wedl Farms LLC, Thomas John and Irene Kemmeter's and Gerald and DeeLila Murray's applications to be removed from the Farmland Preservation Program. Motion carried, 5/0.

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

Copies of the latest Statement of Revenue & Expenditures for the LWCD were distributed. See attached. The Department is on target with revenues and expenditures.

16. Correspondence:

Watkins informed the Committee of the upcoming WLWCA Fall Meeting on October 28, 2010. Zentner expressed interest in attending.

17. 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, November 17, 2010 at 8:30 a.m. in Room

202. Possible agenda items include: Monthly financial report and prioritization of areas for conservation easements.

18. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Christensen and seconded by Torres at 10:19 a.m. Motion carried, 5/0.