

Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Committee Meeting
Wednesday August 18, 2010
Room 202
Jefferson County Courthouse

Attendance: Committee Members: Mike Burow, Chair, Greg Torres, Vice Chair, Karen Christian, FSA Rep, Carlton Zentner, LWCD Staff: Mark Watkins, Director, Nancy Lannert, Patricia Cicero

Committee Member absent: Walt Christensen

Others Present: Janet Jenrich, Lee Gatzke, Sue Marx, Hope Oostdik, Jan Roou, Weenonah Brattset,

- 1. Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Burow at 8:31 a.m.
- 2. Roll call:** Roll called showed one absent member, Walt Christensen. A quorum was present.
- 3. Open Meeting Law:** Compliance of open meeting law was met as meeting was properly noticed.
- 4. Review of Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed with no changes being made.
- 5. Review and Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Mike Burow to approve the July 2010 minutes with no changes. Karen Christian seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- 6. Citizen's Comments:** Mike Burow explained that a new policy was developed where citizens are asked to sign an attendance form, whether or not they wish to speak during public comment. Public comment is to be kept to fifteen minutes. He then read the attendance sheet and asked for public comment. The following members of the public spoke:
 - Weenonah Brattset:** Ms. Brattset is trying to sell an easement for the Development rights for her property to the Land Trust. The Drumlin Land Trust has been approved for 50% Federal grant funding, 35% State grant funding but needs and additional 15% or \$40,000 to secure these grants. They have approached the County Farmland Conservation Easement Commission about securing the \$40,000 but the Commission took no action.
 - Sue Marx:** Ms. Marx was attending on behalf of the Drumlin Land Trust. The Trust is under a deadline to secure the final 15% funding for the purchase of development rights on Ms. Brattset's land. The money would be a one time only request and be used only for land preservation, not administration or monitoring costs. She is asking that the

LWCC take the request for funding to the County Finance Committee and County Board as the Easement Commission has taken no action on the matter.

Janet Jenrich: Ms. Jenrich is the President of the Rock Lake Improvement Association. She is asking for a letter of support for two DNR grants that would help identify a pollution problem on Rock Lake. She read a prepared statement concerning the pollution problems on the lake which range from sedimentation, e coli bacteria contamination and algae blooms. She passed around pictures of Rock Lake illustrating these issues. She stated that both the City and Town of Lake Mills have written letter of support and would like a letter of support for each grant from the Land and Water Conservation Department.

Hope Oostdik: Ms. Oostdik is a property owner along the channel that flows into Rock Lake. She is against supporting the Rock Lake Improvement Association's request of grant funding by the DNR. She stated that private property owners in the affected area need to be included in the decision making process. She states that the Rock Lake Improvement Association has not done this.

7. Request from Rock Lake Improvement Association for Grant Letter of Support: Mark Watkins gave a brief overview of the request for a letter of support. He pointed out that the Association currently has two letters of support (from the Town and City of Lake Mills) that will qualify them the point for that item in the DNR Grant. The Land Conservation Department previously wrote a letter of support for the unsuccessful grant application they made in February. After some discussion, Mike Burow mad a motion to leave the decision of whether to write a letter of support to the Department Director. Greg Torres seconded the motion and the motion carried with Carlton Zentner voting no.

8. Agricultural Conservation Easement Funding Request from Drumlin Area Land Trust: The Land Trust is seeking a contribution of funding from the County for the purchase of development rights on the Brattset property with the money set aside from the sale of the County Farm property. After some discussion, Mr. Zentner felt that the Easement Commission was not taking action on the request for funding because the Commission was not included in the grant application process. He asked Ms. Marx if this was true. Ms. Marx replied that they did not name the source of the 15% of funds and did not include the Commission in the application process but assumed that the Commission knew they were applying for the grant. Carlton Zentner moved to table the request. Mike Burow seconded the motion and the motion carried with Greg Torres voting no.

9. Drilling Great Lakes Resolution: Per Mark Watkins, Jim Schroder who forwarded this item to the Committee withdrew the resolution from the agenda.

10. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report: The district Conservationist was unable to attend the meeting but his written report was distributed and will be made part of the record. See attached.

11. Farm Cropland Access Update: The Department of Transportation has paid for the costs expended by the County to provide access to the County farm cropland that was blocked by the Highway 26 by-pass project. All access issues have been resolved with the exception of one which has a temporary fix. It will be corrected permanently in the future as the project nears completion.

12. Notice of Non-participation in the Farmland Preservation Program: Two landowners had voluntarily requested to not participate in the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation tax credit program. Carlton Zentner moved to approve the Notice for Dewight Hookstead, Karen Christian seconded and the motion carried. Karen Christian moved and Greg Torres seconded a motion to approve the Notice for Robert Schmidt. Motion carried.

13. 2011 Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) Budget Update: Mark Watkins met with the County Administrator. The basic budget appears to be acceptable with approximately \$233,000 in levy impact on a roughly \$530,000 total budget. There are four items pending in the following order: 1. New Copy machine, 2. Reinstate to full time, the administrative clerk's position, 3. and 4. Replacement vehicles. A question was raised concerning WLWCA dues. The increased dues were included in the budget as it did not cause the budget to go over the 2% cap. Mike Burow requested we put WLWCA dues on a future agenda for discussion.

14. Monthly Financial Report: The first half of the Department's Operating Grant was received from the Department of Ag, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). The Department of Transportation paid for the cost of the farm accesses so the Department is within budget at this time.

15. Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plan Update: After approval by the Jefferson County Board in August 2010, the LWRM plan was taken before the State Land and Water Board for approval at their August 2010 meeting. The plan was approved by the State Board and is good for the next ten years.

16. Correspondence: None received.

17. Meeting and Agenda Items: Next meeting date will be September 15, 2010. Agenda items will include discussion of WLWCA dues.

18. Adjournment: Carlton Zentner moved, Karen Christian seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.