

Land & Water Conservation Committee
Minutes
February 9, 2011

1. Call to order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Mike Burow at 8:37 a.m. Committee members Walt Christensen, and Scott Zimmerman were present. Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Nancy Lannert, LWCD; and Dennis Vollmer, NRCS 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 February Agenda:

The February agenda was reviewed by the committee members.

5. Review and Approval of the December Meeting Minutes:

Approval of the December 2010 meeting minutes was tabled until the March 16, 2011 meeting.

6. Citizens Comments:

There were no citizen comments.

7. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

Dennis Vollmer discussed the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) report. See attached. Of note, there will be a General CRP Sign-up March 14 through April 15, 2011.

8. Access to Jefferson County Land for Wood Product Harvest Request

Watkins stated that he conferred with Corporation Council who recommended against approving the request by an interested party to harvest timber on the County Farm. Liability issues along with the policy of requesting bids from interested parties were factors in the Council's opinion. The Parks Department is working with the DNR Forester on selected harvest and management plans on their woodlands. If the LWCC is interested in logging on the County Farm, the DNR Forester could assist with the request.

Burow made a motion to follow the recommendation of Corporation Council, Christensen seconded and the motion carried, 3/0.

9. Notice of Non-Compliance with the Soil and Water Conservation Requirements – Farmland Preservation Program (FPP)

Dempsey Farms Partnership c/o Cormac Dempsey, Russell and Cindra Eigenberger, Donald Popp Trust and Thomas Kasten request to be removed from the Farmland Preservation Program. These Voluntary Notices of Non-participation were entered into due to the landowners not taking the Farmland Preservation Tax Credit.

Christensen moved and Zimmerman seconded to approve the four Voluntary Notices of Non-participation which will allow them to be removed from the Farmland Preservation Program database. Motion carried 3/0.

10. Delegation of Authority for Certificate of Compliance with the Conservation Standards for FPP Tax Credit

New landowners coming into the Farmland Preservation Program need to be in full compliance with the State Soil and Water Conservation Standards. Conservation Department staff needs to certify that they are in compliance. After this determination is made, the Department must process a Certification of Compliance that the landowner needs to attach to their State Income Tax Return.

This form needs to be signed by the LWCC unless they designate Department staff to sign on their behalf. Watkins explained that due to tax filing deadlines, it would benefit landowners if Department staff was delegated authority to sign on behalf of the Committee.

Christensen moved to authorize Watkins to sign on the Committee's behalf along with any of his staff he wishes to delegate. Zimmerman seconded the motion. Motion carried, 3/0.

11. Tile Repair Update on County Farm

The renter of the County Farm reported a tile break. Watkins met with Mr. Gerner in Mid-December 2010 and found that approximately six feet of old clay tile was broken. A contractor was called in to excavate and fix the break. The bill has not yet been received but is expected to be minor.

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

The interim close-out figures for 2010 were distributed. See attached. The LWCD came in below budget for 2010. In regard to the 2011 budget, the Department was informed by WLWCA that there is an indefinite moratorium on internship grants. Unless the moratorium is lifted, the Department will not be hiring a summer intern.

13. Correspondence:

A. Email from Jefferson County Parks Department

The Parks Department wrote to thank the Conservation Department for their assistance with a mapping project and for cooperative partnering.

B. Email from UWEX

Notification from UWEX of high risk manure runoff potential do to projected snowmelt.

14. 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 16, 2011 at 8:30 in Room 202. Possible agenda items include: Monthly financial report.

15. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Christensen and seconded by Zimmerman at 9:33 a.m. Motion carried, 3/0.