

**Land & Water Conservation Committee
Minutes
July 17, 2013**

1. Call to Order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Walt Christensen at 8:30 a.m. Committee members Sarah Bregant, Walt Christensen, Matthew Foelker, Carlton Zentner, and Scott Zimmerman (@ 8:32) were present. Also in attendance were Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, Gerry Kokkonen, LWCD; John Molinaro, County Board Chairman/Supervisor; and Dennis Vollmer, NRCS.

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 July Agenda:

The July agenda was reviewed by the committee members.

5. Review and Approval of the June Meeting Minutes:

Carlton Zentner made a motion to approve the June meeting minutes as written, Sarah Bregant seconded. Motion carried 4/0.

6. Communications:

There were no communications at this time.

7. Citizen Comments:

There were no citizen comments.

8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

Dennis Vollmer discussed the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) report. See attached. Caroline Clarin, an Agriculture Engineer with NRCS, has accepted a new position. She will be leaving Jefferson County for a job in the Red River Valley in Minnesota.

9. Notice of Noncompliance with Soil and Water Conservation Requirements - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP):

None at this time.

10. Cancellation of Noncompliance - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP):

None at this time.

11. Farmland Preservation Program Update: Mark Watkins

The Joint Finance Committee moved to amend the budget and change FPP from a tax credit program to a grant program. This amendment was vetoed by Governor Walker. The tax credit will remain the same for the time being.

LWCD has completed Farm Spot Checks for this year and is working on Livestock Spot Checks.

12. Non-Metallic Mining Policy: Gerry Kokkonen (LWCD)

See attached. This policy is an administrative procedure for financial assurance for reclamation.

13. ATCP 51 Livestock Siting Fee Structure: Mark Watkins

See attached. State law has changed and we have updated our ordinance to reflect those changes (in red). We will be changing the fee structure to coincide with the time spent by LWCD employees working with customers to insure proper compliance. Matthew Foelker made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2004-27, Scott Zimmerman seconded. Motion carried 5/0.

14. Status of Cropland at Old Countryside Home Farm:

Mark Watkins indicated that nothing has changed since the June meeting. John Molinaro said that some of the land could be reclaimed. It would need to be cleared. There hasn't been a decision as to where the new highway building will be however. There will be a Joint Meeting Infrastructure Committee and Highway Committee tonight where they will discuss the Highway Facility. Scott Zimmerman mentioned that without knowing where the building will be, we won't know how broken up the land will be. It may be broken up too much and would be unattractive to potential renters. We could leave it as green space to be used by taxpayers on the bike path. It has been decided by this committee that it would be best wait until the site plan has been approved before making any further plans.

15. Discussion and Possible Action on Highway Facility:

See item #14

16. Transitional Planning for Retiring Employees:

John Molinaro indicated that the Human Resources Committee is looking into this. They'll be getting a format together to implement cross training. This item will be revisited during the August meeting when we know more.

17. Monthly Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) Financial Report: Mark Watkins

We're still on track with the budget. The grant reimbursement has been submitted and we should expect to see a payment within the next month.

18. 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 August 21, 2013 at 8:30 in **Room 112**. Possible agenda items include: Revisiting items 8 - 10 and 16. Carlton Zentner asked Walt Christensen to discuss Town & Country. Walt accepted and it will be added to the August agenda.

19. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Carlton Zentner and seconded by Sarah Bregant at 9:17 a.m. Motion carried 5/0.