

Land & Water Conservation Committee
Minutes
September 17, 2008

1. Call to order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Committee Chairperson, Michael Burrow at 8:30 a.m. Committee members Greg Torres, and Karen Christian were present. Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department; Deb Miller, Administrative Clerk; Joe Strupp, Resource Conservationist and Brian Resch, NRCS were also in attendance.

2. Roll Call (establish a quorum):

Two officers were present to establish a quorum

3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law:

It was determined by the chairperson that the committee was in compliance with the open meeting law.

4. Review of the September Agenda:

The September agenda was reviewed by the committee members.

5. Citizen Comments:

There was no citizen comment.

6. Review and Approval of the August Meeting Minutes:

Mrs. Christian made a motion to approve the August meeting minutes as written. Mr. Torres seconded. Motion carried.

7. NRCS Report (Natural Resources Conservation Service) – Brian Resch:

Mr. Resch discussed the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) report. A hand-out was provided. See attached report.

8. Jonas Farm Tile – Update:

Mr. Watkins provided the members with an estimate for repairs to the broken tile. The tile is broken on the county property and flooding the adjacent property owner's land. The cost of the repairs is estimated to be \$1,000 - \$1,200. Mr. Watkins is going to see if the land-owner would be willing to share the costs of the repairs. The committee will revisit this issue next month.

9. NR-151 Compliance Review:

New rules announced by the DNR and DATCP sets performance standards and prohibitions for farms to reduce runoff and protect water quality. These new rules went into effect on October 1, 2002 to control polluted runoff. Cost-sharing funds of at least 70% are available to help implement the performance standard practices that are required. Two major problems are unconfined manure stacks and spreading manure too close to waterways. A county wide evaluation is being implemented. This computer based program is being utilized to help track and correct problems. Hand-outs were provided. See attached.

10. Endangered/Threatened Species-Yellow Giant Hyssop:

Mr. Watkins informed the group that there is Yellow Giant Hyssop located on the SE corner of the county farm land near the Hwy. 26 bypass. The Hyssop is considered an endangered/threatened and protected species. The plant is located on crop land that the county rents out. One suggestion would be to take the seeds from the existing Hyssops and plant them in another location. Hand-outs were provided. See attached.

11. New Committee Size:

The county board approved increasing the committee members from three to five. Mr. Watkins explained that the new members do not necessarily have to be County Supervisors or UW Extension Representatives. Several people have approached Mr. Watkins, indicating their interest in being on the committee.

12. Southern Area Association (SAA) Fall Business Meeting:

Mr. Watkins mentioned the SAA Fall Business meeting which is on October 23rd. Due to a cost increase at the previous location, the SAA committee is looking for a new place. He also mentioned the WLWCA meeting that will be taking place in Appleton, WI on December 10th-12th. There are 11 counties that belong to the SAA, where as the WLWCA members consist of counties from all over the state. Attending the meetings is a good way for county LWCC members to meet each other and discuss various issues. The LWCC members will be notified as soon as a location for the SAA meeting is determined.

13. 2009 Budget Request Revenue Short Fall:

Mr. Watkins explained the 2009 recommended budget to the members. He said the new recommended budget reflects a tax levy increase over the 2008 budget. The primary reason for the increase is a request for the replacement of a ten year old vehicle. The vehicle is used to haul the tree planters, to conduct spot checks and other various department duties. A hand-out was provided. See attached.

14. Correspondence:

The members were given a copy of the Land & Water Conservation annual report. Mr. Watkins highlighted some of the topics in the report. A hand-out was provided. See attached.

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, October 15th, at 8:30 in room 202. Possible agenda item: Jonas Farm Tile.

16. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Torres and seconded by Mrs. Christian at 9:36. Motion carried.