

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
Meeting Minutes of March 4, 2011  
LWCD Conference Room, James P. Coughlin Center

Convene: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Farrey at 9:00 a.m.

Present: **LCC Members:** Nancy Barker, Bruce Bohn, Paul Eisen, James Englebert, Chuck Farrey, Ken Neubauer and Dan Stokes.

**LWCD Staff:** Tom Davies

Others Present: Brian Maedke and Barry Benson, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services, Steve Easterly, WDNR and Larry & Debra Last, Winnebago County citizens

Absent: none

Approve February 3, 2011 LCC Meeting Minutes: An Englebert/Barker motion to approve the February 3, 2011 LCC meeting minutes, passed 7-0

Announcements:

- Tom welcomed Ken Neubauer back to the LCC after a long recovery from surgery.
- Tom also welcomed Larry & Debra Last, Winnebago County citizens to the meeting.
- Tom distributed a national survey regarding deer donation programs for the LCC's review.
- Tom explained that DATCP had informed the counties that SEG funds should not be committed until a contract has been signed with DATCP securing the funds.
- Tom shared that his preliminary review of the proposed State budget indicated that conservation had fared better than originally anticipated.
- Tom told the LCC that based on a conversation with Corp Council, the election of the LCC Secretary position, vacated by John Reinert, should be an agenda item. Chairman Farrey instructed Tom to place the election on the April LCC meeting.

Business Items:

Review and Approve or Deny, the 2010 Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP) Participant Claims

Brian Maedke, Barry Benson and Steve Easterly reviewed the information on the Jon Otto and Ken Walters claims. The LCC first discussed the Otto claim, a Barker/Stokes motion to pay the Otto claim passed 4-3 (Bohn, Farrey & Neubauer opposed). The LCC then discussed the Walters claim and the fact that the land is located within the city limits of Oshkosh and that hunting is not permitted. Paul Eisen felt that because this land is rented by the participant that they should assume some of the risk from wildlife damage knowing it cannot be abated with firearms. Following the discussion an Englebert/Barker motion to pay the Walters claim passed 5-2 (Eisen & Neubauer opposed).

Approve / Disapprove, 2012 Joint DATCP/DNR Non-point Source Grant Application and the Resolution for Authorization of Acceptance of the 2012 DATCP/DNR Non-point Source Grant

Tom explained this is the application for our annual staffing and cost sharing grant from the state. Following a brief discussion a Barker/Neubauer motion to approve the application passed 7-0.

Then Tom explained the needed resolution is to give the LCC authority to accept the grant in 2012 when it is awarded. Following a brief discussion a Neubauer/Barker motion to approve the resolution passed 7-0.

Review and Approve / Disapprove the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Spending Authority Amendment

Tom explained the original grant authority had been reduced from \$600,000 to \$440,000. To date the LWCD had contracted \$136,218, which would leave a new balance of \$303,782. Tom stated that due to high crop prices farmland was not being enrolled into CREP at the same rate it originally was and this amount would be fine to complete the program. Following a brief discussion an Englebert/Barker motion to approve the amendment passed 7-0.

Review and Approve/Disapprove the payment of the 2011 WLWCA Dues

The LCC reviewed the WLWCA request for \$1,909.50 for the 2011 membership dues. The LCC was only able to get \$1,367.00 put into the 2011 budget. This is the same amount paid for 2010 dues and was all that Chairman Albrecht would allow in the County Board budget. Following a good discussion regarding the future of the organization and the ability to act through the local LWLWCA, a Neubauer/Bohn motion to pay the appropriated \$1,367.00 passed 7-0.

Review and Approve Winnebago County Water Quality Improvement Program Cost Share Agreements (CSA) to provide funding for eligible projects

There were no CSAs and no action was taken by the LCC.

Review and Approve NR151/ATCP50 implementation /compliance notification letters

The LCC reviewed the letter to Allen Farms Inc. Tom explained that Dave Allen, Allen Farms Inc. had been working with LWCD and has achieved full compliance with the Ag Performance Stds. Tom shared that this would make Allen Farms Inc. eligible for the Farmland Preservation Program tax credit. A Bohn/Englebert motion to approve the letter for Allen Farms Inc. passed 7-0.

Discuss current status of the Farmland Preservation Plan revisions

Chairman Farrey explained where the FPP Planning Committee was in the process and explained the importance of the final mapping decisions rendered by the group. Chairman Farrey explained there was another FPP meeting scheduled for March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and that he would provide another update at the April LCC meeting.

A Barker/Neubauer motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:42am passed 7-0.

Tom Davies, Recorder