

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes of August 5, 2010
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, Chuck Farrey, John Reinert, and Dan Stokes.

LWCD Staff: Tom Davies

Others Present: Rebecca Katers, CWAC, Brian Maedke, USDA-APHIS-WS, Mat Masters and Peter Peters, USDA-FSA and Mark Kaczarowski, Intern, USDA-NRCS

Absent: Ken Neubauer

Approve July 1, 2010, LCC Meeting Minutes: A Barker/Stokes motion to approve the July 1, 2010 LCC meeting minutes, passed 6-0

Announcements:

- Tom introduced Mark Kaczarowski to the LCC. Mark shared his personal background and experiences as the NRCS summer intern.
- Tom mentioned the recent passing of Rod Nilsestreun, Wisconsin Secretary of Agriculture.
- Tom announced that Kathy Pielsticker had been hired as the Director of the Bureau of Land and Water Resources.
- Tom distributed the letter sent to Dennis Craig regarding completion of his project.
- Tom distributed the letter sent to Daniel Olson regarding the bedrock issue encountered during the excavation and installation of his manure reception pit.
- Tom passed out the WLWCA "Thursday Note" publication.
- At the request of Chairman Farrey, and as a point of disclosure, Tom announced that Chuck Farrey would be working with the LWCD to install a waterway and machinery crossing on his property and would be receiving 70% cost-sharing. The project cost is currently estimated at \$12,000 to \$13,000.
- Tom reviewed the LWCD second annual shoreland buffer tour hosted by Gene and Anna Kuhns, 6869 Sunset Trail, Winneconne, WI. The LCC reviewed the letter sent by LWCD to the Kuhns family thanking them for their participation.
- Tom shared that the WLWCA dues letter had arrived and 2011 dues for Winnebago County are set at \$1909.50. Tom mentioned he had contacted Chairman Farrey when the letter arrived so he could visit with County Board Chairman Albrecht to get the dues included in the budget. Chairman Farrey asked to have the WLWCA dues issue placed on the September, 2010 LCC meeting agenda for discussion.
- Tom reviewed two articles from the Post Crescent regarding a rain garden demo done by the FVTC with assistance from LWCD and an article that discussed increased weed growth in the Winnebago System due to cleaner water and deeper light penetration.
- Nancy Barker and Dan Stokes reported on the LWLWCA summer tour they attended in Waupaca County. Part of the meeting included a trip on the Waupaca Chain of Lakes where different items and conservation practices were highlighted.

Business Items:

Review and Approve the Clean Water Action Council (CWAC) of Northeastern Wisconsin Sawyer Creek Supplemental Environmental Projects Agreement and Associated \$25,000 Budget Transfer and County Board Resolution

Rebecca Katers reviewed the law suit and how the \$25,000 funding became earmarked for the LWCD. Tom explained that the Agreement had been edited by LWCD to allow ample time to meet the goals of the Sawyer Creek Project. Tom explained that a letter would be sent to landowners in the Sawyer Creek watershed notifying them of this opportunity to receive financial assistance to do water quality improvement projects. Following a short discussion, a Bohn/Barker motion to approve the Agreement and the associated \$25,000 budget transfer and County Board resolution passed 6-0.

Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program progress report

Brian Maedke, USDA-APHIS-WS, provided a detailed progress report and program update. Brian provided current enrollment information, program rules and possible program changes. The LCC thanked Brian for his fine report.

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

Tom distributed an amended list of projects to be approved. Tom explained that many well abandonments were being done due to tighter requirements by towns regarding wells. Tom also explained the benefits of rain gardens on developed sites on or near shoreland. Following a brief discussion a Stokes/Eisen motion to approve \$345.00 for John Walsh, \$345.00 for Rita Major, \$923.00 for Marie Damie, \$535.00 for Adam Vance, \$340.00 for Mary Sitzberger and \$345.00 for Ronald Obermeier all for well abandonments, and \$350.00 for Ed Davis for a rain garden, passed 6-0.

USDA, Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) review

Peter Peters and Mat Masters, USDA, FSA, reviewed the new CRP enrollment occurring from August 2, 2010 through August 27, 2010. Peter explained this is the first enrollment since 2006 and will be a competitive enrollment. Peter commented that the 2008 Farm Bill targeted 32,000,000 acres of land to be enrolled in CRP. Peter and Mat explained how offers are ranked and then accepted or denied based on certain priorities and parameters set by FSA. Handouts were provided outlining the program features. The LCC thanked Peter and Mat for their report and welcomed them back anytime to share information.

Review and Approve the Resolution requesting County Board approval of the 2011-2020 Winnebago County Land and Water Resource Management Plan (LWRMP)

Tom explained that on August 3, 2010, the State Land and Water Conservation Board approved the 2011-2020 LWRMP submitted by the LCC and LWCD; final requirement is full county board approval. Following a brief discussion regarding the ability to alter or amend the Plan an Eisen/Barker motion to approve the resolution passed 6-0.

Review and Approve a State SWRM Grant Reimbursement Request for \$140,139.02

Tom explained that this was the first of two reimbursement requests (\$140,139.02) and is done annually to receive funds for staff expenses. The total grant approved for staff expenses for 2010 is \$152,897.00. The LWCD will request the balance (\$12,757.98) at year end. Following a short discussion a Barker/Bohn motion to approve the Reimbursement Request passed 6-0.

A Reinert/Barker motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:00am passed 6-0.

Tom Davies, Recorder