

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes of February 5, 2009
LWCD Conference Room, James P. Coughlin Center

Convene: The meeting was called to order by Nancy Barker at 9:00 a.m.

Present: **LCC Members:** Nancy Barker, Bruce Bohn, Chuck Farrey, Sue Locke, John Reinert, Dan Stokes and Bob Warnke.

LWCD Staff: Tom Davies

Others Present: Greg Hines, Coordinator, Glacierland RC&D; Steve Easterly, Wildlife Technician, WDNR; Merrie Schamberger, DC, NRCS; Peter Peters, CED, FSA, and Brian Maedke, Wildlife Specialist, USDA, APHIS, WS.

Absent: none

Approve , January 8, 2009 LCC Meeting Minutes: A Farrey / Reinert motion to approve the January 8, 2009 LCC meeting minutes as presented, passed 7-0.

Announcements:

- Tom announced that the CREP contract extension was complete and officially extended to January 31, 2013.
- Tom reviewed a letter from Russ Feingold, US Senate, regarding the Clean Water Protection Act.
- Tom commented on the 2007 DATCP Annual Progress report where Winnebago County LWCD was highlighted for their successful, “Natural Shoreline Expo” held at the Expo.
- Tom reported on the State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) program. Tom explained that Winnebago County, with efforts from FSA, NRCS and LWCD had enrolled 322 acres, comprising 71% of the land enrolled in the Wisconsin Glacial Safe Area.
- Tom mentioned that DATCP was tentatively going to release the revised SWRM Grant Allocation plan by February 12, 2009 to allow enough time for public comment and the other steps needed to complete the plan by the March 31, 2009 deadline. Tom stated that communication from DATCP regarding the grant has always supported maintaining the staffing dollars for local LWCDs.
- Tom announced that the Illicit Discharge Ordinance had been reviewed by Corp Council and approved by the Highway Committee. It will be Chapter 14 of the Winnebago General Code. Corp Council recommended some minor changes that will not change the intent of the document.
- Chuck Farrey mentioned the work that the LWCD was doing with local towns affected by the HWY 41 expansion project. Tom stated he would talk to Dean about the pending meeting with DOT.
- Tom passed out copies of the *Thursday Note* news letter from WLWCA.

Business Items:

Presentation: “Overview of Glacierland Resource Conservation and Development Inc.”– Greg Hines, Coordinator, Glacierland RC & D

Before Greg began his presentation, Chairperson Barker asked all in attendance to introduce themselves. Then Greg began by explaining that Nancy Barker is the Winnebago LCC representative to Glacierland RC& D and Sue Locke is the alternate. Greg thanked Nancy for all her support over the years. Greg explained the many projects and issues facing communities/counties that Glacierland is helping complete or address. Some examples provided were Invasive Species, such as; Buckthorn, Phragmites, Honeysuckle, and Garlic Mustard.

Greg then discussed some projects to deal with the wood being harvested in the Emerald Ash Borer quarantine areas and for future marketing of Ash as the insect continues to devastate trees. He discussed gasification of wood chips, firewood sales and other possible ways to safely utilize this raw wood material. In closing Greg offered the services of Glacierland to help the LWCD complete projects, write grants or deliver programs to the community. The LCC thanked Greg for his presentation and offer of assistance.

Presentation: “What we currently know about the 2008 Farm Bill” by Peter Peters, County Executive Director, Winnebago County Farm Service Agency

Pete started by thanking the LCC for allowing him time on the agenda. Pete passed out an outline of the different FSA programs currently being offered by USDA, FSA. He reviewed how each might be used by landowners in Winnebago County to strengthen their financial position, protect natural and farm resources, and improve overall operations. Pete explained how the different commodity programs functioned and how the payment or loan amount was established. Pete then distributed the 2008 Fiscal Year Producer Payment Summary (October 1, 2007 – September 30, 2008) and discussed what each amount represented. In total Winnebago County participants received \$3,523,288 to help support their farming operations, or as resource protection program participation payments. Pete offered the LCC detailed sheets on each program should they want additional information. The LCC thanked Pete for his fine report and invited him back whenever he had information to share.

Review and Approve or Deny, the 2008 Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP) Participant Claims

Brian Maedke, Wildlife Specialist, USDA, APHIS, WS provided a summary of the 2008 participants claims. He also provided, for historical information, the same summary from 2007. Brian reviewed the 2008 claims individually and explained in detail the program requirements and how each participant did or did not satisfy the requirements or achieve the program objectives. Steve Easterly, Wildlife Technician, WDNR, was asked if he agreed with and supported Brian’s assessment of the 2008 claims. Steve responded that the WDNR supported the presented report. As a point of information and clarification Tom reminded the LCC that each year Winnebago County, via the LWCD, works with Steve (WDNR) to get landowners experiencing crop damage from wildlife involved with the WDACP. Tom added, then each year, because we have neither the resources nor the expertise, the County, via the LWCD, contracts with Brian (USDA, APHIS, WS) to work with the participants to abate the problem and determine the amount and value of crop damage and/or loss. Tom concluded we have always relied on and supported Brian’s knowledge, experience and good judgment when working with Winnebago County WDACP participants. The LCC agreed with Tom’s comments and following a detailed discussion of the information provided, a Farrey / Stokes motion to approve the claims of Brian Badtke, Jon Badtke, Bahn Farms Inc., James Fischer, Fred Marohn, Ski-Hi Dairy, LLC, and John Yost III, and deny the claims of Ken Pinnow, Dan Rieckmann and Art Tellock, passed 7-0.

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

Tom provided information for CSA# 09-01. Tom explained it was for portions of a barnyard runoff management system to be installed at Bohn Farms Inc. to bring a livestock facility into compliance that is currently delivering manure to surface water. Tom explained that the majority of the project funds were being covered through EQIP, a USDA, NRCS funding source. County funds were being used to cost share only those not eligible through EQIP. Following a brief discussion, a Warnke / Farrey motion to approve \$2,531.90 for Bohn Farms Inc. passed 6-0-1. (Bruce Bohn abstained)

A Reinert / Warnke motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:07am passed 7-0.

Tom Davies, Recorder