

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
Meeting Minutes of June 4, 2009  
LWCD Conference Room, James P. Coughlin Center

Convene: The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Barker at 9:05 a.m.

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

LWCD Staff: Tom Davies, Melanie Leet and Chad Casper

Others Present: none

Absent: Bob Warnke, excused

Approve May 7, 2009, LCC Meeting Minutes: A Farrey / Stokes motion to approve the May 7, 2009 LCC meeting minutes, passed 6-0.

Announcements:

- Tom informed Nancy Barker that the dates scheduled for review of the 2010 LWCD budget with Executive Harris are August 17 to 21, 2009. Tom said it would be one of those days.
- Tom handed out the WLWCA *Thursday Note*, for the LCC to review.
- Tom informed the LCC that the Spierowski / Evans well abandonment project had been completed in spite of all the turmoil between the participating landowners. The LCC congratulated the LWCD for getting the abandonment done.
- Tom informed the LCC that the State Budget Process continued to be a long battle for Conservation Groups, but WLWCA and its partner organizations were fighting “the good fight” for the LWCDs of Wisconsin.
- Tom reported that the “Conservation Expo” was extremely well organized and received by those in attendance. Tom stated that Keith Marquardt and the rest of the crew did an excellent job of layout and set up for the event. Tom stated that attendance was down and the department is considering waiting a few years before having another expo.
- Tom informed the LCC that the 2009 SWRM Grant contract had arrived from DATCP with all the required signatures and landowners were now going to be reimbursed in accordance with their CSA.

Business Items:

Discuss LCC Conservation Practice Educational Tour and select appropriate date and time

Tom mentioned to the LCC that the Watershed Projects were having their landowner appreciation and project wrap-up meetings in mid July. It was thought that maybe the LCC would like to attend one of the functions along with their tour. Following good discussion with Melanie Leet and Chad Casper regarding projects available to view and a review of their calendars, it was decided to have the tour on the regularly scheduled LCC meeting date of August 6th, 2009. The business meeting will be held starting at 8:00am and the tour will follow. A lunch stop will be decided at the July LCC meeting based on where the tour will take the group. It was decided to invite all the LCC members to the Watershed meetings and allow them to attend as they choose.

Progress report on the Cory & Dennis Craig Manure Pit Abandonment or Reconstruction Project in the Town of Rushford

Tom and Melanie discussed the project and reviewed letters sent by DATCP and the LWCD to the Craigs. The committee was made aware of the requirements regarding the project and the position of the LWCD with regard to the pit abandonment or reconstruction. Tom reported that the Craigs need to respond to the LWCD and DATCP in writing with their decision. Following their decision, the project will take shape and be completed. The committee commended the LWCD for their handling of this situation. Tom assured the LCC they would be kept informed as the project progressed and it was suggested to make this site one of the stops on the tour.

Approve / Disapprove, Resolution to Authorize the Land and Water Conservation Department to make Position Title changes to Re-Align them with current Programs and Position Duties

Tom explained the reasoning for the position title changes. Tom stated that the Watershed Project would be ending in December 2009 and that the positions associated with the Watershed Project have been working outside the watershed / county wide for many years. Tom explained that the SWRM grant includes staff funding for the entire department to support implementation of the County Land and Water Resource Management Plan (LWRMP). The funding for the watershed projects is a very small portion of the grant. The State has moved to a grant process that incorporates the requirement of a LWRMP for eligibility of grants. These positions have evolved over the last 15 years along with the ever changing responsibilities and workload of the LWCD. Working in cooperation with, and supported by Karon Kraft, Director, HR, it was decided to simplify and re-align the position titles with current programs and duties effective 1-1-2010. Chuck Farrey explained that he was curious at first as to why the changes were needed but supported the idea because it made sense and did not require additional funding. The other LCC members also agreed with the changes. A Farrey / Bohn motion to approve the resolution passed 6-0.

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

Tom reviewed the well abandonment CSA for Jacob and Sara Fink. Tom explained a new well was being drilled and the old well will be properly abandoned. Following a brief discussion, a Bohn / Farrey motion to approve CSA 09-05 for an estimated cost share of \$410.00 for Jacob and Sara Fink passed 6-0.

A Farrey / Stokes motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:35am passed 6-0.

Tom Davies, Recorder