

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes of October 1, 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, Dan Stokes and Bob Warnke.

LWCD Staff: Tom Davies

Others Present: Brian Maedke, USDA, Wildlife Services and Gordon Handerich, citizen.

Absent: none

Approve September 3, 2009, LCC Meeting Minutes: A Warnke/Stokes motion to approve the September 3, 2009 LCC meeting minutes, passed 7-0.

Announcements:

- Tom announced that the registration forms for the WLWCA Annual Conference scheduled for December 9 & 10, 2009 in La Crosse, WI, had been delivered. The LCC discussed the agenda and which members might attend. At present, no members had decided to attend. Conference resolutions will be discussed at the November meeting and an absentee ballot or designee document sent prior to the conference.
- Tom distributed the Omro Dairy newsletter for the LCC to read.
- Tom distributed an article from the New York Times regarding the well contaminations in Morrison, Wisconsin.
- Tom announced that our Agronomist, Jon Bahrke, had passed his National and State exams for Wisconsin Certified Crop Advisor certification. Tom explained that Jon now can submit for certification with the State Board of Review. Tom also stated that this certification was a requirement of Jon's position and a very large accomplishment for Jon. The LCC sent its congratulations to Jon.
- Tom discussed the draft 2010 LCC meeting schedule. The LCC did not currently have any concerns, but will review the schedule and approve it the next LCC meeting. Tom asked the members to contact him if there were major conflicts for anyone with the schedule.
- The LCC reviewed the LWLWCA Fall meeting agenda. The session is being hosted by Outagamie County and will be held on October 16, 2009 at Liberty Hall in Kimberly. Tom recorded those planning to attend. Those not sure were requested to notify the LWCD office by noon the next day in order to get the paperwork/payment submitted on time.

Business Items:

Review and Approve the 2010 USDA Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program (WDACP) Budget and set the crop prices to be used to reimburse the 2009 program participants for their wildlife damage
Brian Maedke presented the 2010 estimated budget for the program. He explained that participation was estimated to be fairly constant and that the \$24,700 budget was slightly under the 2009 estimated budget. Tom explained that all expenditures for this program are reimbursed 100% by WDNR. Following a very brief discussion a Farrey/Warnke motion to approve the budget and participation in the 2010 WDACP with USDA Wildlife Services passed 7-0. Crop prices will be set at the next LCC meeting in November, 2009.

USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services, Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program - 2008 Summary Report Presentation

Brian passed out some information that highlighted the changes to the 2009 program. The changes increase the claim deductible from \$250 to \$500 and reduce the maximum claim from \$15,000 to \$10,000. Brian explained that these changes were created in the new State budget and are in effect for 2009. Brian explained that some participants are angry that the program was changed after the contracts were signed and have raised the issue from a legal stand point with the State. Brian also provided information on how to access the new landowner participation information from the WDNR website. Currently it is not providing accurate information and the WDNR is working on the issue. Brian also distributed the Wisconsin WDACP 2008 Summary Report for the LCC's review. The LCC thanked Brian for his report and his fine work with the program.

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

Tom reported that the pit had been emptied but not scraped clean by the phase one deadline. Dennis had however contracted an excavator and the rain had required additional pumping. Dennis stated that the excavator was scheduled to begin on Wednesday, October 7, 2009. Tom explained that the plan is to push the remaining waste to one end of the pit with a cat or skid steer and remove it with the excavator. Once the pit is cleaned out to LWCD satisfaction the tiles can be excavated and soil reinstalled and compacted according to specifications. Tom said he would keep the LCC informed as the project progressed.

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

Tom reviewed the four projects and commented on the small amount of funds required to abandon local wells. Tom explained it was a very good return on investment to get the wells closed up at such a low cost. After a brief discussion, a Farrey / Stokes motion to approve \$330.00 for Clyde & Elizabeth Kettner and \$283.00 for Bodo Bube for well abandonments, \$5250.00 for Jerome Wohlt for a wetland restoration and \$2100.00 for Mike and Carolyn Fixmer for a shoreline habitat restoration passed 7-0.

Report on the Working Lands Initiative and the revised Farmland Preservation Program (FPP)

Tom reported that he and several other LWCD staff had attended the DATCP information session held on 9/24/09. Tom explained that the FPP had been greatly simplified with respect to calculating the tax credit for participants, but the compliance requirements were much greater. Tom also explained that it is very hard to know who is taking the credit because the Dept. of Revenue will not release the names, thus the LWCD does not know who is illegally participating and filing a fraudulent tax return. Tom stated that his plan is to provide the State with the names of our participants that are certifying annually and meeting the requirements and let them prosecute those that are not on the list and have fraudulently filed for the credit. Chuck and Tom also shared the concerns attached to creating an Agricultural Enterprise Area and other land use planning and zoning requirements needed to keep the County in compliance, and our landowners eligible for the FPP. Tom finished by explaining the LWCD will experience an incredible increase in the workload to administer this revised FPP and will not be able to get all the "New Participants" in compliance with the Ag Perf. Stds. so they can receive the tax credit the first few years. Tom said he would keep the LCC informed as the changes occurred.

Approve Agricultural Performance Standards Compliance Notification Letters

There were no letters to approve and no action was taken by the LCC on this agenda item.

A Farrey / Bohn motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:00am passed 7-0.

Tom Davies, Recorder