

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes of November 12, 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

Absent: none

Approve October 1, 2009, LCC Meeting Minutes: A Farrey/Reinert motion to approve the October 1, 2009 LCC meeting minutes, passed 7-0.

Announcements:

- Tom announced that the Land and Water Resource Management Plan revision process was in full swing and estimated having an initial draft done by March.
- Tom announced that the UWEX and LWCD had successfully applied for and received a \$4700 Nutrient Management Farmer Training Grant to be used to cost share soil testing for those farmers planning on attending the training.
- Tom commented that the LWCD 2010 budget had passed with no questions from the County Board.
- Tom reviewed the 2009 fiscal year CREP enrollment results that consist of 24.4 acres of grass buffers and 7.4 acres of riparian (grass and trees) buffers. Tom explained it was a substantial amount of land and that it was a team effort between USDA and LWCD.
- Tom mentioned he had received a call from Midwest Environmental Ag, regarding a settlement from a Utica Energy law suit that might be managed by LWCD and used to install BMPs in the Sawyer Creek Watershed to reduce Agricultural Runoff into Sawyer Creek. The settlement is not expected until mid 2010.
- Tom reviewed a letter he received from DATCP regarding conflict of interest and cost containment procedures required by the state with regard to the SWRM grant funds. The letter addresses the need for written protocol for situations when LCC members and/or LWCD staff are eligible to receive cost sharing from the State. It also mentions having proper procedures in place for cost containment on projects being funded through this grant. Tom said he would discuss it with Corp Council and report back to the LCC.
- Tom mentioned that the Mutual Aid Compact, designed to provide and receive assistance to and from neighboring LWCDs, was still being written and he would probably have a draft ready for approval at the December LCC meeting.
- Nancy Barker announced that the WLWCA 2010 membership dues were included in the 2010 County Board budget.

Business Items:

Review and Set the 2009 USDA Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program (WDACP) crop prices to be used to reimburse the program participants for their wildlife damage

Brian Maedke presented the proposed 2009 Crop Prices to be paid to the participants for their crop loss. Following a review of the prices it was suggested that corn be raised from \$3.38 to \$3.75 per bushel and wheat be raised from \$3.82 to \$4.00 per bushel. A Farrey/Bohn motion to approve the prices as amended passed 7-0. A copy of the price list is on file with USDA and LWCD.

Review and Approve the 2010 LCC meeting schedule

Following a brief review, a Stokes/Warnke motion to approve the proposed 2010 LCC meeting schedule passed 7-0.

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

Tom reported that the pit had been emptied and scraped clean. Dennis had placed the manure on the adjacent grass field instead of putting it into trucks and spreading it on cropland. Dennis told Tom he wanted to use his family's equipment to save money and would scrape up the manure and haul it himself. Tom explained the tiles were being removed today and the ground replaced and compacted according to NRCS standards and specifications. Hopefully, the project would be done by the end of this week (November 13, 2009) and that Dennis would promptly get the manure scraped and spread on to his cropland. Tom said he would keep the LCC informed of the progress.

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

Tom reviewed the five 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. Bob Warnke asked for an explanation of Nutrient Management Planning (NMP). Dan Stokes and Tom provided the information for Bob and the other LCC members. After a brief discussion, a Bohn/Reinert motion to approve \$370.00 for Steve & Skye Meidam, \$429.00 for Mike Williams, \$213.00 for John Zink and \$258.00 for Susan Heuer to do well abandonments and \$5012.00 for George Leichtfuss for NMP passed 7-0.

Discuss WLWCA Conference items and identify those attending

Do to a lack of information needed from the WLWCA Board to act on this item a Farrey/Reinert motion to lay it over to the December 3, 2009 LCC meeting passed 7-0.

Review and Approve Cost-Share Funds Transfers to Adams County for \$20,000 and Washburn County for \$6,000

Tom explained that these funds became available to transfer after a large shoreline protection project was denied a WDNR for construction. Tom stated that transferring the funds would reduce the LWCD's amount of unspent grant allocation which would benefit us during the 2010 allocation process. It also helps the other counties complete their projects. Following a brief discussion, a Warnke/Farrey motion to approve the transfers passed 7-0.

A Farrey / Reinert motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:40am passed 6-0. (Bob Warnke was excused before the vote).

Tom Davies, Recorder