

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes of February 5, 2015

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, Chuck Farrey, John Egan, Larry Kriescher (arrived 9:04am), Ken Neubauer and Tom Snider.

LWCD Staff: Tom Davies and Chad Casper

Others Present: Barry Benson, USDA, WS, Merrie Schaumberger, NRCS, Christina Mulder and Steve Easterly, WDNR

Absent: None

Confirm Meeting/Agenda has been Properly Public Noticed in Accordance with County Policy:

Chairman Farrey confirmed with Tom Davies that the meeting had been properly public noticed.

Approve January 8, 2015 LCC Meeting Minutes: A Barker/Egan motion to approve the January 8, 2015, LCC meeting minutes passed 6-0.

Announcements:

- Tom D. informed the LCC that the LWCD will have budget carryovers totaling \$114,976 in State funds and \$51,368 in County funds. These funds are all cost share dollars for landowners.
- Tom D. reported that the sale of the Truax no-till drill to the Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) is complete and that County constituents are already utilizing the planting services provided by FVTC.
- Tom D. reminded the LCC that the LWCD would be reviewing the Winnebago County Livestock Waste Management Ordinance and bringing their revision recommendations to the LCC for review and approval.
- Tom D. shared with the LCC that the Egan Brother's feed runoff control project was complete except for a small diversion that needs to be constructed in spring.
- Tom D. provided the LCC with information regarding the WLWCA silent auction and raffle.
- Tom D. distributed the January and February 2015, DATCP Report for review by the LCC.
- Tom D. recognized Lynette Hein's efforts in organizing and coordinating the LWLWCA's regional poster contest.
- Tom D. informed the LCC that he was participating on the Pay for Performance Program Committee.
- Tom D. reminded the LCC that there would be a need to communicate with legislators to secure funding within the newly proposed State budget.
- Tom D., on behalf of FSA, announced that the cut-off date for program enrollment is February 27, 2015.
- Tom D. informed the LCC that he would be judging FFA students in a speaking contest at Oshkosh North High School this evening.
- Merrie Schamberger, NRCS informed the LCC that the sign up deadline for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is February 27, 2015.
- Merrie Schamberger introduced Christina Mulder, the new NRCS and LWCD volunteer.

Chairman's Report: None

Business Items:

Review and Approve or Deny, the 2014 Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP) Participant Claims, and Discuss the Planned Changes to the 2015 WDACP

Barry Benson, USDA, WS reviewed the “Claims Summary” with the LCC. Benson noted that Jonathan Otto was recorded as not having met his harvest quota. Benson explained that there were issues with some of the registration stations so he was going to check into the information and visit with Otto to get the accurate total. Benson requested that Otto’s claim be reviewed at the next LCC meeting in March. Following a brief discussion, a Snider/Kriescher motion to pay all the other claims (less Jonathan Otto) that had met the program requirements passed 7-0. A total of \$9,471.73 was approved for these 2014 claims.

Progress Report on the “Weigh In on Winnebago Waters” Steering Team Efforts

Chad Casper reported that the Steering Team had held a series of meetings to gather information as to what “cooperative management” might look like. Chad explained that a meeting with County leaders was held to get their thoughts on the issue. The consensus was for the Steering Team to continue meeting and provide recommendations on the following topics: how to create a formalized facilitated group, develop a position description for potentially hiring a steering team leader, identify the scope of work to be done, funding and oversight, and where will the position be located. Chad explained that this information is to be presented to the County leaders later this spring. Chad also explained that information was currently being gathered for the potential creation of a “Central Hub” to help the general public find information related to the Winnebago System.

Chairman Farrey stated he had visited with Executive Harris regarding the topic. Chairman Farrey stated he could not support using County levy to fill a new position, but was supportive of using a non-profit group to facilitate team efforts and fill the needed position by securing funding through available grant sources.

Chad finished by explaining that Winnebago County and Calumet County were working together to combine all the shore land inventory data into one usable entity.

The LCC thanked Chad for his report.

Final Report on the “Sawyer Creek Watershed Project” Funded by the Clean Water Action Council (CWAC) Grant Via the Utica Energy Settlement

Tom D. provided a brief history of the project and shared the comments he received from the CWAC during his report to them on January 21, 2015. Tom D. and Chad C. reviewed the projects that were installed in the watershed and the associated costs. The LCC commended the LWCD technical staff for their fine work and thanked Tom D. and Chad for the detailed final report.

Report and Discussion on the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) Environment and Land Use Steering Committee Meetings, and the WCA Agriculture Steering Committee Meetings

Chairman Farrey reviewed the information discussed at the meetings. The key topics were upland invasive species and the need to fund their removal, shifting funds within WDNR grants, and the impacts of the proposed State budget. The LCC thanked Chairman Farrey for his informative report.

Review and Approve Winnebago County Water Quality Improvement Program Cost Share Agreements (CSA) to Provide Funding for Eligible Projects

There were no CSAs to approve therefore the LCC took no action.

A Snider/Barker motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m. passed 7-0.

Tom Davies, Recorder