

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes of July 3, 2014

LWCD Conference Room, James P. Coughlin Center

Convene: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Farrey at 9:04 a.m.

Present: **LCC Members:** Nancy Barker, Chuck Farrey, Larry Kriescher, Ken Neubauer and Tom Snider.

**LWCD Staff:** Tom Davies

Others Present: Jake Vande Berg, FSA

Absent: John Egan and Bruce Bohn, both excused in advance.

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 June 5, 2014, LCC Meeting Minutes: A Neubauer/Snider motion to approve the June 5, 2014, LCC meeting minutes passed 5-0.

Announcements:

- Tom D. announced that both Bruce Bohn and John Egan were excused from the meeting in advance.
- Tom D. announced that the water tests taken this spring from 13 homeowners around the Oakridge Road project had all tested negative for e-coli and only two had tested positive for coliform.
- Tom D. informed the LCC that Lynn Mathias, County Conservationist for Fond du Lac County was retiring after 42 years of service. Paul Tollard was appointed the new County Conservationist.
- Tom D. reported that the WDNR was interested in taking ownership of the Noffke property in the Town of Winneconne. Tom D. informed the LCC he had recommended that the WDNR refer the Noffke family to the Poygan Sportsman's Club or other non-profits along the Winnebago System.
- Tom D. notified the LCC that Emerald Ash Borer had been found in Door County.
- Tom D. informed the LCC that Paul Knier had made the appropriate repairs and brought his facilities back into compliance.
- Tom D. announced that there was a manure stacking complaint in the Town of Clayton. Sheila Kiddy, Agronomist, LWCD met with the landowners and they complied fully/swiftly to rectify the situation. Sheila will also be working with them on nutrient management.
- Tom D. polled the LCC for those attending the July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014 LWLWCA Summer Tour.
- Tom D. distributed the DATCP June Report for LCC review.
- Tom D. informed the LCC that the "*Weigh in on Winnebago Waterways*" committee was drafting a final report with their consultants and would share the info with the LCC when ready.
- Tom D. provided a photo of a Blue-Green Algae outbreak on a water channel off of County Road A in the Town of Oshkosh.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Farrey discussed the ongoing tension between the agricultural community and the EPA with regard to the interpretation of the Clean Water Act. EPA is currently looking to extend its jurisdiction to many other small tributaries that would fall under the overall

heading of Waters of the United States. Chairman Farrey provided an article from the Green Bay Press Gazette regarding this issue.

Chairman Farrey also discussed his concern about the possible reduction of CRP acres nationwide.

#### Business Items:

##### Report on the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Jake Vande Berg, FSA informed the LCC that Winnebago County currently has 379 CRP contracts covering 5,275 acres. This fall 43 of the contracts covering approximately 650 acres will expire. One year extensions will be offered to 9 of the 43 contracts based on certain FSA/CRP guidelines.

Jake also explained that the new Farm Bill, which starts in October of 2014, will contain a provision allowing landowners with CRP contracts older than five years to cancel the contract with no penalty. Jake also mentioned that the Continuous CRP Program is still in effect and could provide some new enrollments to offset the expiring contracts and acres being removed from CRP.

The LCC thanked Jake for his fine report and asked to be kept informed about CRP as the new farm bill is implemented.

##### Review Educational Materials from the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA)

Tom D. distributed the information provided by WLWCA and reviewed it with the LCC members. Both new and veteran LCC members expressed their appreciation for the new info.

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

Tom reviewed the CSA listed on the summary. Following a brief review and discussion of the project, a Snider/Neubauer motion to approve \$955.00 for a well abandonment for Susan Schuster passed 5-0.

A Snider/Neubauer motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 a.m. passed 5-0.

Tom Davies, Recorder