

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
Meeting Minutes of September 4, 2014  
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, Larry Kriescher, Ken Neubauer and Tom Snider

**LWCD Staff:** Tom Davies, Sheila Kiddy & Andrew Maracini

Others Present: Karen Gefvert, WFBF, Sue Ziegler and Lori Rhyner, FSA

Absent: John Egan, excused

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 August 7, 2014, LCC Meeting Minutes: A Neubauer/Snider motion to approve the August 7, 2014, LCC meeting minutes passed 6-0.

Announcements:

- Tom D. distributed DATCP's August-2014 Newsletter for LCC review.
- Tom D. handed out the Final Report "Organizational Options for the Winnebago Waterways Region" for LCC review.
- Tom D. shared an article written by Chad Casper, LWCD regarding "Breakwaters on the Winnebago System". The article is being featured on the WLWCA website.
- Tom D. informed the LCC of the upcoming LWLWCA Fall meeting being held on October 24, 2014 at the Coughlin Center. Tom informed the members they should be prepared to inform the LWCD if they plan on attending at their next LCC meeting on October 2, 2014.
- Tom D. mentioned that the LWCD 2015 Budget review with Executive Harris and Chuck Orenstein went well and only minor adjustments were made.
- Tom D. prepared the LCC for another tough State Budget process. Tom D. explained that all indications are that the 2016-2017 State Budget will have proposed cuts to conservation cost sharing and staff funding.
- Lori Rhyner and Sue Ziegler, FSA shared information regarding the new "Margin Protection Program for Dairy" and informed the LCC that an informational meeting on the new program was scheduled for September 22, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. at the James Coughlin Center.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Farrey reported on a recommendation by the National Association of Counties (NACo) of bringing forward a resolution opposing EPA's proposed rule changing the definition of what are considered "Waters of the United States".

## Business Items:

### Presentation by Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation (WFBF) Staff and Follow-Up Discussion Regarding the EPA's Proposed Rule "Waters of the United States", which Reflects the EPA's Latest Interpretation of the 1972 Clean Water Act

Karen Gefvert presented WFBF's concerns and the possible impacts to local farmers. Karen stressed that this proposed jurisdictional change by the EPA could subject all farmers to ongoing lawsuits brought by citizens via the "easy to sue" guidelines/rules contained in the Clean Water Act and needless delays waiting for federally issued permits. It would also contradict current State laws that include "The Right to Farm Act". Karen and the LCC discussed the many impacts/ramifications of the proposed rule. The LCC thanked Karen for her fine report and asked her to continue to keep them informed on the topic.

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

Tom reviewed the CSAs listed on the summary. Tom pointed out that one of the well abandonment projects had exceeded the current \$1,000.00 cost share limit (\$1,029.00) and the LCC would need to grant permission to pay the additional \$29.00. Tom explained that the materials needed to properly abandon a well and labor costs have been steadily rising over the past ten years and he would be bringing a request to increase the limit to the LCC in the near future. Bruce Bohn also added that he was aware of the increase in the costs to abandon a well via conversations with plumbers that he knows. Following a brief review and discussion of the projects, a Neubauer/Snider motion to approve \$312.38 for Christine DeDecker, \$980.00 for Joseph and Rhonda Schrage, \$585.03 for Tim and Vicky Wochenfus, \$368.20 for Harvey Kiesow, \$260.40 for Martin and Erica Kempf and \$1,029.00 for Andrew and Diane Bittman, all for well abandonment projects passed 6-0.

### Review and Approve NR151/ATCP50 Implementation/Compliance Notification Letters

Tom D. and Sheila Kiddy reviewed the NR151/ATCP Compliance Notification Letters Summary with the LCC. Sheila provided an additional summary showing the compliance status of all FPP participants within the County. Following a review and discussion of the materials provided, a Bohn/Kriescher motion to approve the letters for mailing to the landowners passed 6-0. The LCC thanked Sheila for her informative summary and asked to receive them as changes occurred.

### Review and Approve Participation in the 2014 Wisconsin Deer Donation Program

Tom D. explained that USDA Wildlife Services requires a signed agreement each year for participation in the Deer Donation Program. The LCC members all agreed it was a worthwhile program and that the county should continue to support it. A Bohn/Snider motion to approve participation in the 2014 Wisconsin Deer Donation Program passed 6-0.

A Snider/Neubauer motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m. passed 6-0.

Tom Davies, Recorder