

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
Meeting Minutes of October 11, 2012  
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, James Englebert, Chuck Farrey, Ken Neubauer, Tom Snider, and Dan Stokes

**LWCD Staff:** Tom Davies

Others Present: Jake Vande Berg, FSA & Barry Benson, USDA, WS

Absent: none

Approve September 6, 2012 LCC Meeting Minutes: An Englebert/Barker motion to approve the September 6, 2012 LCC meeting minutes passed 7-0

Announcements:

- Tom announced that Jon Bahrke had resigned to take a position with AgVentures LLC & Keith Marquardt had resigned to take a position with the WDNR. Both vacancies are already posted and interviews will be held in late October to mid-November.
- Tom informed the LCC that Quentin Gerlach will be buying out of his CREP contract due to a violation of the contract by his operator. Tom explained that he met with Brad Pfaff, State Executive Director, USDA, FSA regarding the circumstances surrounding the buyout. Tom provided the LCC a copy of the summary of events regarding the buyout sent to Pfaff to stimulate new policy that would hold operators (renters) more accountable for their actions.
- Tom mentioned that if/when the new "Farm Bill" is approved; an extension of the current CREP contract with DATCP would be coming for LCC approval.
- Tom passed out the LWLWCA Fall Meeting information and informed the members that anyone wanting to attend should notify Lynette by Friday, October 12, 2012.
- Tom distributed the WLWCA "Thursday Note" newsletter for LCC review.

Business Items:

Review and Approve the 2013 USDA Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program (WDACP) Budget and set the crop prices to be used to reimburse the 2012 program participants for their wildlife damage

Barry Benson, USDA, WS presented the 2013 WDACP budget for Winnebago County. Following a brief discussion a Snider/Bohn motion to approve the budget passed 7-0. Benson then reviewed the Proposed 2012 Crop Price information used to pay landowners with crop damage. Following discussion on each of four commodities, the following 2012 Crop Prices were unanimously approved by the LCC; Alfalfa-\$195.43/ton (Neubauer/Bohn 7-0), Alfalfa-mix- \$136.70/ton (Neubauer/Bohn 7-0), Field Corn- \$7.75/bushel (Neubauer/Bohn 7-0) and Soybeans- \$16.33/bushel (Bohn/Stokes 7-0).

Review the Winnebago County Farm Bureau Federation Policy meeting attended by LWCD Staff and LCC members, regarding County Land Conservation Departments and Nutrient Management Planning in Wisconsin

Chairman Farrey and Dan Stokes reviewed the meeting contents with the LCC and provided insight to the initial creation of the policy topics. Tom reviewed the letter he sent to Jim Kasten, President of the Winnebago County Farm Bureau Federation (WCFBF) and commented on how his letter encourages the WCFBF to support LWCDs when lobbying in Madison.

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

Tom presented two summaries of CSAs to be approved. The first was CSAs for the Oakridge Road Groundwater Remediation Project. Tom explained that the project design was finalized and ready to be installed. The project will be funded by WDNR, Winnebago County and the landowners. A Barker/Englebert motion to approve \$12,000 for the Gregg Bathke (landowner) property, \$12,000 for the Robert Schommer (landowner) property and \$12,000 for the Patrick Hogan (landowner) property passed 7-0.

Tom then reviewed the second CSA summary containing three well abandonment projects. Following a brief discussion a Snider/Barker motion to approve \$333.00 for Ernest Babbitz and \$604.00 for Brian Nagan passed 7-0. A Snider/Barker motion to approve \$336.00 for James Erdman passed 6-0-1(Farrey abstained).

Review the WLWCA Annual Meeting held October 4, 2012

James Englebert and Tom Snider reviewed the budget/financial information presented at the meeting and the results of the voting on the two resolutions regarding Invasive Species and State Funding Obligations. Both commented on the poor quality of the financial presentation and visual aids. Jim reported that voting for the new WLWCA Board Members was not finalized before their departure, so he advised contacting WLWCA to attain the names of the newly elected candidates. The LCC thanked both Jim and Tom for their fine report.

Review and Approve NR151/ATCP50 implementation/compliance notification letters

The LCC reviewed the notification summary. Following a brief discussion a Neubauer/Stokes motion to approve the letters passed 7-0.

A Barker/Englebert motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:45a.m. passed 7-0.

Tom Davies, Recorder