

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes of December 3, 2015
LWCD Conference Room, James P. Coughlin Center

Convene: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Farrey at 9:02 a.m.

Present: **LCC Members:** Nancy Barker, Bruce Bohn, John Egan, Chuck Farrey, Guy Hegg, Larry Kriescher and Tom Snider.

LWCD Staff: Tom Davies and Chad Casper

Others Present: Barry Benson, USDA WS, Steve Easterly, WDNR, Eric Fowle and Todd Verboomen, ECWRPC, Catherine Neiswender and Chad Cook, UWEX, Merrie Schamberger, NRCS, Maribeth Gabert, Matt Merten, Don Lehmann, Robert Keller and Norb Gnay.

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 November 5, 2015 LCC Meeting Minutes: Kriescher/Barker motion to approve the November 5, 2015, LCC meeting minutes passed 6-0 (Farrey abstained).

Chairman Farrey allowed the meeting attendees to introduce themselves.

Announcements:

- Tom D. on behalf of FSA, informed the LCC that CRP enrollment is open from December 1, 2015 to February 26, 2016 and enrollment for the 2016 farm programs begins December 7, 2015. Tom D. also shared that Peggy Frank, FSA would be retiring at the end of this year after 30 years of service.
- John Egan informed the LCC that due to major farm commitments he would not be continuing as the FSA representative on the LCC. Roger Zentner, FSA Committee Chairman, would be taking his place on the LCC. The other committee members shared their understanding of John's situation and thanked him for his service during his time on the LCC.
- Chad Casper provided an update on the *Weigh in on the Winnebago Waterways* Steering Team current efforts, pursuit of grants and future direction.
- Tom D. distributed the December 2015 DATCP Newsletter for LCC review.
- Tom D. handed out the 2016 LCC Meeting Schedule.
- Tom D. informed the LCC that he had been notified by DATCP that all the towns in Winnebago County currently participating in FPP are eligible to continue participation through December 31, 2017.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Farrey informed the LCC that he recently became the Chairman of the newly created (two committees merged into one) WCA "Ag and Environmental Committee". Farrey explained there were challenges with the position because the Ag representatives and the Environmental representatives don't always agree on things.

Chairman Farrey then explained his reasons for asking ECWRPC to do a presentation on why they should be the lead organization to coordinate revising/creating the Lake Winnebago System Comprehensive Management Plan.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Chairman Farrey allowed those who wished to comment on agenda items the opportunity to speak.

Business Items:

Presentation by East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC): “Updating the Winnebago System Comprehensive Management Plan” (WSCMP)

Eric Fowle, ECWRPC gave a historical overview and timeline of what has been done by the Steering Team to date, in the process of revising the WSCMP. Fowle then gave his thoughts on the revision process and reasons why he felt ECWRPC would be the best entity to coordinate the multi-jurisdictional/county plan revision effort. Following the presentation Chairman Farrey allowed the LCC members to comment and ask questions. Farrey then opened the meeting for public comments and questions. Following discussion by the LCC, Farrey informed the committee he would be drafting a resolution that; Winnebago County recommends that ECWRPC be the coordinator for the WSCMP revision process. Farrey will tentatively have it on the January 7, 2016 LCC Meeting Agenda for action. Farrey also stated he will try and get a meeting scheduled with the CEOs of Winnebago, Calumet, and Fond du Lac Counties to discuss this issue. The LCC thanked Mr. Fowle for his presentation.

Chairman Farrey recessed the meeting at 10:50 a.m. and reconvened at 10:57 a.m.

Review and Approve or Deny, the 2015 Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP) Participant Claims

Barry Benson, USDA WS distributed and reviewed the “2015 Winnebago County Wildlife Damage Summary” with the LCC. Following a brief discussion, a Bohn/Hegg motion to pay the claims as presented passed 7-0.

Mr. Hegg was excused from the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Approve Authorization for Tom Davies to Approve Winnebago County Water Quality Improvement Program (WCWQIP) Cost Share Agreements (CSAs) Exceeding \$5000 of County Funding for the remainder of 2015

Tom explained to the LCC that this is an annual authorization to finish out the year that allows the LWCD to have completed CSAs that can be carried over into 2016. Following a brief discussion a Snider/Bohn motion to approve the authorization passed 6-0.

Review the LWCD Project List

The LCC reviewed the new additions to the list. Chairman Farrey stated he was glad the list was being updated and shared with the LCC monthly.

Discuss Streamside Vegetative Buffer Program Restructuring Options

Tom D. reviewed the four options on the handout. The LCC discussed land costs, land rental rates and other related concerns. Following the discussion and some consciences by the LCC, Tom D. stated he would complete the revisions based on the LCC's guidance provided and bring it to the January 7, 2016 LCC meeting for approval. The LCC concurred.

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

Tom D. reviewed the CSA Summary with the LCC. Following a brief discussion a Snider/Kriescher motion to approve \$417.00 for Maureen Lechnir, \$349.00 for Ricky Meyers, \$1,925.00 for Richard Knopp, \$473.00 for Babcock Farms LLC, all for well abandonments and \$2,001.00 for Clarks Bay Corp. for a wetland restoration passed 6-0.

Judge the WLWCA Poster Contest Posters

The LCC judged the posters and thanked Lynette Hein, LWCD for her fine work with the Poster Contest Program.

A Barker/Bohn motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:22 a.m. passed 6-0.

Tom Davies, Recorder