

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (LCC)

Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2017

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 (arrived 9:07 a.m.), Bruce Bohn, Chuck Farrey, Larry Kriescher and Roger Zentner

**LWCD Staff:** Tom Davies and Andrew Maracini

Others Present: Pat Lake, NRCS, Rhonda Vande Hey, FSA, and Jessica Schultz, Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance (FWWA)

Absent: Guy Hegg, Tom Snider, 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 February 2, 2017 LCC Meeting Minutes:

A Kriescher/Zentner motion to approve the February 2, 2017, LCC meeting minutes passed 4-0.

Public Comment of Agenda Items:

No public comment.

Announcements:

- Tom D. distributed the January and February 2017 DATCP monthly newsletter for the LCC to review.
- Tom D. passed out the “Basin Buzz” newsletter that is produced by the FWWA and highlights the activities happening in the Lower Fox River Watershed.
- Tom D. circulated copies of the Winnebago County Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) information for LCC review.
- Tom D. distributed information describing the “Envirothon Program” that is sponsored annually by the Wisconsin Land and Water Association (WLWCA). Tom spoke on the merits of the program and informed the LCC that \$50 had been included with the WLWCA dues to support the 2017 Envirothon.
- Tom D. informed the LCC that a Ducks Unlimited grant request to construct Phase 2 of the Poygan Breakwall Project includes \$20,000 for LWCD to offset the costs of engineering and design. Tom stated that if the grant is provided it may require a budget transfer for 2017 or inclusion in the 2018 LWCD budget. Tom D. told the LCC he would keep them informed as things progressed.
- Tom D. shared that the WDNR had received an \$85,000 Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) grant to do drinking water source protection work on the upper pool lakes.
- Tom D. informed the LCC the Multi-Discharger Variance (MDV) Program had been approved by the EPA and that the LWCD and LCC would be discussing it further at future meetings.
- Tom D. notified the LCC that the WDNR had informed the LCC that there was an overtopping of a livestock waste storage facility on the Paul Knier farm in the Town of Nekimi. Tom D. informed the LCC that LWCD staff had been on the site and verified the discharge. Tom D. circulated some pictures of the overtopping and informed the LCC that enforcement action would be taken.
- Tom D. informed the LCC that the wetland restoration project dike at the Herb Treu farm had been breached by muskrat damage and that LWCD staff were working to assist Mr. Treu with additional Best Management Practices (BMP) that can be installed and cost shared to abate the problem.

- Tom D. and Andrew Maracini notified the LCC that the WDNR would be conducting an evaluation of the Winnebago County MS4 permit. Maracini reviewed the main items to be evaluated and the steps taken by LWCD thus far to prepare for the evaluation.

#### Chairman's Report:

Chairman Farrey reviewed some communication he had with legislators regarding the state rules governing the approval of Farmland Preservation Plans in Wisconsin.

#### Business Items:

##### Presentation: Soil Health Demonstrations-Pat Lake, NRCS

Pat Lake demonstrated the infiltration and runoff differences in the same soil under conventional tillage and no-till with cover crops. Lake explained how the cover crops supported biological activity within the soil allowing it to build aggregates, pore space and structure. Lake then received comments and answered questions. The LCC thanked Mr. Lake for his fine presentation and information.

Chairman Farrey called for a short recess at 10:30 a.m.

Chairman Farrey called the meeting back into session at 10:37 a.m.

##### Review and Approve or Disapprove the Proposed "Soil Health Challenge", A New Soil Health Demonstration Farm Program for the Winnebago County Water Quality Improvement Program

Tom D. reviewed the proposed program and explained the reasons and the need to provide demonstration farms in various parts of the county. Following a lengthy discussion, a Bohn/Kriescher motion to approve the Soil Health Demonstration Farm Program for implementation through the Winnebago County Water Quality Improvement Program passed 5-0.

##### Discuss Proposed Cost Sharing Changes on Certain Best Management Practices (BMP) funded by the Winnebago County Water Quality Improvement Program

The LCC took no action on this item.

##### Report on the Lower Fox River Watershed TMDL Implementation Project

Tom D. informed the LCC that current efforts were being targeted on getting landowners to do Nutrient Management Plans. Efforts to inventory cropland would resume when the fields were fit to walk.

Nancy Barker departed at 11:00 a.m.

##### Approve or Disapprove the Request of Cost Sharing for a Well Abandonment by All Saints Lutheran Church in the Town of Algoma

A Farrey/Kriescher motion to lay over this item to the next LCC meeting on April 6, 2017 passed 4-0.

##### Report on the Winnebago Waterway Program – Jessica Schultz, Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance

Ms. Schultz reviewed the history of the project to date and the plans going forward. Schultz explained the process for gathering public input, prioritizing the needed items in the Lake Management Plan and then moving on to the implementation phase of the program. Schultz answered questions and provided additional information during the discussion. The LCC thanked Ms. Schultz for her report and invited her back to provide updates as the process unfolds.

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

The LCC reviewed the CSA to provide \$500.00 per year, for 2017, 2018 and 2019, (\$1,500.00 total) in cost sharing to the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance for coordinating the Aquatic Invasive Species and Clean Boats, Clean Water Educational Activities in Winnebago County. Following a brief discussion, a Bohn/Kriescher motion to approve the CSA passed 4-0.

Review the LWCD Project List

Tom D. reviewed the new additions to the project list.

A Zentner/ Kriescher motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:32 a.m. passed 4-0.

Tom Davies, Recorder