

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2015

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, Chuck Farrey, John Egan, Larry Kriescher, and Tom Snider (Note: John Egan joined the meeting at 9:25 a.m.)

LWCD Staff: Tom Davies

Others Present: Barry Benson, USDA, WS, Merrie Schaumberger, NRCS and Steve Easterly, WDNR

Absent: Bruce Bohn and Ken Neubauer

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.

Chairman Farrey, in accordance with County policy, requested a motion from the Committee to suspend the rules for Agenda Item D. in order to reconsider a decision from the October 2, 2014 LCC meeting regarding the Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP). Following a brief explanation of the situation by Chairman Farrey and Barry Benson, a Snider/Kriescher motion to approve suspending the rules for Agenda Item D. passed 4-0.

Approve December 4, 2014, LCC Meeting Minutes: A Snider/Barker motion to approve the December 4, 2014, LCC meeting minutes passed 4-0.

Announcements:

- Tom D. informed the LCC that all of the Poster Contest winners had received their prizes and ribbons.
- Tom D. reminded the LCC of their LWLWCA meeting scheduled for January 30, 2015 at the Coughlin Center.
- Tom D. distributed the December 2014 DATCP Report for LCC review.
- Tom D. reported to the LCC that Calumet County had informed the LWCD that they had restructured the Calumet County Resource Management Department and created two separate departments; The Land and Water Conservation Department and the Planning, Zoning and Land Information Department.
- Tom D. informed the LCC that he had attended the Town of Greenville, Land Stewardship Committee meeting regarding the expansion of the *Greenville Agricultural Enterprise Area* and the possible inclusion of land located within the Town of Clayton in Winnebago County.
- Tom D. explained to the LCC that the LWCD was in the process of creating the 2014 LWCD Annual Report.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Farrey informed the LCC that he would be discussing the use of UAVs (Drones) at the next WCA Agricultural Steering Committee meeting. The intent is to discuss the usage of UAVs and generate guidelines for proper and ethical use within the agricultural community.

Business Items:

Discuss the Extension Process for the Winnebago County 2011-2020 Land and Water Resource Management Plan (LWRMP)

Tom D. provided a brief history of the LWRMP certification process completed in 2010 and reviewed the required steps for completing the 2016-2020 LWRMP extension process. Tom D. informed the LCC that most of the plan's changes would be minor, but would still be approved by the LCC before submittal to the LWCB. During the discussion, it was decided, that if available, some of the LCC members would attend the LWRMP extension presentation at the June 2, 2015 Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) meeting in Madison, WI.

Approve the Extension Request for the Winnebago County 2011-2020 Land and Water Resource Management Plan, as Required by the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board

Tom D. explained that as part of the LWRMP extension process the LCC needed to formally approve the Extension Request that is submitted to the LWCB. A Kriescher/Egan motion to approve the Extension Request passed 5-0.

Review and Approve the Payment of \$2,006.64 for the 2015 WI Land & Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) Dues

Chairman Farrey and Tom D. explained the importance of being a paid member and supporting the WLWCA's work on behalf of County LCCs and LWCDs. Tom D. explained that the dues had gone up about \$60.00 which was very minimal. Tom D. also reminded the LCC members that it was imperative we have a strong and unified voice in Madison as the State debates the upcoming 2015-2017 budget. Following a brief discussion a Barker/Kriescher motion to pay \$2,006.24 for the 2015 WLWCA dues passed 5-0.

(Agenda Item D) Reconsider the 2014 USDA Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program (WDACP) Crop Prices set at the October 2, 2014 LCC Meeting to be Used to Reimburse the Program Participants for Their Crop Damage Due to Significant Commodity Market Changes

Barry Benson, USDA, WS explained the reasons for reconsidering the crop prices set in October. Mr. Benson explained that the commodity markets had gone up and the surrounding counties had set their prices to reflect the current trends. Mr. Benson provided current market information and the prices set by neighboring counties. The LCC discussed the possible changes and recommended that to avoid this issue in the future the prices should be set in November. Following additional discussion, a Snider/Egan motion to set the corn price at \$3.44/bu and the soybean price at \$9.75/bu passed 5-0.

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

Tom D. reviewed the CSA summary with the LCC. Following a brief discussion a Kriescher/Snider motion to approve \$448.00 for Paul Flack for a well abandonment passed 5-0.

Review LWCD 2014 Year End Financial Statement

Tom D. reviewed the 2014 Year End Financial Statement with the LCC and explained the items he had highlighted. The LCC discussed the different happenings during the year and were pleased to see the LWCD was operating within its fiscal limits and would end the year under budget.

A Snider/Barker motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 a.m. passed 5-0.

Tom Davies, Recorder