

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes of August 1, 2013

LWCD Conference Room, James P. Coughlin Center

Convene: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Farrey at 8:00 a.m.

Present: **LCC Members:** Nancy Barker, Bruce Bohn, Chuck Farrey, Ken Neubauer (arrived 8:10am), Tom Snider and Dan Stokes

LWCD Staff: Tom Davies, Chad Casper, Melanie Leet, Andrew Maracini & Kim Huettl

Others Present: Jake Vande Berg and Sue Ziegler, FSA, Merrie Schamberger, NRCS and Barry Benson, USDA, WS

Absent: James Englebert

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 July 3, 2013 LCC Meeting Minutes: A Bohn/Stokes motion to approve the July 3, 2013 LCC meeting minutes passed 5-0.

Announcements:

- Tom D. circulated an article the LWCD had in the Winnebago Farm Bureau Newsletter regarding the Farmland Preservation Program.
- Tom D. informed the LCC that Chuck Farrey had signed the DATCP 2013 SWRM grant reimbursement paperwork.
- Tom D. requested a rescheduling of the October 3, 2013 LCC meeting to the following week on either October 8th, 9th or 10th 2013. Chairman Farrey ordered it placed on the September 5th, 2013 LCC meeting agenda as an action item.
- Tom D. informed the LCC that protective plastic boots would need to be worn during the Educational Tour portion of the meeting.

Business Items:

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

There were no CSAs and no action was taken by the LCC.

Review and Discuss the Phase Two Grant Application for the “Weigh in on the Winnebago Waterways” Project

Chairman Farrey passed out some information titled “Roles and Responsibilities of LCCs” related to Chapter 92 of the Wisconsin Statutes. The LCC reviewed certain aspects of the grant application and discussed potential impacts to Winnebago County.

Review and Approve/Disapprove/Revise a Draft Letter of Support for the Phase Two Grant Application for the “Weigh in on the Winnebago Waterways” Project

The LCC reviewed the draft letter and recommended some edits to better convey and clarify their position regarding the grant application. A Snider/Neubauer motion to approve the Letter of Support as revised passed 5-1 (Farrey opposed).

Review and Approve a \$600 Budget Transfer

Tom D. explained that the transfer was LWCD interest money from the Arrowhead River, Rat River and Daggetts Creek (ARD) Watershed Project. The funds were held in the County’s Undesignated Fund Balance and will be used to purchase a new laptop computer for the LWCD. Following a brief discussion, a Barker/Stokes motion to approve the Transfer passed 6-0.

Discuss Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program Policies within No Hunting Areas (City Limits, etc.)

Barry Benson, USDA, WS reviewed the issue of payments for wildlife damage in areas where hunting is not permitted. Benson explained that payments to program participants are funded from a portion of the hunting license fees, yet no hunting is allowed on these properties because they are within city limits or in other restricted areas. These participants are eligible for full benefits with no compliance requirements. Other program participants located in “hunting allowed” areas must meet strict rule requirements to qualify for program payments. Benson considered this unfair and requested LCC support to help correct the issue. Benson offered to draft a letter for the LCC’s review and approval at their next meeting. Chairman Farrey, with agreement from the LCC, instructed Tom D. to place it on the September 5, 2013 LCC meeting agenda.

Conduct LCC Educational Tour to View Installed Conservation Practices

The LCC viewed multiple conservation practices installed in Winnebago County by the Winnebago County LWCD (a list of the landowners and practices is on file with the minutes). The LCC visited with several landowners and contractors at the sites and had lunch at the residence of Chuck and Connie Farrey (participating landowners on the tour). Following lunch, the LCC traveled back to the Coughlin Center.

A Barker/Neubauer motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:30pm passed 6-0.

Tom Davies, Recorder