

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes of December 4, 2014
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, Chuck Farrey, Larry Kriescher, Ken Neubauer and Tom Snider

LWCD Staff: Tom Davies and Andy Maracini

Others Present: Ernie Winters, Commissioner, WC Highway Dept. and Darrell McCauley, UWEX

Absent: John Egan, 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 November 6, 2014, LCC Meeting Minutes: A Snider/Neubauer motion to approve the November 6, 2014, LCC meeting minutes passed 6-0.

Announcements:

- Tom D. introduced Darrell McCauley, Ag Agent, UWEX to the LCC. The LCC welcomed Darrell and the LCC members and Mr. McCauley exchanged introductions.
- Tom D. announced that the LWCD had transferred \$5,000 of LWRM funds to Waupaca County LWCD and had received a transfer of \$6,200 of SEG funds for NMP from Waupaca County LWCD.
- Tom D. reported on behalf of FSA that 54 farmers had enrolled in the dairy program and of the 54, 27 had paid additional fees to get more coverage. Tom also reported that FSA and UWEX will be co-hosting two informational meetings on the 2014 Farm Bill. The meetings will be held at the Coughlin Center on December 16th, 2014 at 1pm and 7pm.
- Tom distributed the 2015 LCC Meeting Schedule to the committee.
- Tom notified the LCC that the LWCD would be meeting with the P & Z department regarding livestock siting language that was included in the revised zoning code.
- Tom reviewed the response letter from Jimmy Bramblett, NRCS regarding EQIP applications for manure storage.
- Tom mentioned to the LCC that Nancy Barker was going to be honored during the WLWCA Annual Conference in March 2015, as part of the “Women in Conservation” recognition program.

Chairman’s Report:

Chairman Farrey introduced Ernie Winters, Commissioner, WC Highway Dept. and provided a brief reminder of the Implements of Husbandry (IOH) issue as a seg-way to the first business item on the agenda.

Business Items:

Discuss the Impacts of the New “Implements of Husbandry” (IOH) Rules on Local Farmers and Governments

Mr. Winters provided a brief history of how IOH rules came to be, and provided handouts on the topic. Mr. Winters explained that a policy was to be presented to the full County Board on December 16, 2014 for their approval. Mr. Winters explained that the Highway Department would be assisting the Towns with permitting procedures and commented on the overall process of communicating the new rule to farmers. Mr. Winters discussed various aspects of the rule and answered questions. The LCC thanked Mr. Winters for his fine report and asked to be kept abreast of any additional information regarding the new IOH policy.

Discuss the Use of a UAV/Drone by LWCD for Natural Resource Inventory and Required Field Monitoring

Tom D. gave a brief summary of what the LWCD had learned regarding the use of drones. Andy Maracini presented information regarding the use of drones and provided several video demonstrations of how drones can be used in agriculture and for natural resources inventory. The LCC had a good discussion about the many issues and requirements associated with using drones. The LCC was very positive about the opportunities UAVs might provide and asked the LWCD staff to pursue and provide additional information regarding public information rules, return on investment, cost / benefit and need/usage analysis. The LCC thanked Andy for his research work and fine presentation.

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 2014

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 2015. Following a brief discussion a Bohn/Snider motion to approve the authorization passed 6-0.

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

The LCC reviewed the revised CSA summary provided by Tom D. Following a brief review of the wetland project located in the Town of Vinland, a Neubauer/Kriescher motion to approve \$441.00 for Richard Ames for a well abandonment and \$3,850.00 for Gary & Barbara Mastalish for a wetland restoration project passed 6-0.

Judge Posters for WLWCA Poster Contest

Each LCC member judged the posters for the WLWCA Poster Contest.

A Snider/Barker motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:00am passed 6-0.

Tom Davies, Recorder