

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes of February 4, 2010

LWCD Conference Room, James P. Coughlin Center

Convene: The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Barker at 9:03 a.m.

Present: **LCC Members:** Nancy Barker, Bruce Bohn, Chuck Farrey, Sue Locke, John Reinert, Dan Stokes and Bob Warnke.

**LWCD Staff:** Tom Davies and Brent Jalonen

Others Present: Brian Maedke, USDA Wildlife Services

Absent: None

Approve January 7, 2010, LCC Meeting Minutes: A Warnke/Farrey motion to approve the January 7, 2010 LCC meeting minutes, passed 7-0.

Announcements:

- Tom informed the LCC that Dean Kaderabek, GIS Mgr, LWCD had taken a position with the P & Z department vacated by Larry Ellenbecker. Tom explained that he was told the position is going to be reviewed for similarities with other GIS positions and that currently permission to fill the position had not yet been granted by Executive Harris and Karon Kraft, Director, H/R. The LCC decided to send a memo to Executive Harris requesting that this very important position be filled as soon as possible.
- Tom informed the LCC that LWCD staff would be ending their current 9 day work period (flex –schedule) and resuming the recommended 10 day work period beginning February 18, 2010. Current business hours (7:30am to 4:30pm) will be reduced to 8:00am to 4:30pm.
- Brent distributed a revised sheet listing the EC permitting hours (9:00am to noon, Monday thru Friday). Brent also passed out a flyer for an EC training session being conducted by LWCD on Wednesday, March 17, 2010 from 9:30am to noon at the Coughlin Center.
- Tom informed the LCC that the annual WLWCA dues of \$1367.47 had been sent to the Clerks office for payment out of the County Board budget.
- Tom distributed a news release from the WDNR regarding a public informational meeting regarding the Environmental Analysis completed on Off Shore Structures built to protect and recapture existing and eroded shoreline. Tom explained the importance of this document as it relates to receiving WDNR Permits to complete this type of project.
- Tom mentioned that LWCD and NRCS were pursuing a summer intern for promotion of certain practices. Tom explained he was working with Pheasants Forever to try and get the additional \$2000 match funding required for the program.
- Tom handed out a brochure regarding the Working Lands Program meeting being sponsored by LWCD and UWEX on March 1, 2010 to inform landowners and towns officials about the changes occurring in the Farmland Preservation Program and planning and zoning rules. Tom explained that individuals from DATCP would be presenting at both the afternoon and evening sessions along with LWCD and UWEX staff.

## Business Items:

### Review and Approve or Deny, the 2009 Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP) Participant Claims

Brian Maedke, USDA Wildlife Services, reviewed the list of participants explaining the level of effort each made to achieve compliance with the program and their calculated payments based on the wildlife damage they experience. Brian recommended that one participant be denied based on the poor level of effort to meet the program requirements. He also expressed concern with one other participant that had been providing minimal effort toward compliance with the program. Based on Brian's report a motion was made by Bob Warnke and seconded by Dan Stokes to pay all the participants except Ken Pinnow. During the discussion of the motion Chuck Farrey, based on the additional discussion with Brian Maedke, offered a friendly amendment to the original motion to also deny the claim of Ron Bohn for failing to meet the program requirements. A Farrey/Locke motion to amend the original motion to deny the claims of both Ken Pinnow and Ron Bohn passed 7-0. Based on the additional information derived from the discussion Bob Warnke withdrew his original motion. A Farrey/Bohn motion to pay all participants except Ken Pinnow and Ron Bohn, whose claims were denied, passed 7-0. (A complete list of participants and payments is on file at LWCD.)

### Review and Approve Memorandum of Understanding between LWCD and P&Z

Tom reviewed the MOU and explained the edits highlighted in red print. Tom explained that both LWCD and P & Z are comfortable with the document. Chuck Farrey expressed some concern regarding the \$35 payment to P & Z from each permit fee. Tom explained that P & Z still had substantial responsibilities with the permit filing, escrow account management and disbursement for inspections and engineering services. Chucks concern was that it might lead to higher fees being requested by P&Z in the future. A Farrey/Warnke motion to approve the MOU passed 7-0.

### Progress Report on the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Tom reviewed the CREP report and shared that an additional 31.4 acres of cropland had been converted to buffers along stream corridors. Tom commented that this was still a great accomplishment because the program is in its eighth year and it's tough to find landowners willing to participate. Tom explained that it is a multi-agency effort that created this success. FSA has played a major role with LWCD in promoting and contracting additional acres into the program. The LCC agreed with Tom's assessment.

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

No action was taken on this item.

### Progress Report on the 2010 SWRM Grant Allocation Plan

Tom informed the LCC that the final DATCP/DNR Joint Grant Allocation Plan had been received. Additional funds had been added to the Plan as directed by the State budget and asked for in the public comments sent by our LWCD and many other Counties. Tom stated that based on this allocation plan, LWCD would receive approximately \$153,000 for staff support and \$85,000 for cost-sharing conservation practices in addition to the funds carried over from 2009. Tom explained that no funds would be committed until the plan was signed by all necessary parties at the State.

### Review proposed revisions to NR151 regarding the Agricultural Performance Standards

Tom reviewed each fact sheet and explained the impacts of the proposed changes to the rule. Several changes will clarify terms and set phosphorus standards based on the Phosphorus Index. The rule changes will address phosphorus delivery to surface water rather than field fertility levels.

There is also a proposed “no till zone” of 10 feet from the bank of certain water bodies. Additional non-agricultural rules are proposed for road construction and road re-construction that support the efforts Chuck Farrey had initiated in 2009.

A Farrey / Locke motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:50am passed 7-0.

Tom Davies, Recorder