

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes of July 7, 2016
LWCD Conference Room, James P. Coughlin Center

Convene: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Farrey at 9:01 a.m.

Present: LCC Members: Nancy Barker, Bruce Bohn, Chuck Farrey, Guy Hegg (arrived 9:15 a.m.), Tom Snider and Roger Zentner

Others Present: Tom Davies, LWCD and Dave Heideman, FSA

Absent: Larry Kriescher, 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 June 2, 2016 LCC Meeting Minutes: A Zentner/Bohn motion to approve the June 2, 2016, LCC meeting minutes passed 5-0.

Announcements:

- Dave Heideman, FSA reported that producers were still coming in and completing their crop reporting. Heideman also stated that the recent CRP sign-up yielded only one approved contract due to the eligibility requirements being set at a very high level nationwide. Heideman informed the LCC that surrounding counties experienced the same results with their CRP applications.
- Tom D. informed the LCC that the Wisconsin Land & Water dues for 2017 had increased only \$16.00 from \$1,997.00 to \$2,013.00.
- Tom D. reported that Thistle Dairy Farm had a reportable manure spill and the WDNR was handling the issue.
- Tom D. mentioned that Tim Abraham's conservation buffer was inspected for contract extension compliance and that it looked very good. Tom D. added that there may be an issue with the adjacent cropland not meeting the residue requirements for the Buffer Program. Tom D. will work with Mr. Abraham to see if crop management changes can be made in order to maintain eligibility for a contract extension.
- Tom D. reminded the LCC of the up-coming "Local Work Group Meeting" being held on July 27, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the Fremont Town Hall with NRCS and Waupaca County LWCD.
- Tom D. informed the LCC that the Coughlin Center Rain Garden Project was complete and that the planting had been accomplished in one day thanks to the help of multiple departments and the Master Gardener volunteers.
- Tom D. provided a schedule of work from Diane Schauer, Regional AIS Coordinator, that listed the dates and events she would be attending in Winnebago County to educate hunters and fisherman about aquatic invasive species (AIS). Tom D. also explained that Schauer would be retiring in spring of 2017 and that Winnebago, Calumet, Fond du Lac and Outagamie Counties were currently working with the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance to create a regional effort to continue the great work done by Ms. Schauer after her retirement.
- Tom D. reported that the 2017 Budget process was in full swing and that DATCP had indicated that the 2017 SWRM grant funding would be proposed at approximately the same level as 2016. Tom D. added that the LWCD would be able to meet its 2017 budget target.
- Tom D. reminded the LCC that the LWCD budget review meeting with Executive Harris was scheduled for August 23, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at Mr. Harris's office.

- Tom D. read a letter received from Patrick Lake, NRCS Soil Conservationist regarding his positive experience with Melanie Leet, LWCD Conservation Technician while working on a wetland determination. Mr. Lake commented on the skill set displayed by Ms. Leet after attending a special, week long wetland training session. Mr. Lake was complimenting the LCC and LWCD for investing in the training and Ms. Leet for her outstanding grasp of the wetland determination criteria in such a short time. Tom D. explained the cost of the training session alone was \$1,000.00 and that a budget carryover was used to fund it. Tom D. stated it was great to here that the investment was already paying dividends. Tom D. informed the LCC that he had shared Mr. Lake's letter with Winnebago County Executive Mark Harris.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Farrey had no report.

Business Items:

Based on the Information Provided at the June 2, 2016 LCC Meeting, Approve or Disapprove the Action Taken by the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission Commissioners Regarding Winnebago County Board Resolution 260-12016

Following a short review of the information and a brief discussion a Hegg/Snider motion to disapprove the action taken by the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission Commissioners regarding Winnebago County Board Resolution 260-12016 passed 6-0. Chairman Farrey will report to the County Board on this topic.

Review the LWCD Project List

The LCC discussed the new additions to the project list.

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

Following a review of the CSA Summary Sheet, a Snider/Hegg motion to approve \$682.00 for Larry Kubik, \$662.00 for Sandra and Tyler Van Asten, and \$531.00 for Kristina and Andrew Cater, all for well abandonment projects, passed 6-0.

Discuss the New "Conservation Partners" Grant Program Currently Available from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the National Fish and Wildlife Federation (NFWF)

Tom D. reported that the "Conservation Partners" grants were for staff funding and targeted for technical support for landowners in the Fox/Wolf Basin. Tom D. explained that a "one to one match" is required for the funds and that all match funds must be utilized on the project identified in the grant request. Tom D. informed the LCC that more information needs to be provided in order to decide if the LWCD will pursue a grant. Tom D. stated he will keep the LCC informed as things progress.

Update on the Lower Fox River Watershed Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Project

Tom D. reviewed the current inventory efforts being conducted and the plan to begin onsite reviews of facilities now that crops are covering the landscape. Tom D. informed the LCC that John Melchert would not be volunteering due to scheduling conflicts with another job which will slow the inventory process.

A Hegg/Zentner motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m. passed 6-0.

Tom Davies, Recorder