

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (LCC)

Meeting Minutes of September 6, 2018

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:** Steve Binder, Bruce Bohn, Chuck Farrey, Julie Gordon, Ben Joas, Tom Snider and Roger Zentner

**LWCD Staff:** Tom Davies

Others present: None

Absent: None

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 August 2, 2018 LCC Meeting Minutes:

A Binder/Gordon motion to approve the minutes as presented passed 7-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items:

There were no public comments.

Announcements:

- Tom Davies provided the August 2018 DATCP newsletter for the LCC to review.
- Tom Davies informed the LCC that the Manure Management Meeting was well attended, but there were only a few farmers in the audience.
- Tom Davies notified the LCC that Darrell McCauley was no longer employed as the UWEX Ag-Agent and that the position vacancy would be filled.
- Tom Davies shared that the tentative plan for the Himmler waterway project area is to no-till it into winter wheat this fall and direct seed it into alfalfa in the fall of 2020. Davies stated that if the waterway is not installed this fall the funding would be carried over into 2019 and the waterway would be installed in the spring or summer of 2019.
- Tom Davies reminded the LCC of the Multi-Discharger Variance (MDV) program enrollment approval that will need to be done at the November LCC meeting. Davies informed the LCC that an estimated \$46,000 for staff support and cost-sharing would be available in 2019 through the program.
- Tom Davies notified the LCC that the LWCD had applied for a Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) grant (\$180,000) to help offset the cost of two shoreline protections projects. Davies stated that should the LWCD be awarded the grant, the LCC, Personnel and Finance Committee and the County Board would need to approve acceptance of the funds.
- Tom Davies mentioned that he would be on vacation the first week of October and asked to have the LCC meeting moved to October 11, 2018. After a brief review of committee calendars, Chairman Farrey directed Davies to plan the next LCC meeting for October 11, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.
- Tom Davies reminded the LCC of the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) resolution process. Davies asked them to consider issues that might need attention by the WLWCA on a state level or action by the State Legislature.
- Tom Davies reviewed the proposed regional effort underway to create a Demo Farms Network in the Upper Fox and Wolf River Watersheds, partnering multiple counties and NRCS. Davies stated that a financial and "in-kind" commitment would be needed from those counties supporting the effort. The proposed plan would have Waupaca County LWCD as the central partner with NRCS and surrounding partners would commit resources to Waupaca on an equal cost-sharing basis. Davies added that much of

the details needed to be discussed, but it was a very favorable way to carry out the Demo Farms Network. Davies assured the LCC that all details would be presented to them for their approval.

- Tom Davies provided the LCC with the LWLWCA Fall Tour/Meeting information. LCC members wishing to attend were instructed to get permission from Chairman Ramos and to notify Lynette Hein, LWCD of their intentions by September 14, 2018.

#### Chairman's Report:

Chairman Farrey stated the items he wanted to share would be presented during Agenda Item B.

#### Business Items:

##### Discuss the Advantages of the Regional 9 Key Element Plan for the Winnebago Waterways Program

Tom Davies outlined the reasons for developing a 9 Key Element Plan for any watershed project and how it provided an opportunity for federal funding. Davies explained that developing the Winnebago Lakes Management Plan so that it satisfies the 9 key element requirements would save a tremendous amount of staff time, county resources and funds. Davies stated that a single HUC 12 watershed plan can cost \$20,000 or more. Davies added that even if it delays the completion of the plan by 6 to 8 months, it would be well worth the wait because the benefits would be realized by multiple counties for many years to come. Chairman Farrey and other LCC members had concerns about the delay and wanted to be sure that no other issues would arise that might create even more delays. Chairman Farrey shared that this would be a discussion item for the next Winnebago Waterways Executive Committee meeting scheduled for later this month.

##### Discuss the Effect of the Proposed TMDLs in the Upper Fox River and Wolf River Watersheds on Agricultural Producers

Chairman Farrey addressed the LCC with his concerns regarding the impact of the TMDLs on the local MS4s and the amount of additional funding that might be needed to meet the new load reduction requirements. Tom Davies informed the LCC that the implementation of the new TMDLs on local agricultural producers in the Wolf River and Upper Fox River watersheds would be the same as the Lower Fox River watershed. The goal will be to bring the agricultural lands and facilities into compliance with the agricultural performance standards on a voluntary basis with cost-sharing provided. Chairman Farrey stressed the need for cost-sharing at the highest rates to assist the participants due to low farm incomes. Davies explained that many times on large projects multiple funding sources are used to reduce the overall cost to the landowner or producer.

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

Tom Davies reviewed the CSA summary with the LCC. Following a brief discussion, a Snider/Joas motion to approve \$363.00 for Theresa Faucher for a well abandonment and \$7,600.00 for Don Himmler for a waterway project passed 7-0.

##### Review the LWCD Project List

The LCC reviewed and acknowledged the changes to the project list.

A Gordon/Binder motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:21 a.m. passed 7-0.

Tom Davies, Recorder