

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes of March 6, 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, John Egan, James Englebert, Chuck Farrey, Ken Neubauer and Tom Snider.

**LWCD Staff:** Tom Davies, Chad Casper, Mike Haase, Melanie Leet, Andrew Maracini and Sheila Kiddy.

Others Present: Jake Vande Berg, FSA and Merrie Schamberger, NRCS

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 February 6, 2014, LCC Meeting Minutes: An Englebert/Neubauer motion to approve the February 6, 2014, LCC meeting minutes passed 7-0.

Announcements:

- Tom D. welcomed new LCC member John Egan to the committee. John introduced himself to the other members and shared a little history and information about himself and his farming operation. The other members introduced themselves to John and welcomed him to the committee.
- Tom D. reminded the LCC of the March 10-12, 2014 WLWCA Annual Conference being held in Appleton, WI.
- Tom D. mentioned that the LWCD, FSA and NRCS would be sharing a booth at the WPS Farm Show being held March 25-27, 2014 at the EAA grounds in Oshkosh, WI.
- Tom D. informed the LCC that he would be presenting at the County Board Special Orders Meeting on March 11, 2014. Tom asked the LCC to critique his presentation.
- Tom D. informed the LCC that the LWCD had requested to extend normal office hours in conjunction with a compressed schedule for the technical staff. Tom D. explained that the proposal had been reviewed and approved by Mike Collard, Director, H/R, but still needed the approval of Executive Harris. The LCC supported the proposal and offered to communicate their support to Mike Collard and Executive Harris if needed.
- Tom D. stated that the 2015 LWCD Budget process had begun, and that the 2015 SWRM Grant Application and associated resolution would be on the April, 2014 LCC meeting agenda.
- Tom D. distributed the new LCC member and LWCD staff directory that included John Egan's contact information.
- Tom D. announced that he had attended the Highway 76 Project Meeting and that the LWCD would be working with the DOT on the drainage plan starting in 2015.
- Merrie S. distributed information about the Honey Bee Pollinator Effort being initiated by NRCS.
- Jake Vande Berg announced that the State FSA administration was considering some possible consolidations of county offices. Jake also informed the LCC that FSA was still waiting for information regarding the new Farm Bill.

## Business Items:

### LWCD Installed Conservation Practices Presentation

Chad Casper, Melanie Leet and Mike Haase reviewed the design and installation/construction of a multitude of conservation practices including a rock lined waterway, a wetland restoration, grassed waterways, a manure transfer and storage system, a milk house waste transfer system, a manure storage reconstruction and a diversion. The LCC asked questions, commented on the projects, and thanked Chad, Melanie and Mike for their informative presentation.

### Review the State Land and Water Conservation Board Nominees and Select Three for the WLWCA Ballot to be Cast at the WLWCA Annual Conference

The LCC reviewed the candidate information and the ballot format. Following a brief discussion a Snider/Englebert motion to vote for Charles Wagner, Joe Piechowski and David Solin passed 7-0.

### Review and Discuss the Impacts of the TMDLs on MS4 Permits

Andy Maracini reviewed the new requirements regarding phosphorus triggered by the TMDL limits. Andy explained that the actual reduction goals are yet to be defined, however, phosphorus was going to be included in the new permit requirements. Tom added that adaptive management may be a possible alternative to constructing retention if SB547 should be fully approved as passed by the State Legislature. The LCC discussed the information and thanked Andy for his fine report.

### Review and Discuss the Impacts of Wisconsin Senate Bill 547

Tom D. reviewed some of the key items in the Bill and discussed the impacts it might have on the LWCD workload and staff requirements. Tom D. also reviewed the potential funding increase that might be used to install conservation on the land and generate phosphorus reductions for point source permittees choosing the adaptive management variance option described in the Bill. The LCC and LWCD staff discussed the pros and cons of the legislation and agreed that if it is fully approved by EPA some major planning and action would be required by the LCC and LWCD to implement all that it entails.

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

There were no CSAs to approve; therefore the LCC took no action.

An Englebert/Barker motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m. passed 7-0.

Tom Davies, Recorder