

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes of April 5, 2012

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, Paul Eisen, Chuck Farrey and Ken Neubauer

LWCD Staff: Tom Davies and Keith Marquardt

Others Present: Joe Binder, Citizen, Tom Egan, Chairman, Town of Rushford and Jake Vande Berg, CED, FSA

Absent: James Englebert and Dan Stokes, both excused

Approve March 1, 2012 LCC Meeting Minutes: A Barker/Neubauer motion to approve the March 1, 2012 LCC meeting minutes, passed 5-0

Announcements:

- Joe Binder and Tom Egan notified the LCC of their concern regarding a re-routing of an existing waterway on the James Potratz property that adjoins the north side of Mr. Binder's property. Mr. Binder distributed photos and reviewed what had occurred. The LCC informed Mr. Binder of Winnebago County's current jurisdiction regarding drainage. Chairman Farrey offered to place the issue on the agenda for the May LCC meeting at Mr. Binder's request.
- Tom announced that the WALCE voted to merge with WLWCA at their annual conference.
- Tom shared that the 2013 SWRM Grant resolution had passed at County Board.
- Tom informed the LCC that a manure storage over topping had occurred on the Kelly Metcalf farm in the Town of Utica. All proper procedures were followed and the spill was addressed to WDNR's satisfaction. Tom stated that Mr. Metcalf was informed that should an incident of this nature occur again, Winnebago County would pursue enforcement.
- Tom distributed the official announcement from WLWCA that Jim VandenBrook had been hired as the Executive Director.
- Tom passed out the WLWCA "Thursday Note" newsletter for the LCC's review.
- Tom commented that the Oakridge Road Groundwater project was still alive and would hopefully be installed this summer after all the proper paperwork and designs were completed and approved.
- Tom reviewed the April 27th, LWLWCA Spring meeting registration and asked for attendees. The LCC reminded Tom that appointments for committees will take place on April 24th and may affect who can attend. Tom will tentatively submit those planning to attend.
- Tom reminded the LCC that the Annual Tree Sale is April 19th, at the Sunnyview Exposition Center, Barn E.
- Jake Vande Berg informed the LCC that FSA's CRP enrollment period had been extended for an additional week. Jake also noted that Sue Ziegler, FSA, would be on medical leave for an extended period of time. Jake also shared that on April 20th, 2012, from 10:00am – 11:30am, Senator Herb Kohl would be at the Coughlin Center to receive comment on the Farm Bill. Jake asked the LCC to spread the news.

Business Items:

Review/Discuss the Winnebago County MS4 Permit and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) Impacts

Keith Marquardt reviewed the current status of the MS4 Permit for Winnebago County and the future requirements as they relate to EPA's TMDL rules. The LCC discussed the delicate balance between fiscal responsibility and resource protection, and how the cost may or may not outweigh the benefit with some of the requirements. Keith shared how municipalities may address some of the issues by using pollution trading to increase pollution reductions while saving tax dollars. Keith also discussed the need for long term monitoring of stormwater facilities as a component of MS4 compliance. The LCC thanked Keith for his informative report.

Progress Report on the Stormwater and Erosion Control Program Transfer Back to Planning and Zoning

Tom informed the LCC that the transition was underway and that the resolution to transfer the position to P&Z was on P&F's agenda for today. Tom stated that P&Z staff was scheduled to meet with LWCD staff on next Tuesday to review the current status of the Stormwater Permits and Program. Tom asked the LCC to support the resolution at County Board to make for a smooth transition for Brent and the program.

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

Tom reviewed the well abandonment project for Mark Degler. Following a brief discussion, a Barker/Neubauer motion to approve \$868.00 for the project passed 5-0.

Discuss Current Status of the Farmland Preservation Plan (FPP) Revisions

Chairman Farrey informed the LCC that Ben Brancel, Wisconsin Secretary of Agriculture had met with himself and members of the P & Z committee and staff to discuss the FPP. At that meeting, Brancel stated he would approve the Plan for five years provided certain information was submitted to DATCP by the FPP Committee/P&Z. Chairman Farrey informed the LCC that DATCP was going to use the five years to promulgate the rules needed to administer the new Working Lands legislation that contains the Farmland Preservation Program. Chairman Farrey concluded by stating it was a good thing for our farmers that want to participate/comply voluntarily with the program requirements and restrictions to receive the tax credits.

Review new WLWCA / LWLWCA Bi-Laws Regarding WLWCA Board Member Elections

Tom reviewed the new voting rules so the LCC was aware of them before the LWLWCA meeting on April 27, 2012, when representatives to the state WLWCA Board will be nominated and elected.

A Barker/Eisen motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 a.m. passed 5-0.

Tom Davies, Recorder