

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
Meeting Minutes of September 1, 2011  
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, James Englebert, Chuck Farrey, Ken Neubauer and Dan Stokes.

**LWCD Staff:** Tom Davies

Others Present: Jake Vande Berg, FSA and Barry Benson, USDA Wildlife Services

Absent: none

Approve August 4, 2011 LCC Meeting Minutes: A Barker/Neubauer motion to approve the August 4, 2011 LCC meeting minutes, passed 7-0

Announcements:

- Tom introduced Jake Vande Berg the new Winnebago County FSA Executive Director. Jake provided some personal information and his work experience and informed the LCC he wanted to be involved with the other agencies to promote conservation on the land and assist landowners whenever possible.
- Tom mentioned the magazine article featuring Dan and Gina Stokes and asked Dan to share his experience with the LCC.
- Tom and Chuck reviewed the budget review session with Executive Harris and Chuck Orenstein. They expressed that the session went well and that the LWCD had met their levy target.
- Tom informed the LCC he would be on vacation from September 19 through 30, 2011 returning on October 3, 2011.
- Tom distributed the WLWCA "Thursday Note" to the LCC for their review.

Business Items:

Review and Approve participation in the 2011 Deer Donation Program

Barry Benson, USDA, WS explained that no budget amendment was required for participation in the 2011 Deer Donation Program. Benson explained that because the WDNR had already allocated funds for the program, all that was required was an approved motion by the LCC to have Winnebago County participate in the program. Following a brief discussion, a Barker/Neubauer motion to have Winnebago County participate in the 2011 Deer Donation Program passed 7-0.

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

Following a brief review of the projects, an Englebert/Bohn motion to approve \$333.00 for Paul Westergard, \$321.00 for John Gogian and \$571.00 for Gerald Lindow for well abandonments and \$2000.00 for the City of Oshkosh for a Shoreland Buffer demonstration project passed 7-0. Tom also explained that one well abandonment project, currently being estimated for total cost, has experienced several unforeseen circumstances that might make the cost exceed the current cost share maximum of \$1000.00. Tom explained the maximum can be exceeded with LCC approval and he was simply making them aware of the situation. The LCC said they understood and would address the situation as more information was available regarding the project.

#### Discuss the Town Hall Meetings summary

Tom reviewed the basis for the meetings and the comments summarized in the hand out. The LCC discussed the comments regarding less regulation regarding drainage ditch maintenance and tiling. Tom explained that much of the regulation is related to participation in USDA programs and the current Farm Bill requirements and State Code administered by the WDNR.

Tom explained that he had shared the comments with mid and high ranking members of USDA, FSA & NRCS, WDNR and State and Federal Legislators representing Winnebago County. Tom also stated that as he promised at the meetings, he had contacted the local tiling contractors and offered to have the LWCD be a local repository for tile installation maps. The maps would be kept in the landowners files for future reference. Tom explained that tile information is extremely valuable to assist landowners with location and/or repairs of tile systems. James Englebert recommended that the summary and cover letter be sent to the towns explaining the follow up that was done by LWCD. Nancy Barker also asked to have the information provided to the County Board Supervisors. Tom stated he would get it accomplished.

#### Discuss current status of the Farmland Preservation Plan (FPP) revisions

Chairman Farrey stated that the FPP revisions were complete and ready to go to DATCP. Tom informed the LCC that the Town of Nepeuskun has sent out a letter asking the landowners if they were interested in the FPP and giving them until September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011 to respond. Tom shared that many landowners from Nepeuskun had called LWCD for information and were very interested in getting into the program. It is unclear how this late information will be incorporated into the FPP revisions, but Tom stated that the consultants assisting with the revisions were aware of the letter and interest from Nepeuskun. Both Chairman Farrey and Tom said they would continue to keep the LCC informed about the FPP revisions.

A Barker/Neubauer motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:45am passed 7-0.

Tom Davies, Recorder