

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes of September 6, 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, James Englebert, Chuck Farrey, Ken Neubauer, Tom Snider, and Dan Stokes

LWCD Staff: Tom Davies & Jon Bahrke

Others Present: Sarah Adkins, WDNR & Barry Benson, USDA, WS

Absent: none

Approve August 2, 2012 LCC Meeting Minutes: A Neubauer/Stokes motion to approve the August 2, 2012 LCC meeting minutes as corrected, passed 7-0

Announcements:

- Tom reminded the LCC that their next meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2012.
- Tom distributed a letter from DATCP regarding a survey completed by County LWCDs regarding the impacts of State Staffing Grant reductions.
- Tom informed the LCC that Tom Vanden Elzen, Forester, WDNR will be presenting a forestry programs update at the December 2012 LCC meeting.
- Tom told the LCC that he had received several positive communications from local legislators regarding the request for support of a WDNR General Permit for the removal of Nuisance items on inland lakes.

Business Items:

Discuss local agricultural drainage maintenance issues and possible support for a simplified WDNR General Permit for agricultural drainage maintenance

Tom explained that several landowners had expressed concern over the complicated process required to obtain permission or a permit to maintain local drainage ditches. Chairman Farrey asked Sarah Adkins, WDNR to discuss the permit process and what triggers the various types of permits. Adkins reviewed the process and shared available information that can help towns and individuals identify areas of concern for agricultural drainage dredging. She also informed the LCC that a new program to convert paper forms to electronic copies was being implemented at the State level and it should reduce the number of copies currently being required of landowners during the application process. Bruce Bohn suggested there be a more seamless way for a landowner to work with all agencies involved to expedite the determination and possibly the permit acquisition process. Adkins agreed to work with FSA and NRCS if they were receptive to the idea. Tom stated he would pursue getting the agencies together to initiate the process discussion. Chairman Farrey thanked Adkins for her presentation and cooperation.

Discussion and possible action on the WDACP, Blue Sky Nursery Fencing Project in the Town of Rushford

Barry Benson, USDA, WS explained that Pompluns, owners of Blue Sky Nursery, had recently decided not to construct the recommended fence, therefore no action was necessary by the LCC. Benson went on to explain the impacts of Pompluns refusal to install the fence. He also educated the LCC on how projects are generally installed and funded through the program. The LCC

thanked Benson for his report and program information.

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

The LCC reviewed the projects listed on the summary. Following a brief discussion, a Snider/Neubauer motion to approve \$399.00 for Jan Sugden, \$525.00 for David Friess, \$242.00 for Daniel Gressler, \$654.00 for Janet Kirsling, \$1,000.00 for Gary Eake, \$228.00 for Cheryl Sugden and \$353.00 for Nick Bongean, all for well abandonment projects passed 7-0.

Discuss the submitted Winnebago System - Lake Planning Grant Application

Tom explained that the grant application had been divided into two separate applications, one for Lake Winnebago and one for the Upper Pool Lakes. Tom also explained that the “in-kind” payment requirements for counties other than Calumet had been removed due to WDNR rules. Following a lengthy discussion on the overall scope and direction of the grant applications, and a review of comments/information from other Winnebago County departments that might be impacted by items identified in the grant applications, it was the consensus of the LCC that although they support a cooperative approach to addressing certain issues on the Winnebago System, they did not support the process or goals/end results identified or in some cases not identified in the grant applications.

Discuss Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation (WFBF) Policy Items regarding County Land Conservation Departments and also Nutrient Management Planning in Wisconsin

Tom reviewed the County Land Conservation Department and Nutrient Management Planning policy items currently being discussed throughout the state by WFBF. Chairman Farrey asked the LCC members for their thoughts regarding the background documents and guided a lengthy discussion on the topics. Jon Bahrke, LWCD, provided valuable information on both policy items. Chairman Farrey informed the LCC that he would be attending the September 13th, Winnebago County Farm Bureau (WCFB) policy discussion meeting along with Jon Bahrke and other available LWCD staff. The meeting is being held at the WCFB office on Washburn Street in Oshkosh at 8:00 p.m. Chairman Farrey encouraged all the committee members to attend if at all possible.

Review and Approve NR151/ATCP50 implementation/compliance notification letters

Following a brief review of the Notification Letters Summary Sheet, an Englebert/Barker motion to approve the letters passed 7-0.

Discuss the WLWCA Resolutions and Elections, determine LCC position for voting purposes, and decide which LCC member(s) will attend the Annual Meeting scheduled for October 4, 2012

Following a review and discussion of the resolutions, the LCC decided to vote “no” on Resolution #1 and “yes” on Resolution #2.

Following a review and discussion of the candidates nominated for election to the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board, the LCC decided to vote for Joe Piechowski, Tom Rudolph and Charles Wagner.

James Englebert will attend and represent the LCC at the WLWCA Annual Meeting in October.

A Bohn/Stokes motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 a.m. passed 7-0.

Tom Davies, Recorder