

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes of April 7, 2011

LWCD Conference Room, James P. Coughlin Center

Convene: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Farrey at 9:02 a.m.

Present: **LCC Members:** Nancy Barker, Bruce Bohn, Paul Eisen, James Englebert, Chuck Farrey, Ken Neubauer and Dan Stokes.

LWCD Staff: Tom Davies, Chad Casper, Melanie Leet & Keith Marquardt

Others Present: Greg Hines, Coordinator, Glacierland RC&D and Merrie Schamberger, NRCS

Absent: none

Approve March 4, 2011 LCC Meeting Minutes: An Eisen/Neubauer motion to approve the March 4, 2011 LCC meeting minutes, passed 7-0

Announcements:

- Tom distributed the information for the April 15, 2011 LWLWCA meeting and ask all LCC members to let him know if they were planning on attending. Tom also reminded the LCC to get permission from Chairman Albrecht.
- Tom distributed the WLWCA "Thursday Note" publication for their review.
- Tom polled the committee for comments on the 2010 LWCD Annual Report provided in the meeting packet.
- Tom announced that the Tree Sale was set for Thursday, April 28, 2011 at Building A of the County Fairgrounds. Tom explained that trucking efforts/freight expenses would be shared between Winnebago and Fond du Lac Counties.

Business Items:

Elect the LCC Secretary - LCC

Chairman Farrey opened nominations from the committee for the vacant position. Ken Neubauer nominated Paul Eisen. Chairman Farrey asked for any additional nominations, hearing none, Chairman Farrey closed nominations and called for the vote to elect Paul Eisen as Secretary of the LCC. Paul Eisen was unanimously elected 5-0.

Glacierland Resource Conservation and Development Programs (RC&D) Review

Greg Hines provided a brief history of the efforts Glacierland has been involved with over the years and in recent times. Greg explained the possible impacts of the proposed federal budget on the organization. He explained the focus of his the organization is to bring people together to get things accomplished. Greg shared that the main focus of Glacierland is to educate and assist with grant writing to fund education. Greg expressed his gratitude for the County's continued support throughout the years, especially the efforts of Vice-Chairman Nancy Barker who has been the County representative since Glacierland's inception. The LCC thanked Greg for his fine report and encouraged him to continue his efforts.

Water Level Fluctuation Advisory Team for the Winnebago System, Status Report

Chad Casper gave a brief history of how the Winnebago System was before the installation of the dams at Neenah and Menasha. Chad explained water levels are about two feet higher because of the dams. Chad explained that the group is an advisory team created to assist the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) in managing the system water levels. Chad stated that grants had been applied for to cover the cost of installing additional lake level monitoring devices in area currently void of such equipment. Chad spoke of reestablishing vegetation on the system by initiating a substantial draw down of the lake depth for an extended period of time. The idea is to get the new equipment

installed and gather data to support the efforts suggested by the team and the ACOE. Chad shared that many groups/agencies are represented/members of the team and there are differing opinions on what should be done on the system.

The LCC thanked Chad for his fine report and asked to be kept informed as the team progresses.

Sawyer Creek Watershed Project, Status Report

Tom provided a brief history of the project and the funding source. Chad reviewed the projects that had been offered to date. Melanie explained that if hard practices could not be found to utilize the funds that management practices such as Residue Management and Nutrient Management Planning could be cost shared as well. Tom explained the \$25,000.00 cash advance funding was to be used strictly for cost sharing BMPs within the Sawyer Creek Watershed. Tom also mentioned that if the projects exhausted the funding additional financial assistance would be available from State and County funding sources. The LCC thanked the LWCD staff for the report.

James Schuster Manure Storage Facility Project, Status Report

Tom explained that James Schuster had decided to construct a completely different structure than what was designed and permitted so he revoked his permit. Mr. Schuster will now be working with LWCD to design and install a two stage concrete structure with a reception pit inside a new barn addition. The manure storage will also have an access ramp for cleaning out the sand cell. Melanie Leet is the lead technician on the project and explained that Mr. Schuster made the decision based on information learned from professional manure haulers. Mr. Schuster has been advised that no excavation or construction of any kind associated with the animal lot/housing or the manure storage facility is allowed until he has completed all the necessary paperwork, paid the necessary fees, and received the appropriate permits. The LCC asked to be kept informed on the project.

Review the Winnebago County Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System (MS4) Annual Report

Keith Marquardt distributed an outline for the LCC to follow during his presentation. Keith provided a brief history of the Clean Water Act requirements and explained where the County MS4 is located and what determines the location. Keith then reviewed the items listed on the outline and explained the actions taken by the County to satisfy/meet the permit requirements. He shared several examples of I & E efforts conducted by LWCD. Keith explained that things may change if the state budget is passed as proposed. The LCC and Keith discussed several items related to the census numbers and the impacts of new road construction on meeting the established pollutant load reductions. The LCC thanked Keith for his fine report.

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

There were no CSAs and no action was taken by the LCC.

Discuss current status of the Farmland Preservation Plan revisions

Chairman Farrey reviewed the latest efforts put forth by each town to establish where they wanted FPP areas to be mapped. He stated that the planning commission was going to meet and review/discuss the revised map. After the review, and any additional revisions, the map would be taken to regional meetings for review by the public. Chairman Farrey said he would keep the LCC informed as the process continued.

An Eisen/Neubauer motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:00am passed 7-0.

Tom Davies, Recorder