

Land Conservation Committee Meeting

Date: April 10, 2008

1. Meeting called to order at: 4pm

2. Present: Phil Roberts, Dave Ladd, Art Whitford, LaVerne Clifton

Absent: Bob Bunker, Larry Steffes, Phil Mrozinski

Others Present: Jim McCaulley, Randy Terronez, Carl Wachter, Mike Peterson, Doug Cieslak, Mark Midlestadt, Anne Bachner, Jim O'Brien, and David Kopinski

Notice of Meeting Certification:

Motion by Phil Roberts, seconded by Dave Ladd. Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda by:

Motion by Art Whitford, seconded by Phil Roberts. Motion carried.

Approval of minutes of previous meeting by:

Motion by Phil Roberts, seconded by Art Whitford. Motion carried.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

1. SA WLWCA Meeting
2. Customer Maps
3. Soils DVD
4. Career Visits with schools
5. Spring Conservation Congress Hearings
6. Night out with LaVerne and Phil

MEETING NOTES:

3. WLWCA Legislative Issues

Nothing at this time.

4. Driftless Area Conservancy Issue

Jim briefly summarized, the purpose of the group's presence was to request the County being a party to the easement document for purposes of meeting USDA funding. Carl Wachter was present and reviewed the USDA position. NRCS does not require County participation in easements, and will continue to work with the Driftless Area Conservancy (DALC) to close the two easements

now in progress. NRCS generally supports (but does not require) the development of partnerships between stakeholders, because easement programs in which local partners work together to integrate public and private land use goals tend to be the most successful.

Doug Cieslak distributed a proposal that requested the County to be involved in the agency's mission of farmland preservation. He noted that the agency has made a presentation to Brigham Township and the township has expressed interest in a possible partnership.

A motion was made by Phil Roberts to deny the DALC's request to have the county be a signatory on the easement as it is not required for funding eligibility, seconded by Art Whitford. Motion carried.

5. 2009 DATCP Grant Request

Jim referenced the agenda enclosure and noted dollars available to Iowa County. He noted that the County's Finance Director Roxie Hamilton has been very beneficial in assisting with the paperwork.

6. Annual Report

Jim distributed a copy of material published in the Chronicle and reviewed the highlights.

7. Newsletter

Jim McCaulley distributed a copy of the "Green Sheet" and reviewed the highlights. He thanked Cyndi Eggers for preparing the newsletter. Distribution costs amounted to \$700 and future costs are estimated at \$750 per issue. Content includes articles from NRCS, etc.

8. 2008 DATCP Grant (Signatures)

Jim reviewed highlights of the 2008 grant contract totaling \$216,913. Motion by Phil Roberts, seconded by Dave Ladd to approve the submission of the 2008 grant application and authorize the Committee Chairman to sign the form. Motion carried.

9. Alliant Cassville/Bio-Fuel

Jim and Dave Ladd attended a presentation by Alliant Energy on the Cassville Bio-Fuel project. The facility will be utilizing wood and grass products from Iowa County and surrounding areas.

10. Field Work Load

Jim reported that staff have identified the top 40 landowners owning the most land that will be coming out of CRP. The department will be providing education and technical service

(contour, CSC, and conservation planning) as the trend is approximately 75-80% of land will be taken out of CRP and going into corn or soybeans.

11. Birch Lake Annual Report and Lake Study Request

Barneveld Village President Mike Peterson was present and gave highlights of annual report to the committee. The village repaired the shelter roof, coordinated fundraising activities with the Sons of the American Legion, investigating renovation-expansion of concession facilities including more permanent restrooms. Mr. Peterson has given the written report to LCC office.

Mr. Peterson and Jim reviewed the request to undertake a lake study of Birch Lake, similar to the study conducted of Blackhawk Lake a few years ago. The Blackhawk Lake study was funded by a state DNR grant that utilizes existing staff as in-kind local match. The Village is also contemplating using existing staff to be used as the local in-kind match. As the agreement between the county and the Village requires the County to approve such a project, Mr. Peterson on behalf of the Village is formally requesting the County's approval.

Motion by Dave Ladd to authorize the Village of Barneveld to proceed and apply for a state DNR grant to undertake a Lake Study of Birch Lake provided no cash match is required, seconded by Phil Roberts. Motion carried.

12. LWRM Projects for Approval

Motion by Dave Ladd, seconded by Phil Roberts to approve projects for: Dennis Dochnahl for \$4600 total cost, \$3200 cost share, Otter Creek Church for \$900 total cost, \$630 cost share. Motion carried.

13. Thursday's Notes

14. Other Business

* Soils DVD – Jim McCaulley informed the Committee that there have been several requests to have the soil data be made available in electronic format.

* Student Career Visits/Presentations – The Dodgeville Schools FFA class of 32 students toured the building recently in order to increase their awareness of occupations, scope of agency, work, etc. Next week, Jim is scheduled to make a presentation to the Iowa Grant Schools FFA class.

* Spring Conservation Congress – Jim reminded Board members of the Monday April 14th event at the Dodgeville High School

15. Comments from Committee Members

16. Set Date of Next Meeting and Adjournment

Next meeting scheduled for May 8th at 7pm. Motion to adjourn by Dave Ladd, seconded by Art Whitford. Motion carried.

DRAFT