

**MINUTES**  
**Land Conservation Committee Meeting**  
**Date: December 16, 2010**

**1.Meeting called to order at:** 5:00 pm

**2.Present:** Bob Bunker, Dave Ladd, Bill Grover, Dan Nankee, Art Whitford, Ron Benish, and John Meyers

**Absent:**

**Others Present:** Jim McCaulley, Tammy Havlik, Lucas Conmey, Andy Walsh

**Notice of Meeting Certification:**

Motion to accept by: Art Whitford

Seconded by: Bill Grover

**Approval of agenda and minutes of previous meeting by:**

Motion to accept by: Art Whitford

Seconded by: Bill Grover

**Additions to agenda:**

**MEETING NOTES:**

**3.Introduction – Tammy Havlik**

Jim introduced Tammy as the new LCD assistant replacing Cynde. 103 applications were received, 24 tested, and 6 interviewed. After interviewing potential candidates, Tammy was chosen due to skills, education, and being a team player. Tammy introduced herself to the board members and gave them a brief overview of herself and is pleased with being part of the department.

**4.NRCS Report – Andy Walsh**

Andy presented a spreadsheet to the Board members that outlined the types of programs that were offered in 2010 and the amount of funds that were allocated to each program. He explained that budgets for 2011 should be level. The deadline to sign up for the EQIP and WHIP programs is January 14<sup>th</sup>.

**5.LWRM Projects for Approval & Payments**

A Spreadsheet was presented to the Board members with the list of projects and extensions that need approval. Approval to go above the \$7000.00 limit for the 2009 Jason Amidon project was presented. \$2,186.00 was the amount of funds left over at the end of 2010. Jim explained the extensive involvement and amount of funds incurred for the project. Because of Jason's successful efforts, he felt that Jason should be entitled to the extra funds as long as receipts were presented by the end of December. Motion approve – Ron Benish Second by John Meyers – Motion carried.

## **6. SW Badger RC & D Rep**

Jim explained this is a non-profit organization set up by a board of directors. It covers 11 counties and involves many issues. David Ladd agreed continue to be the representative. The alternate will be Bill Grover. Motion approve – Dan Nankee Second by Bob Bunker - Motion carried.

## **7. WLI Update – Lucas Conmey**

908 self certification forms were sent out from the State Department of Revenue to those who received a tax credit in 2009. So far, 602 forms have been returned. Forms are due by the end of December in order to receive the tax credit for 2010. The Department of Ag was asked if an extension to January 31<sup>st</sup> could be approved to return the self-certification forms for those who may need a little extra time and may have reminded participation while doing tax preparation. This extension was approved by the Department of Ag. General information questions asked on the certification form proved that many are not familiar with the WLI initiative and more education is needed (FYI).

## **8. NMP funds from Richland County**

Iowa County received \$3,000.00 from DATCP for nutrient management planning for 2010. An additional \$1,700.00 was received from Richland County. Eight people are interested in the UW-EX program. Once all acreages are totaled, the \$4,700.00 will be distributed based on pro-rate per acre to participants. Iowa County will receive \$6000.00 for 2011 and we are requesting \$10,000.00 additional from Richland County for 2011. Motion approve – Bill Grover Second by – Ron Benish – Motion carried.

## **9. NRCS Contribution Agreement**

LCD and NRCS entered into an agreement to work on the CRP program. This agreement could potentially earn the LCD \$13,000.00 by doing the project. Tammy and Lucas have been working very hard to meet the December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline. Motion approve – Bill Grover Second by – Ron Benish – Motion carried.

## **10. Month-To-Month Rent**

The building lease agreement has changed to be month-to-month payments made directly by the LCD. USDA is currently reevaluating their needs. The consensus is that the USDA and LCD stay co-located for customer and operational convenience. Owner raised rent from \$13.25 to \$14.25 per sq ft. Space needs for the LCD reduced from 800 sq ft to 600 sq ft. In spite of the raised rent, the reduction in space needs lowered the monthly payments from \$883.00 to \$712.00 per month, which will save \$2,056.00 annually. Motion approve – Dan Nankee Second by John Meyers – Motion carried.

## **11. WLWCA Conference Report**

Bob Bunker, Bill Grover, Dan Nankee, and Jim McCaulley attended the conference on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Everyone that attended expressed that the conference was very useful and informative. Different break-out sessions proved to have valuable information.

**12. Acting County Conservationist**

Jim will be taking a vacation in January that will be out of the country. Jim's vacation will start on December 20<sup>th</sup> and extend through January 23<sup>rd</sup>, with the exception that Jim will be in on December 22 for the Department Heads meeting. Jim will return to the office on January 24<sup>th</sup>. Due to certain events such as other employee vacations in November and the vacancy of the assistant position, Jim had to take all of his vacation in a lump sum. Jim was apologetic to the Board members that he had to take his vacation in a lump sum. The Board understood the situation and agreed to this time off. Due to his extended absence, he asked that Lucas Conmey be the acting conservationist until he returns.

Motion approve – Ron Benish Second by John Meyers – Motion carried.

**13. Thursday's Notes**

None at this time

**14. Other Business**

**15. Comments from Committee Members**

David Ladd mentioned that the Youth Day Program proved to be successful. 200 kids from schools including Barneveld, Dodgeville, Mineral Point, and Highland attended.

**16. Set Date of Next Meeting and Adjournment**

February 10th, 2011 at 5:00 pm

Motion to adjourn by Ron Benish, seconded by Bill Grover. Motion carried.