

**MINUTES**  
**Land Conservation Committee Meeting**  
**Date: June 9, 2011**

**1. Meeting called to order at: 9:00 am**

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

**Absent:**

**Others Present:** Tammy Havlik, Mark Thomas, Patti Jackson-Kelly, Jim McCaulley, Lucas Conmey

**Notice of Meeting Certification:**

Motion to accept by: John Meyers

Seconded by: Dan Nankee

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

Motion to accept by: Bill Grover

Seconded by: Ron Benish

**Additions to agenda:** Next meeting at Blackhawk Lake (picnic), Dam update from Mark Thomas, NRCS report from Patti Jackson-Kelly, EDEP meeting, Township packets.

**MEETING NOTES:** Dan Nankee needed clarification on the April meeting minutes regarding the information on the FPP tax credit and the Farmland tax relief credit. It was clarified that they were two separate tax credits.

**3. WLWCA Dues**

Association dues are paid by every county which help pay the cost of WLWCA, especially lobbying efforts to maintain staffing grants. 2011 dues totaled \$1312.83 in which a voucher and payment have been made and submitted to meet the deadline of May 31<sup>st</sup>. Committee ratified the payment.

Motion approve – Dan Nankee    Second by – Ron Benish  
– Motion carried.

**4. LCC 2011 Conservation Awards**

Farmer's Appreciation Day will be on July 10<sup>th</sup> 2011. LCD/NRCS will have a table/exhibit set up to promote services. Awards are presented to those practicing good conservation. Nominations

recommended by LCD/NRCS staff based on certain criteria and categories by State WLWCA (Ron Benish would like a list of the criteria to be eligible for the award). In the future, the LCC will be given the opportunity to make nominations. Nominations included Calvin & Victor Williams-Conservation Farmer of the Year, Otis, Mark, & Eric Gilbertson-Water Quality Leadership, Helen Kirch-Wildlife Habitat (Private), Burr Oak Deer Management (Club), & Don Winch-Tree Farmer. A framed certificate will be awarded to the nominees.

Motion approve – Art Whitford Second by – John Meyers  
-Motion carried.

#### **5. LWRM Project Approval/Payments – Mark Thomas**

A list of 2011 projects was presented for approval. A list of payments made on 2010 extension & 2011 projects was presented. There were 16 extension from 2010 and there are 7 projects left to do. Thus far, there is \$34,683 left for LWRM projects in 2011. Mark will be calling potential landowners who indicated on their FPP self cert sheets that potentially need work done. IA County received \$2300 in NMP seg funds for 2011 and the LCD will try to capture some money, estimated \$10,000 for NMP, from Richland County since they received a large amount.

Motion approve – Ron Benish & Art Whitford Second by – John Meyers & Dave Ladd  
– Motion carried

#### **6. WLI/FPP Updates & Compliance Policies – Lucas Conmey**

Approximately 178 status review will be completed by Lucas and Jim for 2011. Lucas was requesting guidance from LCC on how to handle reviews that have been or will be done. After the status review, the landowner has to be working towards compliance, but the State says they have until 2015 to become in compliance. If the landowner does not work towards compliance after review and uses the statement “they have until 2015”, how should the LCD handle these situations? Another example was that if the landowner was in compliance at the time of the status review, but then gets out of compliance. It was decided that at a local level, the LCD would give a 1 year grace period from the time they are out of compliance to come back into compliance as LCC policy. If after 1 year the landowner is not in compliance, the LCC would need to decide if the landowner should be bumped out of program to prevent them from claiming future tax credits.

Motion approve – Rob Benish Second by – Dave Ladd  
– Motion carried

### **7. SA WLWCA Tour**

Nine counties alternate in hosting a tour. This year Rock County is to host the tour on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. A list of scheduled events and map of location was presented. Registration is due by July 20<sup>th</sup>. If any board members are interested in going, they will need to contact Tammy and let her know. Tammy will also call LCC members near the 20<sup>th</sup> to get their answer.

### **8. WLWCA & WALCE Merger Sessions**

A special edition of the Thursday Note was presented explaining the merger talks of WLWCA & WALCE. The idea behind merging the two organizations is to strengthen each other and leverage funds. Concern from LCC members about the merger was that the public may be affected in a negative way if not balanced appropriately.

### **9. LCD Projected Capital Projects Identification**

Capital Outlay form was presented that indicated the possibility of needing two – 4X4 pickup trucks if the LCD/NRCS does not stay co-located. Topic amended after prior approval and discussed to put \$10,000 - \$20,000/year for dam repairs on the Capital Outlay form after discussing the need and importance for dam maintenance since many have been installed since the 1960's.

Motion approve – Ron Benish & Bill Grover Second by – Dan Nankee  
& John Meyers  
– Motion carried

### **10. Thursday Notes**

It was noted to read through carefully regarding the merger of WLWCA & WALCE.

### **11. Other Business**

#1-Next meeting to be held and BH Lake for a picnic and possibly a pontoon boat tour.

#2-Patti Jackson-Kelly/NRCS Update-Introduced herself and her role with the NRCS.

#3-PL-566 Dam Update by Mark Thomas-Explained that the State has increased the specifications for dam inspections. It is now required that they are State certified and an engineer from the NRCS is to assist with the dam inspections. Mike Dreschmeier, NRCS is assisting with the dam checklists. Mark will continue to do annual inspections.

If there are problems with dams in the future, recommendation from the LCC will be needed. It is required that a County emergency plan be implemented. Mark is working on this and plans to have them done by January 2012. Mark indicated that the dams are in need of active maintenance such as more frequent mowing, spraying of broadleaf, and caution signs on dams to prevent kids from playing in the dams. It was discussed that there might possibly be funds for long-range planning to maintain dams. Mark will be putting together a virtual tour of the dams and maps for one of the winter meetings so that the LCC members can have a better visual of the structure of the dams. It was discussed that the County Farm dam has a history of leaking and water is going around causing erosion. The LCD may have available funds to help cost share for the repair, but will wait until after the known demand to other landowners. The estimated cost to repair the County Farm dam is around \$10,000-\$15,000.

#4 – EDEP meeting – Jim attending the EDEP meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup> to ask them if the LCD should move to the Courthouse or stay located with the NRCS. The next level will be to the ASC to ask them if the LCD should move or stay. Jim will also address the County Farm dam and issues.

#5 – Township Packets – Tammy and Jim presented a folder packet that was constructed to include cost share information to be distributed and presented to the 14 township Chairmen & Clerks to promote the LCD cost share services to landowners.

## **12. Comments from Committee Members**

Dave Ladd indicated that the Walnut Council meeting will be at his place on August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## **13. Set Date of Next Meeting and Adjournment**

**August 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm at BH Lake – Picnic (bring dish to pass)**

Motion to accept – Art Whitford seconded by – John Meyers

-Motion carried.