

**MINUTES**  
**Land Conservation Committee Meeting**  
**Date: August 11, 2011**

1. **Meeting called to order at: 5:36 pm**
2. **Present:** Bob Bunker, Dave Ladd, Bill Grover, Dan Nankee, Art Whitford, and Ron Benish

**Absent:** John Meyers

**Others Present:** Tammy Havlik, Jim McCaulley, Lucas Conmey, Buck Holmes, and Dan Walsh

**Notice of Meeting Certification:**

Motion to accept by: Ron Benish

Seconded by: Art Whitford

**Additions to agenda:** Blue Marble Letter of report related to the PACE program

**MEETING NOTES:**

3. **Birch Lake Report**

Mike Peterson was unable to attend, but will try to make it to the October meeting to give a report. Mike did comment prior to the meeting that many park improvements have been made and another lake study is being conducted.

4. **Blackhawk Lake Report**

Buck Holmes gave the report and stated that they are having a good year in spite of the cold/hot weather. They are about equal to last year. Dredging will be done this fall where pontoons park. Electricity will be installed in all cabins this fall. Road was chipped and paved, and the parking lot will also need to be done soon. On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, they will be holding a triathlon. \$4,000 will be spent on 2200 walleye's to put in the lake. The trails have not been mowed this year due to the request of DNR.

5. **LWRM Project Approval/Payments**

A list of 2011 projects was presented for approval. A list of payments made on 2010 extension & 2011 projects was presented. Further discussion was made regarding the approval of cost share funds to

Iowa County for the County farm pond repair. Jim made the committee aware that they would be approving their "own" cost share and that DATCP has allowed cost share funds to be used for previous County projects such as the Iowa County Airport Farm waterways. The pond is leaking on the East side. Two estimates have been provided, one for 325' of protection at a total of \$13,337 and the second for 125' of minimum protection at a total cost of \$7,703 (not recommended by NRCS engineer). All LCC members in favor of sending on to the EDEP.

Motion approve – Art Whitford & Ron Benish    Second by – Ron Benish & Bill Grover  
Abstain – Dan Nankee  
– Motion carried

#### **6. CREP 10 Year Celebration**

Iowa County was asked and approved to host an event and to help out.

#### **7. LWRM Plan Update in 2012**

In regards to the document that was put together in 2007 defining priorities such as keeping soil in place, cropland, NMP manure storage, forestry, loss of Ag land, etc. This document was based on public survey and meetings. Plan is to be rewritten/updated in 2012 but due to staff issues and after we submitted our plan, they allowed other Counties a 10 year plan. Recommendation is to first ask DATCP for the plan to be extended another 5 years and second is to ask for an extension of 2 years.

Motion approve – Ron Benish    Second by – Art Whitford  
– Motion carried

#### **8. LCD Staff Issues**

Mark Thomas left the department to accept a position as the County Conservationist in Vernon County. The LCD has been asked to manage department differently. Summary of the importance of agriculture in Iowa County was presented. Jim explained the importance of having a 100% staff person here to assist with technical work. Jim is in process of redesigning the workload for Jim, Lucas and Tammy. Lucas will do about 60-70% technical work and 30-40% planner duties. Jim and Tammy will take on easier contracting such as well abandonments and NMP contracts. Also exploring the idea of sharing a planner with another County or contracting one at 50% or possibly hire an employee at 50% planner.

Motion approve – Art Whitford Second by – Dan Nankee  
–Motion carried

**9. 2012 Proposed LCD Budget**

Department is losing approximately \$10,000 in funds from DATCP for staff and support. The department will be saving on retirement and health insurance due to employee contributions. Other expenses that were reduced were rent, copy fees, office supplies, and training. These decreases brought the levy down to -3.43%. The 80% position of an Engineer Technician was kept in the budget and the committee was asked to support leaving the 80% technical position.

Motion approve – Dan Nankee Second by – Bill Grover  
– Motion carried

**10. Sylvan Road Property**

Prairie Enthusiasts made an appraisal and they are also the interested buyers of the property. They estimated a \$202,000 value of the property.

**11. WLWCA/WALCE Merger Communication**

A survey was sent out regarding the merger. There are concerns that employee issues may dominate committee issues. There needs to be balance between employee position and committee position. Merger would possibly streamline processes, have stronger lobbying efforts, and be better for budget.

**12. SA WALCE Summer Tour**

Dan Nankee commented on how great the tour was. He brought photos of the mill, mint plant, pheasant farm, and the construction of a mega dairy operation in Rock Co. All had a good time on the tour and learned a lot.

**13. National Walnut Council Meeting**

Hosted by Dave Ladd. Dave commented that the meeting went well with 128 people in attendance. Dave hosted a tour at his place.

**14. Thursday Notes**

No comments

**15. Other Business**

Blue Marble Dairy Letter. The Kirch's have applied for the PACE program and a letter of report was authored by Jim and Lucas to send to DATCP to approve them for it

**16. Comments from Committee Members**

None

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

Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at LCD office

Motion to accept – Ron Benish seconded by – Bill Grover  
-Motion carried.

DRAFT