

MINUTES
Land Conservation Committee Meeting
Date: April 12, 2012

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

2. Present: Bob Bunker, Dave Ladd, Dan Nankee, Roger Dax, and Ron Benish, John Meyers, Bill Grover

Absent:

Others Present: Jim McCaulley, Lucas Conmey, Tammy Havlik, Patti Jackson-Kelley

Notice of Meeting Certification:

Motion to accept by: Bill Grover

Seconded by: Ron Benish

Additions to agenda: Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to Bill Grover for service on the LCC Board and Southwest Badger RC&D. Thanked him for the contributions that he has made.

MEETING NOTES:

3. 2012 Farmer's Appreciation Day Awards:

Presentation of nominees for the conservation awards presented at Farmer's Appreciation Day. There was an explanation of how the nominees were chosen. Award nominees were Richard Amble-Conservation Farmer of the Year, Luther Smith-Water Quality Leadership, Wayne Schuelke - Wildlife Habitat (Private), Prairie Enthusiasts-Empire-Sauk Chapter -Wildlife Habitat (Club), Dave & Bonnie Downs - Tree Farmer.

Motion to Approve 2012 Conservation Award Nominees made by John Meyers, Second by Ron Benish, - Motion Carried

4. PL-566 Dams

The dams wintered well, however there have been some beaver activity and rubbish behind the dams that needed to be cleaned up. Tom Hill did some trapping behind the dams that have had beaver activity. Because the dams are high hazard, 1/3 has to be inspected

by NRCS Engineer each year. Traditionally ½ of the dams are mowed each year but because there is a need to control more of the weeds and brush on the dams, it is being recommended that all dams be mowed this year. There are enough funds in the budget to allow all dams to be mowed this year.

Motion to Approve all dams being mowed in 2012 made by Ron Benish, Second by Bill Grover - Motion Carried

5. Grassland Broker

SW Wisconsin has been recognized for an outstanding grassland area and therefore, efforts have been in the process of possibly getting a Grassland Broker that would be funded by grant money so there would be no costs to Iowa County. Iowa County LCD has offered to house this person in the LCD office area. This would be a great opportunity to Iowa County Landowner to match grassland owners with cattle owners.

Motion to approve a Grassland Broker for Iowa County made by Dan Nankee, Second by Ron Benish – Motion Carried

6. LCC/LCD Annual Report & Newspaper Ad

An ad was placed in the Dodgeville Chronicle and the Advisor to direct the public to view the Annual Report on the Iowa County web site. This process fulfills the DATCP requirements while also saving money to the County. In comparison to Grant County's ad, their newspaper ad cost was approximately \$3,500 compared to ours which was approximately \$35.

Motion to approve the LCC/LCD Annual Report & Newspaper Ad made by John Meyers, Second by Ron Benish – Motion Carried

7. DATCP Accomplishment Report & Grant

The required 2011 accomplishments report has been sent in to DATCP along with the 2013 grant request for staff & support and cost share funds for LWRM. A request has been made in the amounts of \$145,522 for staff & support, \$110,000 for LWRM projects, and \$130,044 for nutrient management planning.

Motion to approve the accomplishments report and grant requests made by Ron Benish, Second by Bill Grover – Motion Carried

8. County Board Orientation of the LCD/LCC

A front and back page brochure was put together to introduce the LCD/LCC to the new County Board. In addition to the profile, the brochure provides information about the 2011 Annual Report. A recommendation was also made to distribute more of the brochures to the public by placing them in public places such as banks, feed mills, etc. so the public get more knowledge about the LCD.

9. Cost Share Rates for NMP

A grant in the amount of \$25,000 was received from DATCP for nutrient management planning in 2012. The max amount of \$28/ac could be offered, but it would only help about 7-8 people with only 892 acres being covered. If \$8/ac is offered, it would help about 25-30 people and would cover approximately 3,125 ac. while still covering the cost of developing a NMP. It was recommended that \$8/ac be offered for nutrient management cost sharing.

Motion to approve \$8/ac for NMP was made by Ron Benish, Second by Dan Nankee – Motion Carried

10. Farm Visits Vehicle (Compliance Checks)

The LCD is unable to use the Federal vehicle to do compliance checks on farms, so a request was made to both the Hwy Dept. and Sheriff's Dept for the use of a vehicle for the summer months. The Sheriff's Dept does not have a vehicle to use, but the Hwy. Dept does have one that the LCD could rent.

11. 2012 LCD Budget Item - Vehicle

The 80% planner position was kept in the budget, however, since the planner is only working ½ time, there are extra funds that could potentially be used to buy a vehicle if the LCD should be dislocated from the Feds. A request was made to possibly purchase a vehicle, but not to exceed \$25,000

Motion to purchase a vehicle was made by Ron Benish, Second by Roger Dax – Motion Carried

12. CREP Buyout

Richard Retrum is requesting to buy out Richard Taylor's CREP contract which would include interest, fees, and incentive payments. The LCD would be eligible for an interest payment of approximately \$5,000. The LCC could potentially waive the interest fee or accept the interest payment. It was suggested that a policy be in place to accept all interest payments on CREP contracts that are bought out.

Motion to accept CREP interest payments and set a policy going forward made by Ron Benish, Second by Bill Grover – Motion Carried

13. WLI/FPP Voluntary Notice of Non-Compliance

Landowners are requesting to voluntarily drop out of the WLI/FPP. Those currently making requests are Lauren Polkinghorn, Leslie Stephenson, Bob Zink, James Dax, Daniel Miess, Troy Russel, and James Helgeson. Forms to be signed by Bob Bunker, Chair and filed with DATCP/DOR.

Motion to accept voluntary notice of non-compliance made by Bill Grover, Second Dan Nankee – Motion Carried

14. Blackhawk Lake Update

Conversations about the process of reporting between BHL & Finance Director have been improved. Ron Benish gave report that BHL has approximately \$91,000 in reserve and \$19,000 in checking. \$18,000 will be spent to purchase Greg "Buck" Holmes concessions and boats. After this purchase, there will be \$73,000 in reserve. About \$4,000 to \$5,000 is being spent to update the web site. A 10 year plan is being developed and will include building about 4 more cabins, build more picnic tables, redo volleyball courts, expand the beach area, improve boat landing docks, move beach playground equipment to upper sites and put new equipment at the beach, and improve the beach trails. DNR is giving permission for BHL to use the trails around the lake, but they need a lot of work cleaning up. Mark Palan contacted fish biologist and would like to put in 50 fish cribs throughout the lake. It was recommended that no more fish cribs be placed in the lake due to concerns about predator fish killing off the little fish.

Motion to accept the BHL report and to not have any more fish cribs placed in the lake made by Roger Dax, Second by John Meyers – Motion Carried

15. LWRM Project Approvals/Payments

Projects needing approval and projects that have been paid were presented.

Motion to approve the project/payment made by Ron Benish, Second by John Meyers – Motion Carried

16. USDA/LCD Location Update

Report by Jim. LCD/LCC will need to wait for bids to come back to reconsider if LCD can be included in building space with the USDA. This will depend on the bids and availability. Update on EQIP money by Jim.

17. WALCE Conference

Tammy & Jim attended conference and break-out sessions. Good sessions on being professional and dealing with difficult people. Spoke about merger of WALCE & WLWCA. Membership voted to merge the two organizations.

18. LCD Staff Updates

Tammy nominated for the "Golden Apple" award. Support was asked for Lucas Conmey to get merit pay. Tammy will be on maternity leave for approximately 12 weeks and discussions of how to cover her absence.

Motion to approve Tammy as the "Golden Apple" award winner and to approve Lucas Conmey for merit pay was made by Dan Nankee, Second by John Meyers – Motion Carried

19. Thursday Notes

No discussion

20. Set Date of Next Meeting and Adjournment

Thursday, June 14th at 9:00 am at LCD office

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