

Minutes from the 10/21/2013 PACE Council Meeting
Rock County Ag. Service Center
440 N US Hwy 14
Janesville WI

Present: Don Jones, Alan Sweeney, Duane Cherek, Ramona Flanigan, Dave Rebut

Absent: Fred Hookham and John Lader

Others: Mike Plankey

Staff: Andrew Baker and Tom Sweeney

- 1) Call to Order: Chair Sweeney called the meeting to order at 1:11
- 2) Adoption of Agenda: Jones motioned to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Rebut. Motion Carried.
- 3) Citizen Participation, Communication, and Announcements: None
- 4) Summary and Overview of Rock County PACE Program Activities: Baker noted that from the first round of applications (Phelps, Carlson and Anderson) only Phelps has closed, Carlson is working to clear up trust/ownership issue before end of 2013, and Anderson has withdrawn from the program. Baker continues with the second round of applicants (Vanthournout and Morton). Both applicants have been approved for funding by USDA. Vanthournout has chosen to remove the farmstead from the application, which requires an updated appraisal for the property. USDA does not allow for the removal of farmsteads after an easement has been recorded. Morton's application continues through the USDA process.
- 5) Review PACE Applications Submitted and Recommend Approval or Denial to the Rock County Land Conservation Committee.
 - A) Plankey Property (Purchase): Jones motioned to approve the application, seconded by Rebut. Baker described the property and noted the property includes four parcels of land that are contiguous. Cherek asked if this was the first application received that was outside a priority area as defined in the PACE Manual. Baker responded No, there was one application in 2012 which was outside of the priority area. The Council did not recommend approval on that property and the LCC, in turn, did not approve the property for acquisition. Flanigan asked if the City of Beloit has reviewed the application. Baker responded that the City received the information and was told if we

didn't hear from them in ten work days that we assume there is no objection to the acquisition. Jones stated that the property in question is in the area of interest for the proposed Casino. It was noted that the property in question is very close to the priority area, but outside of it. Flanigan asked if the land identified on the application was within the City of Beloit's future development area. Baker stated no based on the information available to staff. Cherek noted the property in question has a lower than average LESA score and raised the question is this the best use of the limited program financial resources? Chair Sweeney asked for a role call vote: Jones – Aye; Cherek – Nay; Flanigan – Nay; Rebut – Aye; Sweeney – Aye. **The motion carried with three members voting Aye and two members voting Nay.**

B) Sweeney Property (Donation): At this time Chair Sweeney asked that a temporary chair be elected for the discussion on the Sweeney Property. Jones nominated Rebut, seconded by Flanigan. Hearing no further nominations, Rebut assumed the chair. Sweeney removed himself from the room. Rebut asked for a motion to approve the Sweeney property donation. Jones motioned, seconded by Cherek. Baker stated that the donation component was recently approved by the county board and all program criteria for the purchase component are applicable to the donation component. The program will pay for the title work, the appraisal and recording the easement costs. Jones stated that this is a very good idea. Cherek also noted the donation is very good. Chair Rebut asked for a role call vote: Jones – Aye; Cherek – Aye, Flanigan – Aye, and Rebut – Aye. **The motion for was approved with four members voting Aye and no members voting Nay.**

6) Future meeting date – Will be determined in near future.

7) Adjournment: Cherek asked that an e-mail be sent out to update the council on activities associated with the program. Flanigan motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:04 pm, seconded by Cherek

Respectfully Submitted

Thomas Sweeney
County Conservationist/Recording Sect.

Minute are not official until approved by the Pace Council