



**MINUTES**  
**ROCK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**  
**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2010, 7:15 P.M.**  
**LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT - CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**USDA SERVICE CENTER**  
**440 N US HWY 14, JANESVILLE WI**

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Bostwick called the meeting of the Land Conservation Committee to order at 7:15 p.m.

**Committee Members Present:** Richard Bostwick, Larry Wiedenfeld, Eva Arnold, Ron Combs, Robert Fizzell, Katie Kuznacic, Alan Sweeney and James Quade.

**Others Present:** Tom Sweeney, LCD.

2. **Approval of Agenda:** Supervisor Combs motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Supervisor Arnold. Tom Sweeney requested that the following names: Sayre Farms, LLC and Eva Arnold be added to item # 8, Land and Water Resource Management – Approval of Cost Share Agreements. **Motion Carried.**
3. **Approval of Minutes – February 3, 2010:** Supervisor Fizzell motioned to approve the February 3, 2010 minutes as presented, seconded by Supervisor Wiedenfeld. Supervisor Wiedenfeld noted a spelling error. **Motion Carried.**
4. **Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements:** None.
5. **Bills and Transfers:** Supervisor Arnold motioned to approve the bills, seconded by Supervisor Fizzell. Supervisor Combs requested explanation regarding a payment to Frito Lay, Inc. in the sum of \$8,260.00. Tom Sweeney stated this bill was submitted for a cost share request for the construction of a rock lined waterway system. **Motion Carried.**
6. **Resolution – Amending the 2009 Land Conservation Budget - Land and Water Conservation Implementation Grant.** Supervisor Wiedenfeld motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Fizzell. Tom Sweeney stated the resolution balances the Land Conservation books. The Land Conservation Department had less carryover requests than expected, which resulted in more monies spent for this grant. The LCD had spending authority from DATCP and has since recouped all monies spent. **Motion Carried.**
7. **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program - Approval of New Agreements.** Tom Sweeney presented one new 15-year agreement for the establishment of conservation buffers and grassed waterways for Mark Toberman. Supervisor Arnold motioned to approve the agreement as presented, seconded by Supervisor Combs. **Motion Carried.**

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8. **Land and Water Resource Management Program** – Approval of Cost Share Agreements for: Ruth Newhouse, Atkinson Farms, Ruth Johnson, Gary and Michele Hahn, Sayre Farms LLC, and Eva Arnold. Supervisor Fizzell motioned to approve the cost share agreements, seconded by Supervisor Combs. Tom Sweeney reviewed each cost share agreement.  
**Motion Carried.**
  
9. **Farmland Preservation Program – Update/Discussion.** Tom Sweeney reviewed the major changes to the FPP that went into effect January 1, 2010. The changes will have an impact on the Land Conservation Department in the foreseeable future. To remain eligible for the available tax credits, participants will have to update their conservation plan to integrate all new conservation standards identified in Wisconsin Administrative code NR 151. Landowners will have until December 31, 2015 to implement said changes. New enrollees will have to have all standards implemented prior to accessing the available credits. On a statewide basis, Rock County has one of the highest enrollments in this program, currently 753 participants. An internal analysis of staffing needs to service this program was completed. This information was discussed. Tom Sweeney met with County Administration to discuss the issue of transferring additional staff from P&D to LCD to defray the impact. A resolution will be forthcoming to the P&D Committee, the LC Committee, and County Board to authorize this transfer. A meeting date of March 10, 2010 has been set for the committee to take action on the resolution.  
  
Tom Sweeney distributed a information sheet, developed by Wisconsin Homeowners Association, that was sent to 15,000 farmland owners. Also, this group purchased full-page ads in agriculture newspapers and magazines. Tom Sweeney stated aforementioned group, is a front for the Wisconsin Realtors Association and does not represent homeowners, per se. Supervisor Kuznacic stated that Representative Sheridan's office has received numerous calls regarding this issue. Two Assembly bills have been drafted regarding this issue.
  
10. **Purchase of Development Rights Program - Discussion** – Supervisor Sweeney updated the committee on activities regarding the PDR program since the last meeting, specifically noting information from the March 1, 2010 PACE Ad Hoc Committee meeting. Supervisor Sweeney noted the dates and times for the next Vision Workgroup and the Ad Hoc Committee meetings.
  
11. **Department Update:** Tom Sweeney reviewed the highlights of the department activities since the last LCC meeting. Tom Sweeney distributed the MS4 report draft and requested comments from the committee are delivered to the LCD by March 10, 2010.
  
12. **Adjournment:** Supervisor Fizzell motioned to adjourn the March 3, 2010 meeting of the Land Conservation Committee at 8:21 p.m. seconded by Supervisor Wiedenfeld. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Sweeney  
County Conservationist

**Minutes are not official until adopted by the Land Conservation Committee.**