



MINUTES

**ROCK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 6, 2017, 7:15 P.M.
LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
CONFERENCE ROOM
440 N US HWY 14
JANESVILLE WI**

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Bostwick called the meeting of the Land Conservation Committee to order at 7:19 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Rich Bostwick, Stephanie Aegerter, Wes Davis, Brenton Driscoll, Kara Hawes, James Quade, Alan Sweeney and Jeremy Zajac.

Committee Members Excused: None.

Staff Present: Tom Sweeney

Others Present: County Board Chair, J Russell Podzilni
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Supervisor Driscoll moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Supervisor Hawes. **Motion Carried.**
3. **Approval of Minutes – August 6, 2017:** Supervisor Davis moved to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2017 Land Conservation Committee meeting, seconded by Supervisor Driscoll. **Motion Carried.**
4. **Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements:** Supervisor Davis and Tom Sweeney attended the Fall Southern Area Meeting and Conservation Tour. Supervisor Davis highlighted different components of the tour specifically the 14 acre photovoltaic energy field which will have pollinator habitat introduced as the vegetative cover. Supervisor Quade stated that Rock Energy will be transforming all substation vegetation with pollinator habitat in the near future.
5. **Review of Bills paid.** Bills Paid were presented. Supervisor Davis asked for clarification regarding payment to Brabazon Escrow account. Tom Sweeney stated this was the purchase payment for the Oberdeck Farms Inc. Agricultural Conservation Easement.
6. **Resolution: Authorizing Submittal of Grant Application for the 2018 Clean Sweep Program.** Chair Bostwick introduced the Resolution for Consideration. Supervisor Zajac moved to approve the resolution as presented, seconded by Supervisor Davis. **Motion Carried.**
7. **Resolution: Amending the Land Conservation Department Budget to Allow for Reimbursement of Gypsy Moth Program Fund Balance.** Chair Bostwick introduced the Resolution for Consideration. Supervisor Zajac moved to approve the resolution as presented, seconded by Supervisor Davis. A short discussion commenced regarding the tree removal of ash trees in the Beloit Area. **Motion Carried.**
8. **Farmland Preservation Program – Notice of Non Participation.** Tom Sweeney introduced a voluntary request to withdraw from the FPP for Donna Garvoille. Supervisor Quade moved to approve the notice as presented, seconded by Supervisor Sweeney. **Motion Carried.**

9. **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) - Approve 15-Year Agreement(s):** Tom Sweeney submitted three new CREP Agreements for consideration. Supervisor Sweeney moved to approve the agreements as presented for Rosenberg Family Trust, Marvin Vike, and Richard Nimz/Larson Farms Inc., seconded by Supervisor Davis. **Motion Carried.**
10. **Groundwater Nitrate Initiative Workgroup – Update.** Tom Sweeney provided the committee with an update as to the status of the Workgroup and spoke of the draft resolution which allocates money from the ATC environmental fees for this initiative.
11. **Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) Program**
 - A. **ATC Environmental Impact Fee Funding the PACE Program – Discussion.** Tom distributed a copy of the draft resolution to the committee. A short discussion took place regarding support for the fees being split between Land Conservation and Parks. The committee supports the proposed split as identified in the draft resolution.
 - B. **Extending the PACE Program Signup Deadline for the 2017-2018 Program.** Supervisor Sweeney moved to extend the 2017 deadline to October 13, 2017, seconded by Supervisor Hawes. **Motion Carried.**
 - C. **Program Update.** Tom Sweeney provided the committee with an update including the closing of Oberdeck Farms Inc. purchased easement and Larry and Katherine Oberdeck donation easement.
12. **Adjourn:** Supervisor Zajac moved to adjourn the September 6, 2017 Land Conservation Committee meeting at 8:02 pm, seconded by Supervisor Hawes. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Sweeney
County Conservationist

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