



## MINUTES

**ROCK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY MAY 4, 2016, 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 7:20 p.m.  
  
**Committee Members Present:** Rich Bostwick, Wes Davis, Andres Dowd, Brenton Driscoll, Kara Hawes, David Rebut, and Alan Sweeney.  
  
**Committee Members Absent:** Jeremy Zajac  
  
**Others Present:** Tom Sweeney, LCD; Theresa Huber, resident of Johnstown.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Supervisor Rebut moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Supervisor Driscoll. **Motion Carried.**
3. **Election of Committee Vice-Chair:** Supervisor Rebut nominated Supervisor Sweeney seconded by Supervisor Dowd. Chair Bostwick called for further nominations, Hearing none, Chair Bostwick called the nominations closed. **A unanimous vote was cast for Supervisor Sweeney for Vice-Chair.** Chair Bostwick thanked the committee.
4. **Set Meeting Day and Time:** Chair Bostwick asked if the current day (first Wednesday of the month) and time (7:15 pm.) were ok with the committee. Supervisor Sweeney moved to keep the current schedule as presented, seconded by Supervisor Davis. **Motion Carried.**
5. **Approval of Minutes – April 6, 2016:** Supervisor Davis moved to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2016 Land Conservation Committee meeting, seconded by Supervisor Rebut. **Motion Carried.**
6. **Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements:** Tom Sweeney stated that the County has tendered the Conservation Specialist II position to Chris Murphy. He has accepted the position and is slated to start employment on May 9<sup>th</sup>.
7. **Bills/Transfers/Encumbrances.** Tom Sweeney noted that no bills are presented tonight since the new bill paying process has been implemented. Next month the agenda will change to include "review of bills paid".
8. **Resolution: Opposition to the Proposed Great Lakes Transportation, Inc. Rail Project:** Supervisor Sweeney moved to approve the resolution as presented, seconded by Supervisor Davis. Tom Sweeney reviewed the impacts of the proposed rail system to the agricultural community. The committee had a conversation regarding the merits of this resolution. Supervisor Sweeney stated that this will be the first step regarding the proposed rail line in addressing the scoping process for the environmental impact statement. Supervisor Sweeney also noted that Ken Luct from the Southern Wisconsin Rail will address the board on June 23, 2016. **Motion Carried.**

9. **Resolution: Finalizing Purchase of the John and Kathy Morton Agricultural Conservation Easement:** Tom Sweeney reviewed the resolution and the overall objectives of the PACE program. Supervisor Rebut moved to approve the resolution as presented, seconded by Chair Bostwick. **Motion Carried.**
10. **Resolution: Finalizing the Sayre Joint Farms, LLC Property Agricultural Conservation Easement Assignment/Donation:** Tom Sweeney reviewed the resolution as it relates to the alternative funding and the use of the easement donation process. Supervisor Davis moved to approve the resolution as presented, seconded by Supervisor Sweeney. **Motion Carried.**
11. **Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easements (PACE) Program:**
  - A. **Approval of Sayre Easement Assignment Agreement** - Supervisor Sweeney moved to approve the Sayre Easement Assignment Agreement as presented, seconded by Supervisor Driscoll. **Motion Carried.**
  - B. **Approval of Assignment of Conservation Easement Document (Sayre)** - Supervisor Rebut moved to approve the Assignment of Conservation Easement Document as presented, seconded by Supervisor Driscoll. **Motion Carried.**
  - C. **Program Update:** Tom Sweeney provided an update on the program since the last meeting.
12. **Adjourn:** Supervisor Davis moved to adjourn the May 4, 2016 Land Conservation Committee meeting at 8:31 pm, seconded by Supervisor Rebut. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Sweeney  
County Conservationist

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