



**MINUTES**  
**ROCK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**  
**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2009, 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, Katie Kuznacic, James Quade, Robert Fizzell, Ronald Combs, Eva Arnold, and Alan Sweeney.  
  
**Others Present:** Tom Sweeney, LCD.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Supervisor Arnold motioned to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Supervisor Fizzell. **Motion Carried.**
3. **Approval of Minutes – February 24, 2009:** Supervisor Wiedenfeld motioned to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Supervisor Arnold. **Motion Carried.**
4. **Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements:** None
5. **Bills and Transfers:** Supervisor Fizzell motioned to approve the bills, seconded by Supervisor Arnold. **Motion Carried.**
6. **Land and Water Resource Management Plan Update:** Tom Sweeney explained the status of the working draft and the DATCP proposed timeline for the plan's completion. The draft document should be ready for distribution to the required agencies by April 1, 2009. Tom Sweeney handed out additional materials for the draft plan.
7. **Discussion of Governor's Budget Proposal and Potential Impacts to the Land Conservation Department:** Tom Sweeney stated the Governor's Budget proposal includes financial cuts that will have a negative impact on the operations of the LCD. First the Governor did not reauthorize the Clean Sweep Grant Program. This program supplies grants to the LCD for their bi-annual program. The second issue is a proposed permanent \$500,000 reduction in the base allocation for Staffing through the SWRM grant. The third issue is a proposed three million dollar reduction to the Nutrient Management Grant Program. And finally, the fourth issue is the elimination of the Land and Water Board. After a short discussion, it was decided to have a letter drafted and forwarded to the Co-Chairs of the Joint Finance Committee.
8. **Purchase of Development Rights - Discussion:** Supervisor Sweeney expressed his appreciation to all committee members for their support in regards to the County Board action on February 26, 2009. Supervisor Sweeney informed the Committee that he attended a hearing sponsored by Joint Ag and Education Committee with Randy Thompson, UWEX and John Lader, Chair of the Rock County Towns Association regarding the Working Lands Initiative. Supervisor Sweeney had time to meet with David Jelinski, DATCP to discuss the issue of Rock County being a Pilot County for the PDR component of the program. If selected, the county would receive approximately \$30,000 dollars for administrative costs and would be eligible to receive matching grant dollars for the USDA- Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program.

**Purchase of Development Rights - Discussion: Continued**

Chair Bostwick stated that an ad hoc would be convened to provide input into the development of a master plan for the PDR program. Discussion centered on the makeup of the group. It was decided that the recommendations for representation on this committee should come up from the PDR Vision Group. The next meeting of the group is scheduled for March 16, 2009. It was recommended that a timeline for the program be developed and made available to the Committee.

9. **Adjournment:** Supervisor Fizzell motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:30, seconded by Supervisor Combs. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Sweeney  
County Conservationist

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

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