



## MINUTES

ROCK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2015, 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 7:15 p.m.  
  
**Committee Members Present:** Rich Bostwick, Tom Brien, Wes Davis, Phil Owens, Alan Sweeney, Larry Wiedenfeld, and Jeremy Zajac.  
  
**Committee Members Excused:** Dave Rebout  
  
**Staff Present:** Tom Sweeney and Andrew Baker  
  
**Others Present:** County Board Chair Russ Podzilni; Dave Terrell, USDA-APHIS; and Alvin Francis
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Chair Bostwick asked to move Agenda Item 14 to after Agenda Item 5. Supervisor Davis moved to approve the agenda as is with the noted change, seconded by Supervisor Zajac. **Motion Carried.**
3. **Approval of Minutes – September 2, 2015:** Supervisor Zajac moved to approve the minutes of the September 2, 2015 Land Conservation Committee meeting, seconded by Supervisor Owens. **Motion Carried.**
4. **Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements:** None
5. **Bills/Transfers/Encumbrances:** Supervisor Sweeney moved to approve the bills as presented, seconded by Supervisor Wiedenfeld. **Motion Carried.**
14. **Recommendation of Appointment to the Lake Koshkonong Lake District Board:** County Board Chair Podzilni addressed the committee regarding the recommendation for Justin Shultzs' appointment to the Lake Koshkonong District Board. He noted that Mary Mawhinney currently serves on the Board but is unable to attend meetings due to scheduling conflict. According to WI State Statutes, the LCC must take action regarding this recommendation. Supervisor Zajac moved the recommendation as presented, seconded by Supervisor Owens. **Motion Carried.**
6. **Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program:** Dave Terrell, USDA-APHIS field representative provided a program update to the committee on the program.
  - A. **Approve 2016 DNR Budget Request.** Terrell distributed a proposed DNR/County/USDA-APHIS program budget for Rock County. Supervisor Sweeney moved to approve the proposal as presented, seconded by Supervisor Brien. **Motion Carried.**
  - B. **Approve 2015 Crop Prices for 2015 Damage Claims.** Terrell distributed a copy of proposed crop prices developed by USDA-APHIS state that represent an area wide average for crops. Terrell explained that only Corn and Beans needed approval for the 2015

program year. A short discussion on crop prices occurred. Supervisor Sweeney moved to approve corn at \$3.52/bu and soy beans at \$9.08/bu. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Davis. **Motion Carried.**

7. **Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easements (PACE):**
  - A. **Approval of Applications for 2015-16 Program Year.** Andrew Baker provided an update to the committee on the actions of the PACE Council. Supervisor Sweeney moved the following four applications, Francis, Kraus, Oberdeck, and Lee to be approved, seconded by Supervisor Wiedenfeld. Chair Bostwick opened the discussion for questions and/or comments. Supervisor Owens asked Baker about program participation. Baker provided the requested information. **Motion Carried.** Baker continued with an update on the Sayre application, noting this application has tentatively been approved for funding through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program. The application was made by the Natural Heritage Land Trust. This application will be submitted by the Land Trust to USDA-NRCS for Federal Funding. Baker noted that we will be working with the land trust in a pilot project for future funding opportunities for PACE. Supervisor Davis moved to allow the Land Conservation Department to continue with the process and process the Sayre application as a donation, seconded by Supervisor Owens. **Motion Carried.**
  - B. **Approval of Donated Easements.** Baker gave a short history on the Plankey donation. Mr. Plankey sold 40 acres of the original farm, and would like to donate an easement to help offset tax liabilities. The PACE Council voted to request the proposed easement be amended to include all tillable acreage to the south of the proposed south line. Supervisor Sweeney noted that the intent of the program was to preserve large tracts and the proposal as it stands is not in the spirit of the program. Supervisor Sweeney moved to accept the donation which must include the additional tillable lands as discussed, seconded by Chair Bostwick. **Motion Carried.**
  - C. **Program updates.** Baker reviewed the applications that were not recommended by the PACE Council for approval. Supervisor Sweeney asked staff to thank the applicants and remind them they can apply in the future.
8. **Resolution: Accepting the Plankey Property Agricultural Conservation Easement Donation:** Supervisor Sweeney moved to approve the resolution with the language discussed in item 7c to be added to the Executive Summary, seconded by Supervisor Zajac. A short discussion occurred as to the added language. **Motion Carried.**
9. **Department's 2016 Budget Request – Review and Possible Action:** Tom Sweeney gave a brief update on the proposed Department Budget. Sweeney noted that the Administration's proposed budget matched the Department's requested budget, highlighting the PACE account. No action needed.
10. **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program:** Tom Sweeney stated the Department received 20 applications as outlined in the spreadsheet. Supervisor Owens asked for a short program description. Tom Sweeney provided a program description. Supervisor Brien moved to approve the CREP applications and agreements, seconded by Supervisor Owens. Supervisor Sweeney noted he would be abstaining from the vote. **Motion Carried.**
11. **Resolution: Amending the 2015 Land Conservation Department Budget to offset Costs Associated with the Clean Sweep Program.** Tom Sweeney reviewed the resolution stating that the 2015 Clean Sweep program was very successful. The overage is a result of more than expected farms participating in the program. Supervisor Wiedenfeld moved to approve the resolution as presented, seconded by Supervisor Zajac. **Motion Carried.**

12. **Farmland Preservation Program (FPP):**
  - A. **Approval of Voluntary Program Withdraws.** Supervisor Davis moved to approve the voluntary program withdraws, seconded by Supervisor Zajac. **Motion Carried.**
  - B. **Program update.** Tom Sweeney distributed a FPP list showing the program enrollments broken down by municipalities noting this list will change after the first of the year.
13. **Land and Water Resource Management - Approval of Cost Share Agreements.** Tom Sweeney introduced three agreements for approval all of which are for Nutrient Management cost sharing; James Lawrence; Ginther/Lawrence; and Massen/ Lawrence. Supervisor Sweeney moved to approve the agreements as presented, seconded by Supervisor Owens. **Motion Carried.**
14. Note this Agenda Item was moved.
15. **Adjourn:** Supervisor Zajac moved to adjourn the October 13, 2015 Land Conservation Committee meeting at 9:02 pm, seconded by Supervisor Owens. **Motion Carried.**

Note the Next LCC Meeting was scheduled for November 3rd, 2015; 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Sweeney  
County Conservationist

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

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