



MINUTES

**ROCK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 4, 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 7:20 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Rich Bostwick, Wes Davis, Anders Dowd, Brenton Driscoll, Kara Hawes, David Rebout, Alan Sweeney, and Jeremy Zajac.

Staff Present: Tom Sweeney

Others Present: Tom Brien, David Brown, Eva Laun-Smith, Abby Miller
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Supervisor Davis moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Supervisor Rebout. **Motion Carried.**
3. **Approval of Minutes – December 7, 2016:** Supervisor Driscoll moved to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2016 Land Conservation Committee meetings, seconded by Supervisor Hawes. **Motion Carried.**
4. **Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements:** Tom Sweeney stated that Supervisor Rebout's term on the LCC has come to an end. A new LCC member will be appointed tomorrow by the USDA-FSA committee. Chair Bostwick thanked Mr. Rebout for his service to the Land Conservation Committee. Mr. Rebout said a few words about his tenure on the committee and thanked the committee. Chair Bostwick welcomed Mr. Brien and the three Students from Beloit High School. Mr. Bostwick asked the students to introduce themselves, which each did.
5. **Review of Bills paid.** Bills Paid were presented.
6. **Groundwater Quality – Next Step(s):** Tom Sweeney stated that the format that was utilized for the PACE Program was very successful and thought the process could be slightly modified for this project. Therefore, a vision group would need to be assembled. This group should be comprised of County Board Members and Staff. After the vision group is functioning, an Ad Hoc Committee would need to be assembled. The Ad Hoc membership should include a good representation of Stakeholders regarding Groundwater Quality. Chair Bostwick asked Committee members if they are interested in membership for the Vision Group. Supervisors Davis, Sweeney, Bostwick, and Rebout all agreed to participate. Other members should include staff from LCD, Public Health, Planning and Development and UWEX. Also, Members from each committee of the respective departments. County Board Supervisor Richard should be invited to participate in this group. Tom Sweeney stated he believes a representative from the Agricultural Service industry should be invited. Tom Sweeney suggested Pat Mullooly, Delong Co. A time frame was set for the first meeting of the group for mid to end of February.

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7. **Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) Program Update.** Tom Sweeney stated the 2017 application for the USDA-NRCS-ACEP-ALE program has been submitted to the State USDA-NRCS office. Also the Gray Kraus USDA easement is proceeding.

This easement application was approved for funding in 2016. Tom Sweeney noted that all closing functions for the three easements approved by County Board will commence in early February with closings anticipated in May or June of 2017.

8. **Semi Annual Report – Attendance at Conferences and Conventions.** Tom Sweeney noted that no Land Conservation staff member attended any out of state conference and no staff member attended any conference with a cost exceeding \$1,000 per participant, as described in the memorandum in the agenda packet.
9. **Authorization to attend the 2017 Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association Conference March 15-17, 2017.** Tom Sweeney distributed the registration forms. Tom Sweeney asked Supervisors of their intent to attend. Supervisor Davis stated he would like to attend. The registration deadline is set for February 15, 2017. Chair Bostwick asked the committee if they would like to attend, please inform Tom at the February LCC meeting.
10. **Adjourn:** Supervisor Rebut moved to adjourn the January 4, 2017 Land Conservation Committee meeting at 8:00 pm, seconded by Chair Bostwick. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Sweeney
County Conservationist

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

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