



ROCK COUNTY PACE COUNCIL
MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2014 – 1:00 PM
LAND CONSERVATION OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM
440 N US HWY 14
JANESVILLE WI

MINUTES

- 1) **Call to Order:** Chair Sweeney called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm

Present: Don Jones, Alan Sweeney, Ramona Flanigan, Dave Rebut, Fred Hookham and John Lader

Excused: Duane Cherek

Others: Tom Sayre, John Morton, Alvin Francis, Jason Dowd, Wes Davis, Tom Brien, and Art Johnson

Staff: Andrew Baker and Tom Sweeney
- 2) **Adoption of Agenda:** Chair Sweeney noted he would like to move agenda item 8. Lader moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Jones. **Motion Carried.**
- 3) **Approval of Minutes from October 21, 2013.** Rebut moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Jones. **Motion Carried.**
- 4) **Citizen Participation, Communication, and Announcements:** None
- 5) **Summary and Overview of Rock County PACE Program Activities:**
 - a. **Status of past applicants:** Baker an update on past applicants and easement that have been finalized. Those include Carlson, Plankey, Morton, and Vanthournout. Baker noted we are waiting for NRCS to finalize the Carlson and Plankey easement documents. Baker continued and noted that the Morton and Vanthournout easements have been closed.
 - b. **Federal Farm Bill Changes affecting the PACE Program:** Baker noted program changes as they relate to the newest USDA Farm Bill. The name of the program was changed and the funding formula has changed. Baker stated that the new program requires the local match for the program has increased from 17% to 25%. Also noted was the potential impact of the loss of a state wide funding pool. All applications for this program will now be ranked at the National Level.
- 8) **Consider proposed easement purchase price policy related to appraised fair market value and priority areas.** Baker reviewed background of the policy needs. The policy proposes to adopt sideboards on the payment percentage through the incorporation of ranking priority areas. Each level of priority is assigned a maximum payment percentage. Baker continued by adding appraisals do not incorporate information from the program policies or master plan. At this time Chair Sweeney asked for a review of the spread sheet of the programs finances. Tom Sweeney provided this overview. Chair Sweeney asked for a motion to approve the proposed policy.

Lader moved to approve the policy as presented, seconded. Discussion regarding the need for a cap for a per acre basis was discussed. The annual cap for the 2014 application cycle was proposed. Tom Sweeney noted that a \$2,100 per acre cap was used for all calculations in the cash flow analysis. Lader noted that language should be included which recognizes very high LESA scores as this will afford the LCC room to negotiate. Chair Sweeney asked for a read back on the amendment to the original motion. Tom Sweeney read the following: An Annual per acre payment cap is established for the 2014/15 application cycle and is established at a maximum of \$2,100 per acres with further considerations for very high LESA scores. Jones moved to accept the language, seconded by Rebut. **Motion Carried to amend the original motion.** Chair Sweeney asked for vote on the amended motion. **Motion Carried.**

- 6) **Review and discuss 2014 PACE Applications:** Andrew Baker reviewed each application in the order presented below. Very limited discussion occurred during the review.
 - a. Oberdeck: Fulton Township, 124 Acres, Primary Target
 - b. Sayre: Center Township, 201.5 Acres, Secondary Target
 - c. Morton: LaPrairie Township, 68 Acres, Primary Target
 - d. Kraus: LaPrairie Township, 117 Acres, Primary Target
 - e. Francis: Union Township, 112.5 Acres, Primary Target
 - f. Demrow: Porter Township, 73 Acres, Eligible Area
 - g. Johnson: Lima Township, 36 Acres, Eligible Area
 - h. Frei: LaPrairie Township, 74 Acres, Eligible Area

- 7) **Make recommendation of approval or non-approval to Rock County Land Conservation Committee for each 2014 PACE application.** Chair Sweeney noted the financial status of the program prior to any discussion on approvals. Chair Sweeney also noted he would like the motion to include a prioritization from 1-? as the applications will be ranked on a national level. Lader stated he concurs with the staff recommendations with the caveat that Sayre be an alternate. Lader moved to approve the applications as recommended by staff with Sayre application as an alternate, seconded by Hookham. **Motion Carried.** Flanigan moved to rank the applications in order of priority based on the LESA score for each application, Morton, Francis, Kraus, Oberdeck, with Sayre remaining as an alternate. Rebut seconded the motion. **Motion Carried.**

- 8) **This number was moved to after Agenda Item 5b**

- 9) **Future meeting date** – Baker stated that the Federal Farm Bill has changed the application deadlines so we should have a meeting approximately the same time next year.

- 10) **Adjournment:** Jones moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:48 pm, seconded by Flanigan. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted

Thomas Sweeney
County Conservationist.