



## MINUTES

ROCK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 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 7:17 p.m.  
  
**Committee Members Present:** Rich Bostwick, Wes Davis, Jason Dowd, Dave Rebout, Larry Wiedenfeld and Jeremy Zajac.  
  
**Committee Members Excused:** Tom Brien and Alan Sweeney  
  
**Others Present:** Tom Sweeney, LCD; Andrew Baker, LCD; Jimmy Bramblett, USDA-NRCS
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Supervisor Davis moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Supervisor Zajac. **Motion Carried.**
3. **Approval of Minutes – July 1, 2015:** Supervisor Wiedenfeld moved to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2015 Land Conservation Committee meeting, seconded by Supervisor Davis. **Motion Carried.**
4. **Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements:** None
5. **Bills/Transfers/Encumbrances:** Supervisor Rebout abstained from any vote on the bills. Supervisor Dowd moved to approve the bills as presented, seconded by Supervisor Zajac. **Motion Carried.**
6. **Farmland Preservation Program – Approval of Voluntary Withdraw for Darrel Weber.** Supervisor Rebout asked if the withdraw was voluntary. Tom Sweeney stated Mr. Weber submitted the request to the office to withdraw from the program. Supervisor Zajac moved to approve the request from Mr. Weber, seconded by Supervisor Rebout. **Motion Carried.**
7. **Land and Water Resource Management - Approval of Cost Share Agreements.** Tom Sweeney introduced four agreements for approval; Raymond Rienart, Well Decommissioning; David Wellnitz, Well Decommissioning; Candice Phelps, Waterway System; Lois Meier, Waterway System. Supervisor Dowd moved to approve the agreements as presented, seconded by Supervisor Wiedenfeld. **Motion Carried.**
8. **Resolution - Authorizing Modifications to Conveyance Agreements for 2014 Applications for the Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (Pace) Program.** Andrew Baker explained the reason behind the need for this resolution. Supervisor Zajac moved to approve the resolution as presented, seconded by Supervisor Davis. **Motion Carried.**

9. **Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easements (PACE) – Program Update and Discussion.** Tom Sweeney introduced Jimmy Bramblett, USDA-NRCS State Conservationist. Tom Sweeney stated he requested Mr. Bramblett to attend the LCC meeting to discuss the NRCS Agricultural Easement Program (ACE) program which is the financial vehicle for our PACE program. Mr. Bramblett gave the committee a short background on the past farm bill which altered the FLPP (Farmland Protection Program) and bundled it with other easement programs to formulate the ACE. With the changes came spending cuts in the area of a 50% reduction. The program further allocates how the NRCS can spend the funding by allocating specific amounts to the three programs which are bundled in ACE. The verdict is a very small allocation to the old FLPP in the sum of \$240,000.00. The funding requests for the 2015 program year came in over one million dollars. Mr. Bramblett stated that NRCS ranked the applications it received in accordance with the program guidelines. Dunn Township, Dane Co. WI, submitted five applications of which four received a higher score than Rock County's applications. At this point in the discussion, Tom Sweeney asked Mr. Bramblett if there was any way possible that he or his staff could put a request out to states that may not use their funding. Mr. Bramblett stated they would inquire since the end of the fiscal year is September 30, 2015, and if funds are not used, they must be returned. Mr. Bramblett also noted that Senator Tammy Baldwin is on the Agriculture Appropriation Committee and should be contacted regarding this issue. Also Representative Paul Ryan's office should be contacted.
10. **Adjourn:** Supervisor Zajac moved to adjourn the August 5, 2015 Land Conservation Committee meeting at 8:05 pm, seconded by Supervisor Dowd. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Sweeney  
County Conservationist

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

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