



MINUTES

ROCK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 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: Richard Bostwick, Tom Brien, Wes Davis, Jason Dowd, Dave Rebout, Alan Sweeney, and Jeremy Zajac.

Committee Members Excused: Larry Wiedenfeld

Staff Present: Tom Sweeney

Others Present: Dave Terrell, USDA-APHIS-WS

2. **Approval of Agenda:** Supervisor Rebout moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Supervisor Davis. **Motion Carried.**
3. **Approval of Minutes – February 4, 2015:** Supervisor Dowd moved to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2015 Land Conservation Committee meeting, seconded by Supervisor Davis. **Motion Carried.**
4. **Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements:** Chair Bostwick asked for any communications or announcements from staff or committee members. Tom Sweeney stated he has a few updates on the Farmland Preservation Program. Sweeney noted that two townships did not renew their zoning ordinances by the set deadline and landowners within their jurisdictional boundaries will be ineligible for the program. This action or inaction by the towns will result in approximately \$8,000 in lost revenue for the 2015 program. Also, the LCD has been conducting Nutrient Management workshops for landowners wishing to write their own Nutrient Management Plans, as allowed by DATCP.
5. **Bills/Transfers/Encumbrances:** Supervisor Sweeney moved to approve the bills as presented, seconded by Supervisor Dowd. **Motion Carried.**
6. **Wildlife Damage, Abatement and Claims Program – Approval of 2014 Crop Prices**
Chair Bostwick recognized Dave Terrell from the USDA. Dave stated that he has one approval request from the committee for a damage claim by geese in the sum of \$1,081.91. Terrell continued noting the landowner is responsible for the first \$500 of damage and the final claim payout is \$581.91. Supervisor Sweeney moved to approve the claim as presented, seconded by Supervisor Dowd. **Motion Carried.**
7. **Land and Water Resource Management – Approval of Cost Share Agreements.**
Tom Sweeney introduced three agreements for approval; Raymond for stream bank fencing; Rock Prairie Farms for waterway and diversion; and Mathewson/Engen for Nutrient

Management. Supervisor Rebout moved to approve the agreements as presented, seconded by Supervisor Dowd. **Motion Carried.**

8. **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program – Approval of Partial Release for Roger Rebout and Sons Farm.** Tom Sweeney introduced the request by Roger Rebout and Sons Farm for the partial release of a CREP 15 year agreement. Sweeney noted that the partial release will result in repayment of funds received from DATCP. Supervisor Dowd moved to approve the partial release of the CREP agreement for Roger Rebout and Sons Farm, seconded by Supervisor Brien. **Motion Carried.**
9. **Governor’s Proposed State Budget Implications.** Tom Sweeney led a discussion on the potential impacts to the LCD as a result of the Governor’s proposed budget. Chair Bostwick noted that Parks is working on a resolution opposing the proposed freeze to the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program Fund. Tom Sweeney distributed draft language for the LCD’s portion of the resolution.
10. **Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easements (PACE) – Program Update.** Tom Sweeney led a short discussion regarding the status of the PACE program. Of note the 2015 applications are completed and ready to forward to USDA-NRCS. Also, the Plankey Easement should be ready to close by June.
11. **Adjourn:** Supervisor Sweeney moved to adjourn the March 4, 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.