



MINUTES

**ROCK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 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 7:18 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Rich Bostwick, Wes Davis, Jason Dowd, Dave Rebout, Alan Sweeney, Larry Wiedenfeld and Jeremy Zajac.

Committee Members Excused: Jason Dowd

Staff Present: Tom Sweeney, LCD; Andrew Baker, LCD
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Supervisor Rebout moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Supervisor Davis. **Motion Carried.**
3. **Approval of Minutes – June 3, 2015 and June 9, 2015:** Supervisor Davis moved to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2015 and June 9, 2015 Land Conservation Committee meetings, seconded by Supervisor Brien. **Motion Carried.**
4. **Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements:** Chair Bostwick asked the committee for available dates for the regularly scheduled October 7, 2015 meeting. This meeting overlaps with the County Board meeting for the Budget. After consideration the committee moved the October 7, 2015 meeting to October 13, 2015 starting at our normal time of 7:15 pm. No further Communications or announcements.
5. **Bills/Transfers/Encumbrances:** Supervisor Wiedenfeld moved to approve the bills as presented, seconded by Supervisor Sweeney. **Motion Carried.**
6. **Land and Water Resource Management - Approval of Cost Share Agreements.** Tom Sweeney introduced six agreements for approval; Jeff Kunkle, Well Abandonment; John Grady, Waterway; Tom Sayre Farms, Waterway; Oberdeck Farms, Waterway; Greg Vanthournout, Waterway; and Rudy Carlson, Well Abandonment. Supervisor Rebout moved to approve the agreements as presented, seconded by Supervisor Davis. **Motion Carried.**
7. **Resolution - Amending the 2015 Land Conservation Department Budget for Purchase of a Computer Projector.** Tom Sweeney discussed the need to replace the Department's computer projector. The replacement will be funded with ATC funds. Supervisor Sweeney moved the resolution as presented, seconded by Supervisor Zajac. **Motion Carried.**
8. **2015 Southern Area Association Tour – Approval to Attend.** Tom Sweeney noted that the Southern Area Tour will be sponsored by Richland County on August 6, 2015. Committee members interested in attending were Supervisor Davis and Supervisor Wiedenfeld. Supervisor Zajac moved to approve the Supervisors Davis and Wiedenfeld attendance, seconded by Supervisor Rebout. **Motion Carried.**

9. **Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easements (PACE) – Program Update.**
Andrew Baker lead a discussion regarding the PACE update, noting the USDA-NRCS funding situation for 2015. Dunn Township located in Dane County submitted six applications of which five ranked higher than the highest ranked Rock County application. Baker discussed the issue of returning all of the escrow funds to the four Rock County applicants. Supervisor Sweeney asked if the language could be changed in the offer to purchase. Tom Sweeney stated he would like to keep the language intact and deal with this type of situation on a case by case basis. Tom Sweeney noted a past participant who disagreed with the easement appraisal and backed out. Andrew stated he would discuss the release of the funds with the Corporation Counsel. A resolution will be drafted to be considered at the next LCC meeting if okayed by Corp Counsel.

Supervisor Sweeney noted that he would like to pursue the purchase of easements exclusively using County funds to show a continuation of effort. Supervisor Sweeney noted that this program needs to review all alternative sources of funding and start a discussion regarding partnering with the private sector. Staff should speak with the Rock County Ag Business Council as a starting point.

Andrew Baker discussed the Plankey Easement issue regarding environmentally impacted sites and the potential of removing the farmstead from the easement proposal.

10. **Adjourn:** Supervisor Rebut moved to adjourn the June 3, 2015 Land Conservation Committee meeting at 8:00 pm, seconded by Supervisor Davis. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Sweeney
County Conservationist

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