



**LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
AND  
ROCK COUNTY PACE VISION WORKGROUP  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2010, 7:00 P.M.  
LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT - CONFERENCE ROOM  
USDA SERVICE CENTER  
440 N US HWY 14, JANESVILLE WI**

1. Call Meeting to Order.
2. Approval of Agenda.
3. Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements.
4. Develop and Approve PACE Options to Present to the City of Janesville regarding City of Janesville Resolution #2010-719.
5. Adjourn.

The City Council of Janesville, through Resolution No. 2020-719, has requested modification by the Rock County PACE Program Ad Hoc Committee of the draft Rock County PACE Program. A summary of these requests (2) are outlined in the following, along with a response as prepared by Rock County Planning, Economic & Community Development Agency and Land Conservation Department staff (A map is attached identifying all applicable information referenced in the following):

## **CITY OF JANESVILLE REQUEST #1**

Any land within the City of Janesville Urban Reserve Area (per City's Comprehensive Plan – Adopted: 3/9/2009) is ineligible for the Rock County PACE Program, excluding any land identified within a Rock County PACE Program Primary Target Acquisition Area

## **RESPONSE TO CITY OF JANESVILLE REQUEST #1**

Currently, any lands within the City of Janesville Urban Reserve Area are eligible for the Rock County PACE Program, if they meet all other Program eligibility criteria, as follows:

1. Located in an Agricultural Preservation Area, per the *Rock County Farmland Preservation Plan: 2005 Update*, Farmland Preservation Plan Map
2. In private ownership but not owned by a conservation entity, and not currently protected through another agreement designed to maintain open space use in perpetuity
3. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) land evaluation soil score of 60 or greater
4. 35 acres or larger with at least 50% of the acres classified as workland
5. **\*\*Not currently within any Town/Village/City planned development areas (per Town/City/Village comprehensive plans on 1-1-2010) or existing sewer service area (on 1-1-2010)**

*\*\*Agricultural parcels currently within any Town/Village/City planned development areas (per Town/City/Village comprehensive plans on 1-1-2010) will become eligible to apply for inclusion in the Program pending a written statement of support for Program eligibility by the applicable Town, Village and/or City.*

Staff has developed two potential options in response to CITY OF JANESVILLE REQUEST #1. These options are summarized in the following, along with some prominent advantages and disadvantages associated with the options:

### **OPTION 1**

All of the following would be ineligible for the Rock County PACE Program:

- Any land within .75 miles of the boundary of Large City (City with a population over 20,000) or .50 miles of a Small City (City with population under 20,000)
- Any land adjacent to an existing freeway ramp

### **Advantages**

- As the City of Janesville’s urban reserve area is approximately a 1-mile buffer around the City’s boundary, this option would mirror the concept of an urban reserve area, with the important exception of reducing the size of the urban reserve area and thus ensuring more lands remain eligible for the Program
- This option, in staying with the manner in which the Ad Hoc Committee has proceeded throughout the Program development process, is objective and can be applied consistently to all Cities, Village, lands etc. throughout the County
- All of the lands that would become ineligible for the Program through this option, with the exception of two parcels, are not identified as “high-priority” in terms of potential easement acquisition

### **Disadvantages**

- Lands that are currently eligible for the Program, within .75 miles of the boundary of a Large City and .5 miles of a Small City, will become ineligible

## **OPTION 2**

Identify specific areas within the City of Janesville’s urban reserve area that will remain eligible for the Rock County PACE Program, with all other areas within the urban reserve area designated as ineligible for the Program

### **Advantages**

- This option will allow areas of long-standing productive agricultural lands to remain eligible for the Program
- All of the lands that would likely become ineligible for the Program through this option, with the exception of one parcel, are not identified as “high-priority” in terms of potential easement acquisition

### **Disadvantages**

- This option deviates somewhat from the manner in which the Ad Hoc Committee has proceeded throughout the Program development process, in that it is slightly subjective and cannot be applied consistently to all Cities, Villages, lands etc. throughout the County
- Other Cities and Villages may view the precedent set by this option as an opportunity to further negotiate additional modifications to the Program to better suit their individual interests
- Certain lands that are currently eligible for the Program will become ineligible

## CITY OF JANESVILLE REQUEST #2

The City of Janesville will have review and comment authority on any potential Rock County PACE Program easement acquisition within the City’s Urban Reserve Area and extra-territorial jurisdiction area (any lands within 3 miles of the City’s boundary).

## RESPONSE TO CITY OF JANESVILLE REQUEST #2

The Rock County PACE Program Ad Hoc Committee, in draft versions of the Rock County Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) Program Manual and the *ROCK COUNTY PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENTS (PACE) PROGRAM - APPLICATION REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION FORM* has provided for City/Village review for any potential easement acquisition with 3 miles of the boundaries of a First, Second, or Third-Class City (City with population over 10,000) or 1.5 miles of the boundaries of a Village or Fourth-Class City (City with population under 10,000). These areas are identical to the extra-territorial jurisdiction (ETJ) areas of said Cities/Villages.

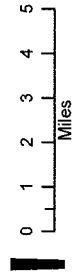
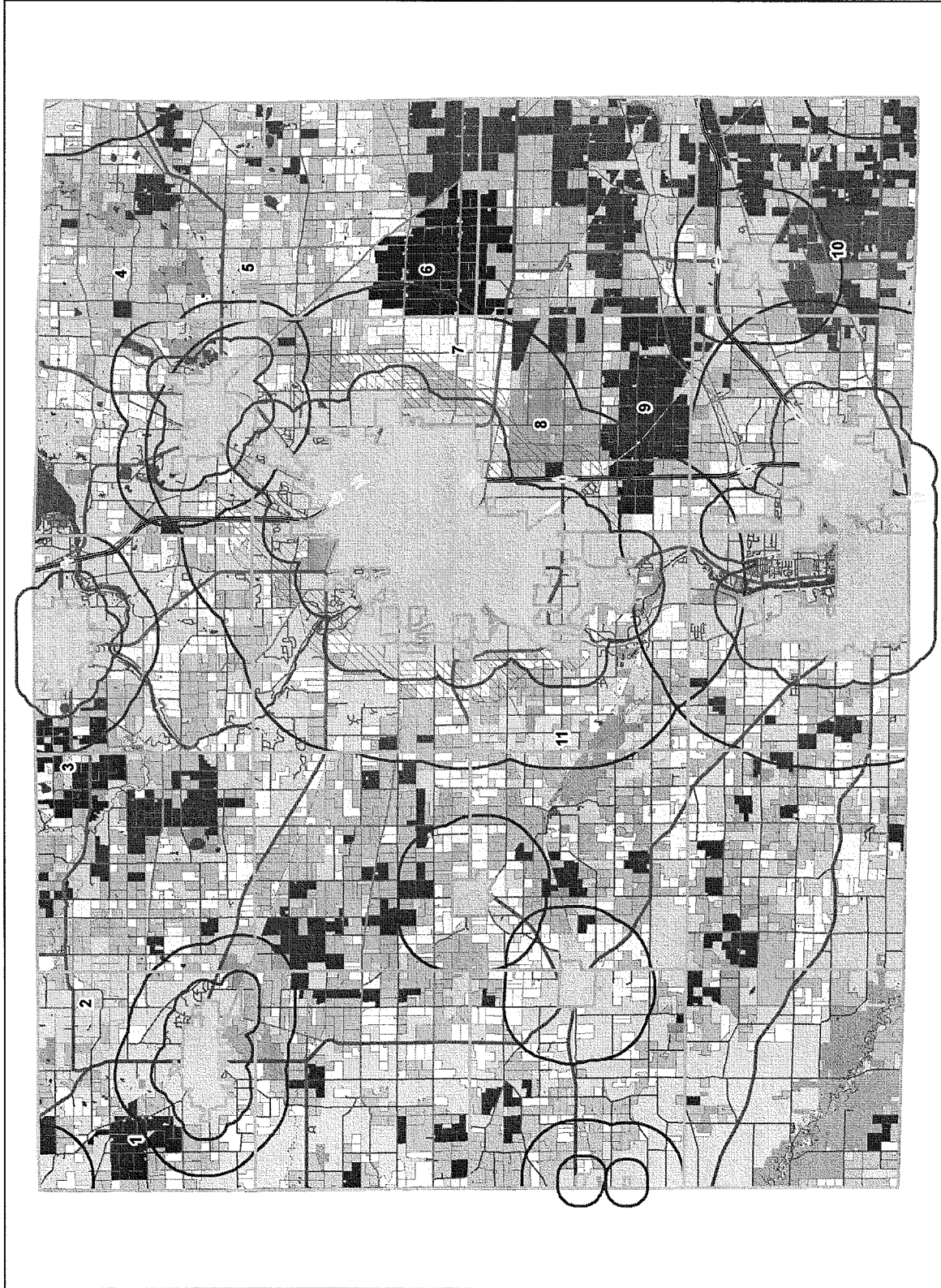
The following is excerpted from page 4 of the *ROCK COUNTY PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENTS (PACE) PROGRAM - APPLICATION REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION FORM*:

OTHER REVIEWING PARTIES						
	Objection			Letter of Support		
	Yes	No	Not Applicable	Yes	No	Not Applicable
<b>3a.</b> Rock County Planning, Economic & Community Development Agency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>3b.</b> Town(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>3c.</b> City(s) (If agricultural conservation easement area is within 3 miles of the boundary of a First, Second, or Third-Class City or 1.5 miles of a Fourth-Class City)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.						
2.						
<b>3d.</b> Village (If agricultural conservation easement area is within 1.5 miles of the Village boundary)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additionally, the Ad Hoc Committee, in draft versions of the Rock County Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) Program Manual, is proposing formation of a Rock County PACE Program Council, tasked with reviewing all potential easement acquisitions, and recommending acquisitions to the Rock County Land Conservation Committee. This PACE Council would be composed of representatives from two Cities in the County, in addition to other members.

# ROCK COUNTY PACE PROGRAM

# DRAFT: 9-8-2010



Rock County Geographic Information Systems (GIS)  
Planning, Economic and Community  
Development Agency  
513 Main St., Janesville, WI 53405  
(TEL) 608-737-5357; (FAX) 608-737-5386  
email: Planning@rockcounty.wisconsin.gov

Disclaimer of this map is published without written consent of the Rock County Planning, Economic and Community Development Agency. The data in this map was compiled from various sources and is not guaranteed to be accurate. All information is based on the Rock County Geographic Information System. This map is not intended to be a substitute for an actual field survey and is an advisory reference only.