



**ROCK COUNTY PACE COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2016 – 9:00 A.M.
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 9:13 a.m.

Present: Don Jones, Alan Sweeney, Duane Cherek, and John Lader.

Excused: Ramona Flanigan, Dave Rebout, and Fred Hookham.

Staff: Tom Sweeney

Others Present: County Board Supervisors Wes Davis and Brenton Driscoll
- 2) **Adoption of Agenda:** Lader moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Cherek. **Motion Carried.**
- 3) **Approval of Minutes from October 15, 2015.** Jones moved to approve the minutes from the October 15, 2015 meeting as presented, seconded by Cherek. **Motion Carried.**
- 4) **Citizen Participation, Communication, and Announcements:** None
- 5) **Summary and Overview of Rock County PACE Program Activities:**
 - a. **Status of program funding:** Tom Sweeney discussed the PACE Program's financial status. Tom routed a spreadsheet, noting that the balance shown is not an audited balance.
 - b. **Status of past applicants:** Tom Sweeney updated the Council on the three applications set for funding: Morton, Sayre Farms, and Kraus. The Morton Easement purchase should be completed by the end of the year. NRCS requested three last minute items be removed from the Morton Deed. The Sayre Farm Easement purchase will be closing on August 26, 2016. The Kraus Easement Application for funding has been approved for reduced funding (less than the 50% federal match) by NRCS.
- 6) **Discussion Items:**
 - a. **Funding PACE Easement Purchases – Sole Purchases.**
 - i. **Establishing parameters for purchases.** Chair Sweeney asked the Council if they had any suggestions for parameters if sole purchases were pursued. Cherek asked that only applications that fall in the high priority targeted areas be considered. Tom Sweeney asked if we should cap the eligible acres per application. The discussion centered on each application's merits and a white paper should be developed by staff for applications to be considered for sole purchases and the cash balances will determine the applications forwarded to LCC for consideration.
 - ii. **Other issues.** None

- b. Funding PACE Easements – Exceeding the required 25% match per USDA-NRCS policy and PACE Program Manual, when NRCS funding (50%) match is not met.** Chair Sweeney stated that the Kraus application has received funding from the USDA-NRCS but reduced from the normal NRCS 50% match. The LCD staff was informed that the NRCS will fund an application in Dunn Township at the full rate of 50%, leaving less than the 50% match for the Rock County Application. Tom Sweeney continue and noted the program will need an amendment to allow for a higher match rate to be authorized.
- 7) **Make recommendations to the Land Conservation Committee for Program Amendments.** Chair Sweeney highlighted the discussion and proposed the following actions; Staff will draft a resolution to amend the PACE Program to allow for a sole purchase option to be available in the program, and to acknowledge the potential need for the County to increase the required match funding if NRCS funding falls short of their required match of 50%. In each case a white paper will be developed by staff explaining the merits of all recommended actions. Cherek asked that the draft resolution be routed to the council for review prior to the next council meeting.
- 8) **Future Meeting Date: No date or time was set.**
- 9) **Adjournment:** Jones moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:38 am, seconded by Cherek.
Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Sweeney
County Conservationist.

Minutes are not official until approved by the Pace Council
g:\OFFICE\PACE\PACE COUNCIL\071916 PACE council minutes