



MINUTES

**ROCK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY APRIL 6, 2016, 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, Tom Brien, Wes Davis, Phil Owens, David Rebout, Alan Sweeney, and Jeremy Zajac.

Committee Members Absent: Larry Wiedenfeld

Others Present: Tom Sweeney, LCD; Sherry Oja, Finance Director; Jason Dowd, Andres Dowd, and a Beloit Memorial High School Student.

2. **Approval of Agenda:** Supervisor Owens moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Supervisor Davis. **Motion Carried.**
3. **Approval of Minutes – March 2, 2016:** Supervisor Zajac moved to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2016 Land Conservation Committee meeting, seconded by Supervisor Brien. **Motion Carried.**
4. **Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements:** Tom Sweeney noted that interviews for Vacant Conservation Specialist II have been completed, and references will be checked for the selected candidate. Hopefully we will have this vacancy filled in early May. Supervisor Davis noted that Gordon Drake passed away. Supervisor Sweeney noted the Great Lakes Basin Transportation Inc. Rail Project has not been received by the Rock County Community very well, and a resolution will be forth coming regarding the proposed project. Supervisor Davis noted that April 11th the Conservation Congress will hold their annual meeting. Supervisor Owens noted that Supervisor Eva Arnold will have a birthday celebration at the Turtle Town Hall on April 14th. Chair Bostwick thanked Supervisor Brien for his service to the Land Conservation Committee and also honored Supervisor Wiedenfeld for his commitment to the Land Conservation Committee.
5. **Bills/Transfers/Encumbrances:** Supervisor Sweeney moved to approve the bills as presented, seconded by Supervisor Owens. Supervisor Davis requested information regarding a bill from Combs and Associates. The bill was for services regarding the Farmstead survey on the Morton Easement. Supervisor Owens requested more information on the Jim Lawrence billing. Tom Sweeney noted this was payment for a nutrient management plan. **Motion Carried.** Supervisor Sweeney moved to approve the encumbrances as presented, seconded by Supervisor Owens. **Motion Carried.**
6. **Discussion on Proposed Board Rules of Procedure Changes – Sherry Oja, Finance Director.** Sherry Oja distributed information pertaining to recommended changes to the billing and bill paying system. Ms. Oja noted the current system only allows for the committee to approve payment of bills. The current bill paying system, which may be two months in arrears at times has reduced the number of vendors willing to do business with the County. The

Item #6 - Continued

proposed change; once a bill has been received by a Department and entered into the finance software, payment on that bill will occur. The Committee will receive a report of bills paid for comment. Of course there are caveats involved with the proposed changes, which include, all bills over \$10,000 will still need approval from the committee and County Board. Another part of the proposed changes include an increase in the amount that a department can transfer between accounts from \$1,000 to \$2,000 with the County Administrators approval. Also, a change in the amount that can be transferred with committee approval will increase from \$1,000 to \$2,000 and the cap will move from \$5,000 to \$10,000 for the line item transfers within a department. Numerous points of clarification were asked by Committee members during this topic of discussion. Chair Bostwick thanked Sherry Oja for attending the Committee Meeting and presenting the information.

7. **Resolution: Amending the 2016 Land Conservation Department Budget to Offset Costs Associated with County Campus Site Restoration:** Supervisor Sweeney moved to approve the resolution as presented, seconded by Supervisor Rebut. Motion Carried.
8. **Approval of Agreement with Pheasants Forever to conduct prescribed burns at the County Campus Site Restoration Project.** Tom Sweeney noted the vote on this Agreement must have a contingency for additional information regarding Insurance Liability and Indemnification. Supervisor Davis moved to approve the agreement with the Pheasants Forever with a contingency that the Corporation Counsel approve an Insurance Liability and Indemnification agreement addendum, seconded by Supervisor Rebut. **Motion Carried.**
9. **Gypsy Moth Suppression Program Grant – Approval:** Supervisor Owens moved to approve the Gypsy Moth Suppression grant as presented, seconded by Supervisor Davis. **Motion Carried.**
10. **Farmland Preservation Program – Approval of Cancellation for the Notice of Non Compliance(s).** Supervisor Owens moved to approve the Cancellation for the Notice of Non Compliance for Margaret Hazeltine as presented, seconded by Supervisor Brien. **Motion Carried.**
11. **Land and Water Resource Management Program (LWRM):**
 - A. **Approval of Cost Share Agreements.** Supervisor Rebut moved to approve the cost share agreements, seconded by Supervisor Sweeney. Tom Sweeney presented two cost share agreements. Mark Oswald for a well abandonment and Casper/Opie for Livestock Fencing. **Motion Carried.**
 - B. **Approval of Joint DATCP/DNR Nonpoint Source Grant Application for Calendar Year 2017.** Supervisor Sweeney moved to approve the Joint DATCP/DNR Nonpoint Source Grant Application for Calendar Year 2017, seconded by Supervisor Owens. **Motion Carried.**
12. **2016 Personal Expense Chart for Cost Sharing – Approval.**

Tom Sweeney distributed the proposed 2016 schedule noting the USDA-FSA Committee approved the chart during their meeting this afternoon. Supervisor Rebut confirmed and supported the document as presented. Supervisor Sweeney moved to approve the 2016 Personal Expense Chart for Cost Sharing as presented, seconded by Supervisor Rebut. **Motion Carried.**

Page 3
Land Conservation Minutes
April 6, 2016

13. **Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easements (PACE) – Update:** Tom Sweeney provided an update on the proposed purchases of the Sayre Farms, LLC Easement and the Morton Easement during the 2016 program year.
14. **Adjourn:** Supervisor Davis moved to adjourn the April 6, 2016 Land Conservation Committee meeting at 8:46 pm, seconded by Supervisor Brien. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Sweeney
County Conservationist

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

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