



## MINUTES

ROCK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 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 7:19 p.m.  
  
**Committee Members Present:** Rich Bostwick, Wes Davis, Anders Dowd, David Rebut, Alan Sweeney, and Jeremy Zajac.  
  
**Committee Members Absent:** Brenton Driscoll, Kara Hawes  
  
**Staff Present:** Tom Sweeney  
  
**Others Present:** Rick Richard, County Board Supervisor; Rick Wietersen, Public Health
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Supervisor Zajac moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Supervisor Davis. **Motion Carried.**
3. **Approval of Minutes – August 3, 2016 and August 12, 2016:** Supervisor Sweeney moved to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2016 and August 12, 2016 Land Conservation Committee meetings, seconded by Supervisor Rebut. **Motion Carried.**
4. **Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements:** Tom Sweeney discussed the LCC Conservation Tour and asked if there were any suggestions to improve the tour for next year. Chair Bostwick would like to review the Great Lakes Rail Line proposed route and potential impacts, Supervisor Davis would like to review the Enbridge Pipeline drainage areas.
5. **Review of Bills paid.** Chair Bostwick asked if any committee member had questions regarding the bills paid last month. Supervisor Sweeney requested clarification on the LWRM Cost sharing. Supervisor Davis requested clarification on the billing from Brabazon Title. Tom Sweeney provided clarification regarding the requests.
6. **Status of Rock County Ground Water Quality.** Chair Bostwick stated that Rick Richard requested to address the Land Conservation Committee regarding Nitrates in the Rock County Aquifers. Mr. Richard distributed a map showing that Rock County has one of the highest frequencies of private wells with nitrates that exceed the 10 mg/l drinking-water standard threshold. Mr. Richard stated that he received the map from Kevin Masarik, UWSP. Mr. Wietersen, stated that Rock County has approximately 13,000 private wells, and approximately 4,000 of said wells have elevated nitrates. Mr. Wietersen stated that primary nitrate sources that impact groundwater include agricultural fertilizers (organic and inorganic), lawn fertilizers, and septic systems. Tom Sweeney noted programs that his office work with that helps reduce the nitrate losses, but stated that these programs are rooted in voluntary participation. The most effective approach to full participation of Nutrient Management is through the farmer-to-farmer network. Supervisors Sweeney and Rebut agreed with this analysis. Tom Sweeney continued that most of the soil conservation programs that he has worked with over his 30 year career in conservation were to decrease field runoff through infiltration practices. Most of the water quality work was based on the reduction of Phosphorus entering the surface water resources of the state. Mr. Wietersen stated the only true network

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of wells tested on an annual basis are the transient wells that serve rural businesses. An increase in wells tested on an annual basis will enhance the data set. Discussion centered on the need for the County Board to be updated on this topic. Mr. Richard stated that Kevin Masarik, UWSP is willing to present this information.

7. **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) – Approval of 15 year Agreements.** Tom Sweeney distributed a spreadsheet that identified the contracts that need to be approved for CREP. Supervisor Davis moved to approve the agreements as presented, seconded by Chair Bostwick. **Motion Carried.**
8. **Land and Water Resource Management Program – Approval of Cost Share Agreements.** Tom Sweeney distributed a spreadsheet that identified the contracts that need to be approved for the Land and Water Resource Management Cost Share. Supervisor Rebut moved to approve the agreements as presented, seconded by Supervisor Davis. **Motion Carried.**
9. **Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE):**
  - A. **Morton Easement Status.** Tom Sweeney led a discussion centered on the status of the John and Kathy Morton Easement Purchase. This easement should be closing in the very near future.
  - B. **Program Update.** Tom Sweeney noted that the Sayre Easement has closed.
10. **Adjourn:** Supervisor Davis moved to adjourn the September 7, 2016 Land Conservation Committee meeting at 8:58 pm, seconded by Supervisor Zajac. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Sweeney  
County Conservationist

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