



## MINUTES

**ROCK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 5, 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 7:22 p.m.  
  
**Committee Members Present:** Rich Bostwick, Wes Davis, Anders Dowd, Brenton Driscoll, Kara Hawes, David Rebut, Alan Sweeney, and Jeremy Zajac.  
  
**Staff Present:** Tom Sweeney  
  
**Others Present:** Rick Wietersen, Public Health
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Supervisor Dowd moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Supervisor Zajac. **Motion Carried.**
3. **Approval of Minutes – September 7, 2016:** Supervisor Davis moved to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2016 Land Conservation Committee meetings, seconded by Supervisor Dowd. **Motion Carried.**
4. **Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements:** NONE.
5. **Review of Bills paid.** No Bills Paid were presented.
6. **Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program:**
  - A. **DNR/USDA-APHIS/County Program Budget Recommendations.** Tom Sweeney led a discussion regarding the proposed budget developed by USDA-APHIS for the Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program. Supervisor Sweeney moved to approve the DNR Budget request for the Rock County Program as developed, seconded by Supervisor Driscoll. **Motion Carried.**
  - B. **2016 Crop Price Approval.** Tom Sweeney distributed a copy of the proposed average crop prices for the Claims component of the program as developed by the USDA-APHIS staff. Supervisors' Sweeney and Rebut recommended the following prices for Rock County Damage; Corn @ \$3.45 bushel; Soybeans @ \$9.25/bushel; and Wheat @ \$4.14/bushel. Supervisor Driscoll moved to approve the prices recommended by Supervisors Sweeney and Rebut, seconded by Supervisor Hawes. **Motion Carried.**
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 Rebut abstained from the vote. Supervisor Zajac moved to approve the agreements as presented, seconded by Supervisor Driscoll. **Motion Carried.**
8. **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 has closed. Reimbursement for the easement purchase from the USDA-NRCS is the next step.

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- B. **Program Update.** Tom Sweeny noted the application deadline for the 2017 pool will be closing on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Supervisor Sweeney stated now is the time to aggressively catch up on easement purchases. He noted the County Board staff approved the property sale and all proceeds will be deposited in the PACE Account. Supervisor Sweeney stated staff should ask applicants whose applications for the program have not been funding by USDA, if they would accept an offer of 50% of the easement value. Tom Sweeney stated he would contact two applicants if they would be interested.
9. **Adjourn:** Supervisor Davis moved to adjourn the October 5, 2016 Land Conservation Committee meeting at 8:02 pm, seconded by Supervisor Hawes. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Sweeney  
County Conservationist

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

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