



MINUTES

ROCK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 7, 2020, 7:15 P.M. Virtual Meeting - Zoom

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Bostwick called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

Committee Members Present: Stephanie Aegerter, Rich Bostwick, Wes Davis, Kaelyb Lokrantz, Mike Mulligan, James Quade and Alan Sweeney

Committee Members Excused: None

Others Present: David Terrall, USDA Wildlife Service and Andrew Baker, LCD
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Supervisor Davis moved to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Supervisor Aegerter. **Motion carried unanimously.**
3. **Approval of Minutes –September 2, 2020 LCC meeting and September 14, 2020 Joint Meeting with P&D Committee:** No corrections/clarifications were suggested. Supervisor Lokrantz moved the approval of each set of minutes, seconded by Supervisor Mulligan. **Motion carried unanimously.**
4. **Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements:** None
5. **Review Bills Paid:** The Committee reviewed the bills to be paid.
6. **2020 Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program crop price approval – David Terrall – USDA Wildlife Services.** David gave a summary of the Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claim program as a whole for the Committee and answered questions. Funding is primarily from sale of DNR licenses and is an entirely reimbursed program for the County. Discussion regarding proposed prices for crop damage led to a Motion to approve by Supervisor Sweeney as presented with the exceptions that the price for corn be increased to \$3.55 a bushel and soybeans be increased to \$9.90. Seconded by Supervisor Davis. **Motion carried unanimously.**
7. **2020 Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program budget approval – David Terrall – USDA Wildlife Services.** David explained that the budget is very similar to last year. He also noted that the line item for Deer Donation Processing is zero because there are no certified processors in the County that want to participate. Supervisor Mulligan asked what happens if a landowner wants to donate their deer in the County. David explained that they can take it to another participating County and it would be funded by that budget. Motion to approve the budget as presented by Supervisor Sweeney, seconded by Supervisor Davis. **Motion carried unanimously.**
8. **Resolution Recognizing Thomas Sweeney.** Chair Bostwick introduced the resolution, noting that it has been revised from a previous version tabled by the Committee in order to add additional substance to recognize the appreciation for Tom's years of service in Conservation. Motion to approve the Resolution as presented by Supervisor Davis, seconded by Supervisor Mulligan. **Motion carried unanimously.**
9. **Construction Site Erosion Control/Stormwater Management Ordinance: The Humane Society of Southern Wisconsin (Permit ECSW-2019-022).** Andrew explained that the permit holder is requesting an extension because the project has not been completed in the time frame dictated in the permit (1 yr). There were challenges due to the Covid Pandemic and the fact that there was recent turn over in the Executive Director position. There are no compliance issues on the property since the project has not started yet. Motion to approve the six month by Supervisor Davis seconded by Mr. Quade. **Motion carried unanimously.**

10. **Construction Site Erosion Control/Stormwater Management Ordinance: Request on behalf of Landmark Services Cooperative to waive the Ordinance requirement of doubled permit fees for an after-the-fact permit.** Andrew explained that the project commenced without first obtaining the necessary permitting from the LCD. By Ordinance, all fees are double for after-the-fact permits. Andrew explained that the applicant's agent consulted with the DNR and the Town of Lima regarding any necessary permits, and obtained permits from each. There was no contact with Rock County. Andrew has since asked the DNR to make sure the state permit references to check with local units of Government for permit requirements. They will also copy LCD on any permit approval. Chair Bostwick asked if we send correspondence to the Towns to remind them of our permit requirements. Andrew noted that it has been done in the past and if not currently being done the LCD will do so going forward. LCD staff recommends approval of the waiver of double fees in this case because the applicant was quick to obtain compliance once notified and there were no immediate offside impacts from the unpermitted construction activity. Motion to approve the request to waive the double fees by Supervisor Davis, seconded by Supervisor Mulligan. **Motion carried unanimously.**
11. **Land and Water Resource Management Program - Approval of Cost Share Agreements:** Andrew reviewed the Cost Share agreement to be considered for approval; a terrace and critical area seeding for Ruth Inman Trust (LR-013.20) and a waterway system for Emerald Heights Inc (LR-014.20). Mr. Quade made a motion to approve the cost share agreements presented for approval, seconded by Supervisor Lokrantz. **Motion carried unanimously.**
12. **Approval of 2021-2025 Agreement with Yahara WINS to provide staff assistance for the implementation of portions of the Adaptive Management project to meet phosphorus compliance obligations (and authorizing Chair Bostwick to sign on behalf of the County).** Andrew explained that this agreement is to continue services we have been providing to Yahara WINS for the last few years. The LCD agrees to provide staff support to design and oversee installation of conservation practices, provide a funding/accounting mechanism to manage payments to landowners and do annual reviews over the course of the contracts (15 years). Supervisor Davis asked how the reduction of phosphorus was measured. Andrew explained that it is based on accepted modelling and design standards, but not measured/tested in the field after the practice is installed. Supervisor Sweeney made a motion to approve the agreement as presented, seconded by Supervisor Aegerter. **Motion carried unanimously.**
13. **Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements - Update.** Andrew stated he is working on final documentation for the Barlass Easements. Andrew also noted he looked into concerns that were relayed from the NRCS regarding the reviews of appraisals done in the past by current consultant as noted at the last meet. He reviewed correspondence and found that the rejects were simply do to a matter of preference of the NRCS and/or review appraiser, not really substantive in terms of the quality of the work. For example, the appraisals for the two Barlass parcels were done as one report. The one document was simply revised as a two separate documents, no changes in the values. Andrew also informed the Committee of the recent meeting between the RCPP Grant applicants (via the American Farmland Trust) and explained how that Grant, if approved, could be a good supplement to the ACEP-ALE program that we current use for funding. RCPP also has a total separate fund, therefore funding for ACEP-ALE will not be impacted nor will applicants for RCPP compete with ACEP-ALE applicants.
14. **Adjourn:** Mr. Quade made motion to adjourn at 8:00 pm, seconded by Supervisor Aegerter. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew Baker
County Conservationist

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

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