

The Florence County Board of Supervisors met pursuant to adjournment on January 15, 2013. The meeting was called to order by the Chair. Members present were Supervisors: Bomberg, Gardner, Halada, Johnson, Kelley, Osterberg, Steber, Stratton, Theer and Wenger. Excused: Supervisor Erickson and Supervisor Neuens. Absent: None.

Moved by Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Supervisor Steber to approve the Agenda, as presented. Ayes: Ten (10). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Moved by Supervisor Stratton, seconded by Supervisor Johnson to approve the minutes of the last meeting, as read. Ayes: Ten (10). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

There was no one wishing to address the board.

Moved by Supervisor Kelley, seconded by Supervisor Wenger to adopt a resolution for grant funding through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant program pursuant to ss. 23.0953 Wis. Stats., as recommended by Forestry and Parks Committee. Ayes: Ten (10). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2013 - 1

WHEREAS, the Forestry Committee would like to purchase the below described lands consisting of 80 acres within Florence County: NW SE and SE SE of Section 26, T38N-R19E, Town of Aurora, Florence County Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the County Board has the authority to acquire said property for the purpose of establishing County Forest Land pursuant to ss. 28.10 Wis. Stats; and

WHEREAS, the acquisition policy and boundaries are outlines and defined in Chapter 400 of the Florence County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan, as approved for years 2006-2020 by the Florence County Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, acquisition of this property will perpetually provide forest products to our local economy, revenues to the County, outdoor recreation opportunities to the public, and improve property administration on the County Forest; and

WHEREAS, the County is eligible to apply for grant funding through the Knowles- Nelson Stewardship grant program pursuant to ss. 23.0953 Wis. Stats; and

WHEREAS, said funding may provide funding for up to 50% of the acquisition price; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORENCE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that the County requests the grant funding available from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources under the Knowles- Nelson Stewardship Land Acquisition grant program; and

HEREBY AUTHORIZES Patrick Smith to act on behalf of Florence County to: submit an application to the State of Wisconsin for land acquisition grant funding; sign documents; and take necessary action to undertake, direct and complete and approved land acquisition project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Florence County will comply with State rules for the program and meet the financial obligation under the grant.

Moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Steber to adopt a resolution to restore base-level funding as supported by WCA and WI Farm Bureau, as recommended by Land Conservation Committee. Ayes: Ten (10). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2013 - 2

WHEREAS, the State Legislature and Governor enacted into law in 1997, a new county-based system to protect local land and water resources from impacts associated with Non Point Source Pollution that lead to soil loss and polluted runoff; and,

WHEREAS, the County Land Conservation Department is the necessary local delivery mechanism for a wide range of natural resource management programs; and

WHEREAS, Section 92.14(6)(b) of the Wisconsin Statutes states that the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection shall attempt to provide funding for an average of 3 staff persons per county, with an average of \$100,000 per county for cost-sharing grants; and,

WHEREAS, the Department's Soil and Water Resource Management program has not met the funding expectations related to this statutory staffing goal; and,

WHEREAS, County Land Conservation staff supported by state grants have consistently decreased since the program began, from 219 positions in 1997, to 97 in 2012, under the 2011-2013 biennial budget and approved agency lapses; and,

WHEREAS, Counties have been asked to pick up the funding shortfalls to maintain necessary program implementation or reduce needed services to clients; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection has requested that additional reductions in base

staff funding allocations be included in the 2013-15 biennial budget reducing the funding from a 12 year average of \$9.3 million down to \$7.8 million in 2014 and 8 million in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation have both adopted 2013 statewide policy directives that recognize the value of the work County Land Conservation Departments provide to their membership by supporting directives that support maintaining this base level of funding; and

WHEREAS, County Land Conservation staff play a critical role in our local economy by assisting landowners in obtaining needed state and federal funds to help implement Non Point Source Pollution control Best Management Practices for their operations and the proposed cuts will therefore have a rippling negative impact on our county's citizens and its resources.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Florence County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this 15th day of January, 2013, does hereby urge the Governor of the State of Wisconsin and all elected representatives in the Wisconsin State Legislature to return to the \$9.3 million appropriation for state aid to counties, recognizing the invaluable service that county conservation employees provide in helping Wisconsin farmers and growing our state's agriculture industry.

Moved by Supervisor Kelley, seconded by Supervisor Wenger to adopt a resolution to oppose the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) discrepancy in the financial support of the 72 counties as shown in the 2013 preliminary allocation, as recommended by Land Conservation Committee. Ayes: Ten (10). Nays: None (0). Motion carried

RESOLUTION 2013-3

Intent and Synopsis – This resolution states that the Florence County Land Conservation Committee does not support the inequality of funding to the 72 counties of the state as proposed in the Wisconsin's Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) recent 2013 Preliminary Allocation.

WHEREAS, all 72 counties have great land and water quality significance to the state of Wisconsin's citizens, businesses, and visitors; and,

WHEREAS, Chapter 92 of the state statutes, in conjunction with atcp 50.32, directs DATCP financial support to all 72 counties to implement state standards and local conservation priorities as identified in approved county *Land and Water Resource Management* plans; and,

WHEREAS, budget restrictions and reallocations have not allowed DATCP to meet its statutory obligation to the counties through the current funding formula, and has gone further by lowering the base funding which now proposes a 139% discrepancy in supporting one county over another; and,

WHEREAS, current revisions to atcp 50 could make positive changes through a more equitable funding formula while maintaining previously eligible support costs, and continue to make cost-share available to all of Wisconsin's landowners at locally set cost-share rates, not to exceed the 70% state rate.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Florence County Land Conservation Committee (LCC) members unanimously oppose the DATCP discrepancy in the financial support of the 72 counties as shown in the 2013 preliminary allocation; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that maintaining high quality land and water resources in the state of Wisconsin as intended and provided through state statutes, which is not being met by the "Department" (DATCP) as directed, and does not adequately provide financial resources for current or future implementation of approved county *Land and Water Resource Management* plans; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the state is encouraged to ensure equality towards maintaining soil and water resources through providing future conservation program stability throughout the state by:

- Changing the Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) funding formula to counties that can be based on a state-wide average of staff and support costs, reducing the inequality to counties; and,
- Continuing cost-share eligibility to all Wisconsin landowners, both public and private, for conservation practices adopted in atcp 50, at a reimbursement rate set by a majority vote of the members of each county's Land Conservation Committee, not to exceed the state share of 70%.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be provided to the Florence County Supervisors Chairwoman, Jeanette Bomberg; the North Central Land and Water Conservation Association, NCLWCA, President, Tom Rudolph; the state Land and Water Conservation Board, LWCB, Chairman, Mark Cupp; the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Secretary, Ben Brancel; Wisconsin Governor, Scott Walker; members of the Wisconsin Legislature representing Florence County; and, a copy to the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) and the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA).

Under Committee reports, Chairwomen Bomberg informed the Board that the Wisconsin Historical Society and the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office sent letters stating the Upper Twin Falls Bridge over the Menominee River, in the Town of Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin and bordering Breitung Township, Dickinson County, Michigan has been entered in the National Register of Historic Places by the Secretary of the Interior, and in the State Register of Historic Places by the State Historic Preservation Offices.

Under Board member concerns or future agenda items, Chairwomen Bomberg informed the Board that Attorney Borowski will be setting a date for a future meeting on some policy issues and laws he would like to go over with the Board.

There being no further business and on a motion made, seconded, and carried the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna Trudell
County Clerk