

# FLORENCE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT



501 Lake Avenue, Room #249 Courthouse  
P.O. Box 410, Florence, WI 54121  
PH: 715-528-5940

*Department Administrator: Margie Yadro*

---

Monday, January 4, 2016

6:30 PM

---

## **LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

**Florence County Courthouse**  
SECOND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

### **MEETING MINUTES**

1. **Roll Call:** Committee Chairman Edward Wenger called the meeting to order and offered introductions. Those present included: Supervisors Edwin Kelley, Jeanette Bomberg, and Gary Steber; Vice Chairwoman Yvonne VanPembrook; and, Farm Service Agency Representative Kim Broullire. Supervisor Susan Theer was excused. Also participating were Land Conservation Department Administrator Margie Yadro, and Zoning Administrator Rich Wolosyn.
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** Kelley moved to add an item to recognize years of service and appreciation to a fellow committee member. Supported by Steber. All were in favor.
3. **Approval of Previous LCC Meeting Minutes:** On a motion by Steber, supported by VanPembrook, all were in favor to approve the December 7, 2015 Meeting Minutes as submitted.
4. **Agency Partner Reports/Open Forum:** Yadro distributed a USDA News Release regarding upcoming informational meetings on the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Eligible landowners and agricultural producers can receive assistance through this federal program for establishing approved “cover crops” to control soil erosion, improve water quality or develop wildlife habitat. Yadro has asked the Farm Service Agency to provide a closer training site for interested Florence County landowners.
5. **County Conservationist Summary:** Yadro shared the conservation highlights distributed through the December edition of the Florence County “*Connections*” newsletter and a recent invasive species flyer designed by Scott Goodwin, the Florence County Invasive Species Program Manager. She also presented a worksheet draft prepared for consideration by a Lumberjack RC&D grant committee developing a project request ranking system. Yadro anticipates that members of the Invasive Species Council will reconvene in March or April to implement a strategy for using pavement stencils at boat landings, coordinating boat washes and watercraft inspections, sharing invasive species findings, directing mapping data collection, and rapid response treatment priorities. She will be focused on grant reimbursements over the next few weeks.
6. **Discussion/Action – Farmland Preservation Plan (FPP):** Yadro prepared an FPP informational meeting agenda with several topics outlined for clarification. She also included a state handout related to land use in Farmland Preservation Zoning Districts. State and regional planners have committed to presenting program details and plan to be available for questions at this meeting scheduled for January 11 starting at 11 AM at the Courthouse. All were encouraged to submit specific questions to Yadro to be included in the discussion.
7. **Discussion/Action – Grant funded projects and proposals:** Yadro brought forward a request from

Florence High School Environmental Science Teacher Autumn Lambert for funding towards related educational materials, equipment and field trips including student observation of the 2016 Envirothon competition. VanPembrook moved to provide the requested \$1,080 in financial resources combined with additional stakeholder's contributions as an alternative commitment of the Natural Resource Education program. Seconded by Steber. All were in favor.

8. **Discussion/Action – LWRM plan review/extension request:** Committee members had received a Land and Water Resource Management plan worksheet to establish eligibility for requesting an extension from the state to continue to focus on the current local conservation priorities. VanPembrook moved to request the 5 year extension from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). Supported by Bomberg. All were in favor.
9. **Discussion/Action – Conservation Legislation/Resolution(s):** Yadro forwarded a suggestion she came across at a recent County Conservationist meeting requesting that Agriculture Use Value Tax benefits only be offered to Wisconsin residents who are good stewards of the land and water. In a sampling of the financial impact in 11 small communities in the state, conservationists were told that if this proposal was applied to that area, over \$400,000 more would have been collected across that landscape from non-resident landowners. This outcome along with additional agricultural community benefits was felt worthwhile and could be the best tool to assist the state in honoring its statutory commitment to fully fund conservation as well as other related programming. Wenger moved to draft a letter to legislators to support this effort and submit it to the Florence County Board of Supervisors for further consideration. Seconded by VanPembrook. All were in favor.
10. **Discussion/Action – Establish Interview Committee/Schedule:** Bomberg, Steber, Theer, and VanPembrook volunteered to conduct interviews of candidates applying for the Conservation Specialist Technician position. All reserved January 8<sup>th</sup> as a potential panel meeting date. Upon conclusion, they were directed to bring their final selections to the Personnel Committee for further action.
11. **Discussion/Action – December Expense Vouchers:** The expense report listed two 2016 county membership dues for a combined annual fee of \$1,487. On a motion by Steber, supported by Kelley, all were in favor to approve the bills as requested and submit them to the Audit and Budget Committee for payment.
12. **Recognition of Committee Member:** On a motion by Kelley, supported by Bomberg, all were in favor to express their appreciation to Todd Broullire for his many years of service and dedication to maintaining quality land and water resources as a member of the Land Conservation Committee.
13. **Future Agenda Items/Upcoming Meetings:** Yadro reminded the committee that the Wi Land + Water Conference is planned for March 2-4, 2016 at Elkhart Lake. Early bird reservation are due February 5<sup>th</sup>. Yadro and VanPembrook plan to attend the January 28 Lumberjack RC&D Council meeting in Shawano to offer the required second review of the Long Lake Aeration Project proposal.
14. **Set next meeting date and call for Adjournment:** On a motion by Kelley, seconded by Steber, all were in agreement to adjourn until February 1, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

*Margie Yadro*

Margie Yadro, Florence County Conservationist  
Land Conservation Department Administrator

