

FLORENCE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

501 Lake Avenue, Room #249 Courthouse
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Department Administrator: Margie Yadro

Land Conservation Committee (LCC)

Meeting Minutes

Date: March 2, 2015

Location: Florence County Courthouse, second floor conference room

1. **Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by LCC Vice Chairwoman, Yvonne VanPembrook. Committee members in attendance included: Supervisors Edwin Kelley, Jeanette Bomberg, Susan Theer, and Gary Steber; along with Farm Service Agency Representative, Todd Broullire. LCC Chairman Ed Wenger was excused. Also in participating: Florence County Land Conservation Department Administrator Margie Yadro, Zoning Administrator Rich Wolosyn, and USDA-APHIS Representative Jeremy Irish.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** On a motion by Steber, supported by Theer, all were in favor to approve the agenda as posted on February 25, 2015.
3. **Approval of the previous LCC Meeting Minutes:** Moved by Bomberg, seconded by Steber, to approve the February 2, 2015 Meeting Minutes as drafted. Motion passed.
4. **Agency Partner Reports/Open Forum:** Irish presented the 2014 Wildlife Abatement Damage Claims that were appraised on two locally enrolled properties where some had sustained extensive bear damage. After \$500 deductibles were met, claims totaled \$4,103.49. Kelley moved to process the claims through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource (WDNR) Wildlife Abatement Program as presented. Supported by Steber. Motion carried. Yadro shared federal conservation program documents sent in from Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) District Conservationist, Michael Stinebrink. She called attention to a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) agreement that is being considered with the American Bird Conservancy that would improve young forest habitat for the golden-winged warbler, ruffed grouse, woodcock, and other species. This is anticipated to bring \$200,000 per year assistance for young forest projects on private forestlands in northern Wisconsin over a 5-year time period. Interested forest landowners were encouraged to contact Stinebrink for more information.
5. **Administrative Summary:** Yadro reported on: an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) grant advance of \$11,000 deposited for the Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) project; the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) reimbursement of \$41,373.10 received to complete the 2014 SWRM grant; the Lumberjack Resource, Conservation and Development (RC&D) grant resources reimbursed for the snowplowing done in preparation of the Lake Emily rock spawning reef construction; eDNA genetic testing for invasives that has recently shown evidence of New Zealand Mudsail in Wisconsin; staff attending civil rights training; and, the WDNR AIS Lake Monitoring grant contract for a 2-year project with the County is prepared to be finalized. On a motion by Kelley, supported by Steber, all agreed to accept the \$38,144.90 grant project as stated.
 - A. **Farmland Preservation Planning (FPP):** Yadro continued with the ongoing update of the County's Farmland Preservation Plan including recent communication with Bay-Lake Regional Planning, the contractor. She believed that the next steps are for the Committee members to set the criteria for property to be classified on the County maps which are fairly well established from the earlier Comprehensive Plans. Steber moved to refer this item until the April LCC meeting where Yadro will provide an outline of criteria considerations. Seconded by Theer. All were in favor.
 - B. **LCD Summer Staffing Positions/Process:** With the additions of the two WDNR grant projects this year, Yadro is prepared to present job descriptions to the County's Personnel Committee for consideration of offering temporary employment. She will follow up with the County Clerk and Financial Manager to confirm payroll costs with appropriate job classifications. On a motion by Bomberg, supported by Steber, all were in favor to implement any legal requirements and costs, then proceed with the request at the next Personnel Committee meeting.

- C. **County WRISC Partnership:** Yadro explained the minor updates to the Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) draft that is being rewritten for 2015 signatories. After review of the language related to standard clauses that were added to address: banning text messaging while driving, only allowing WRISC promotions or endorsements with proper authorization, and Partner status as the MOU is not a legally binding agreement, Kelley motioned for the County to pursue membership as recommended by Corporate Counsel and presented by Yadro. Supported by Theer. Motion passed.
- D. **Grant Administration duties/rates:** Variables were discussed in considering administrative charges in the County's time and responsibilities between different types of grant projects and funders. Yadro gave an example as the state recently submitting a pre-proposal for watershed quality improvements to be done in Florence County with the use of matching federal funds. The County Conservationist was noted as the Project Administrator. As this type of commitment would be reimbursement driven, Yadro believed that this project would require County's dollars to be used up front with local responsibility to complete deliverables. Guidance was requested on how to value the public benefit of these grants with the administrative costs and related responsibilities. Bomberg asked that input be sought from the County's Financial Manager to follow a consistent procedure for recovering fees that will also be acceptable to the funders and auditors. Bomberg motioned to continue this partnership with WDNR to pursue the federal grant and referred the administrative fees and responsibilities to the County Financial Officer for coordination. Supported by Steber. Motion passed.
- E. **Conservation Legislation:** A handout was offered from the Wisconsin Land + Water Association that explained the impacts to conservation funding anticipated by the Governor's Budget proposal. The DATCP funding is set to be decreased and Yadro expects considerable discussion to be held at the upcoming state convention that she and Wenger are registered to attend. She added several other conservation related legislative proposals that are also being considered. Bomberg moved to refer these items to the County's upcoming Legislative Advisory Committee for further action. Supported by Theer. Motion passed.
- F. **Educational Scholarships:** A recent publication was included in the local newspaper for area youth to attend summer conservation camps. As Committee members felt that support should be continued to encourage youth participation, Bomberg moved to earmark educational funds for these camp scholarships that would be distributed evenly to support local registrations. Seconded by Steber. Motion passed.
- G. **Invader Crusader Nominations:** The WRISC Education and Outreach Action Team promoted recognition of Partner efforts and have asked for nominations for the state Invader Crusader Award. On a Motion by Steber, supported by Theer, all were in favor to submit the application for two outstanding Florence County volunteers.
- H. **Expense Vouchers:** on a motion by Steber, supported by Theer, all were in favor to approve the LCD February expense vouchers and recommended them to the Florence County Audit and Budget Committee for payment.
6. **Future Agenda Items/Upcoming Meetings:** VanPembrook listed a Lumberjack RC&D meeting in April where further grant proposal recommendations are anticipated. Yadro will include the referred items to the April agenda.
7. **Next LCC meeting date:** Monday, April 6th, 2015.
8. **Call for Adjournment:** With all business completed and a motion by Kelley, supported by Theer, all were in favor to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,



Margie Yadro

Florence County Conservationist