

FLORENCE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

501 Lake Avenue, Room #249 Courthouse
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PH: 715-528-5940
Department Administrator: Rich Wolosyn
Conservation Technician: Scott Goodwin



Monday, August 1, 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. Those present included: Supervisors Jeanette Bomberg, Susan Theer, Jason Neuens, and Gary Steber; Vice Chairwoman Yvonne VanPembrook. Farm Service Agency Representative Kim Broullire arrived after the start. Also participating were Land Conservation Department Administrator and Zoning Administrator Rich Wolosyn, Conservation Technician Scott Goodwin. Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator Carolyn Weber-Starling was excused.
- 2. Approval of the Agenda:** On a motion by Theer, supported by Steber and VanPembrook, all were in favor
- 3. Approval of Previous LCC Minutes:** VanPembrook motioned for approval, with the addition of her clearance to attend the NRCS meeting in July to be included. Supported by Steber. All in favor to approve the July 11, 2016 Meeting Minutes as amended.
- 4. Agency Partner Reports/Open Forums:** Department Administrator Rich Wolosyn reported that Jeremy Irish from APHIS would not be attending, and he had not heard from either Mike Stinebrink or Celie Borndal from NRCS. There were no pending matters.
- 5. AIS Coordinator Report:** Conservation Technician Goodwin gave the report in AIS Coordinator Weber-Starling's absence. The Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Lake Monitoring projects are on track to meet the grant requirements.
CBCW: Some hours are being saved at Keyes Lake to cover Summerfest. Four hundred hours are still required at Spread Eagle North Landing. Staff was cut to four full-time and one part-time staff as the project was starting to run over budget. All LTE staff were model employees this season.
AIS Lake Monitoring: The Zebra Mussel substrate test plates installed at the start of the season showed positive results for Zebra Mussels in Loon Lake; a test plate will be examined more closely in the office to determine growth rates. The Lakes Emily and Patten tests have not shown any Zebra Mussels. Monitoring and assessment of thirteen lakes has been completed with an additional twelve planned before end of season. Goodwin is scheduled the following

week to conduct work on Lake Cosgrove with Emily Anderson from the Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC) to assess the non-native phragmites populations on the lake in preparation for WRISC to conduct control measures to take place late in the 2016 season. The standard lake monitoring will also be done at that time.

- 6. County Conservationist Summary:** Wolosyn reported three culvert replacements had been installed in the past month. Two in the Town of Fence, on Morgan Lake Road and West River Road, were paid for by the Town of Fence. Jeff DeMuri reported to Wolosyn as to being approximately \$6,000.00 under budget for these two. This may allow additional culvert replacements to be conducted. The Cost Share culvert replacement project on Carlson road is also finished. Stacy Dehne (DATCP) needs to return for the As-Built survey.

Wolosyn also reported on his attendance at the Land + Water Conference. Two speakers from Iowa utilities presented information on three drainage districts currently being sued in Federal Court due to high nutrient inputs into surface and ground waters. Ed Wegner asked if the nutrient inputs were originating from fertilizer, manure, or both. Wolosyn reported both. Wegner expressed concern over report he had seen from southern Wisconsin of the impacts of nutrient runoff on drinking water. Sue Porter (DATCP) presented on on-going Farmland Preservation (FP). Several counties could not issue certification numbers as some farmers were no longer in compliance with plans and practices. The LCD will need to be more accountable in the follow-up on FP projects to confirm continued compliance. Wolosyn also reported that the new Work Plan system for counties has reduced the volume of paperwork to a few pages.

- 7. Farmland Preservation:** Wolosyn reported that on July 21, 2016 Katie Vosberg (DATCP) informed Wolosyn that a certification of completeness was close. Vosberg asked for clarification on four points before it could be certified. Three were mapping questions with answers provided by Bay Lakes Regional Planning Commission, and a question on Chapter 6.3 text was not added in the five towns opposed in writing. Everything has now been submitted to DATCP and are awaiting the certification of completeness. Once issued the Farmland Preservation Plan can go to public hearing in LCC and then to the County Board. VanPembroke inquired if Wolosyn will need to present to DATCP. It is not known, but no requests have been made at this time.
- 8. Proposed budget:** Wolosyn explained the budget printout was complicated as he and Joe Bestor had included the CBCW and AIS project staff. This is broken out in Lines 18 and 19. The staff will be accounted for individually as the grant reports are completed. Line 10 estimated a 2017 Total Revenue of \$189,000.00. The 2017 Joint Preliminary Allocation Plan of the Soil & Water Management Grant Program had just arrived and had not been included in the Proposed Budget, but Wolosyn did bring a copy for the Committee to review. DATCP staffing is \$81,444.00 but cost share is dropping from \$45,000.00 to \$42,000.00. In part, due to DATCP shifting money to nutrient management in larger counties. Due to this there will be an adjustment before the Proposed Budget goes to the Audit and Budget Committee. Wildlife Abatement is anticipated to remain nearly the same at \$14,480.00. Wolosyn predicts that in 2016 LCD will

use \$10,487.00 from the County Levy down from the proposed \$16,770.00. This may go down again in 2017 to a proposed \$7,945.00 as LCD tries do business with grant funding rather than drawing on the levy. Wolosyn pointed out as this predicted budget relies on grant funding, if the source is not available LCD will have to draw on the levy, thus the 2017 budget may change in time. VanPembrook asked about the current cost share projects. The 2016 budget had an estimate of \$50,000 on cost share. Wolosyn responded that LCD probably will not maximize the \$50,000.00, but there are projects pending that it can be used for, and those will be moving forward. Neuens asked about Line 26, health insurance, and why it was predicted to be lower. Wolosyn reported the rate dropped due to LCD staff changes. This reduction is one reason LCD will not reach \$16,000.00. Bomberg informed the Land Conservation Committee the county recently had an 8% increase in health insurance. Moved to forward to Audit and Budget by Bomberg, second by Steber with no further discussion, the motion passed with unanimous consent.

9. Discussion/Action regarding the 2017 LCD proposed Lumberjack RC&D project: Goodwin presented a proposal to write a Lumberjack RC&D grant proposal to allow LCD to purchase a Hach model DR3900 spectrophotometer. This would allow LCD to conduct in-house chemical testing of surface and ground waters. Farm Service Agency Representative Kim Broullire questioned the continued accuracy of the unit, and if the unit needed to be serviced or calibrated periodically. Steber stated that if this unit was for in-house use only, that if someone disputed the results we would then have to send samples to the State Labs. VanPembrook expressed concern with the limited funding of Lumberjack RC&D this cycle, and that the organization may not fund a county department. As such the LCD should look to a possible partnership with WRISC and seek letters of support from lake associations in the county. Chair Wenger informed Goodwin that the DNR will need to be contacted to confirm this would not be duplicating work by the state, and that the results would be made available to the state. Goodwin acknowledged that he will 1) contact the DNR to discuss the proposed purchase and various ways to benefit both the state and county, 2) request and gather letters of support from WRISC, the Florence County Lakes and Rivers Association (FCLARA), and individual lake associations, and 3) price an annual service agreement with Hach for the maintenance of the equipment. Goodwin then requested approval from LCC to move ahead with developing the grant proposal. Motioned by VanPembrook, seconded by Steber. The motioned passed unanimously.

10. Discussion/Action May (July) expense voucher: Wolosyn acknowledged a mistake on the Agenda that identified this as the May expense voucher when in fact it was for July. VanPembrook stated her claim was for travel expenses to the NRCS meeting in Rhinelander and two Lumberjack RC&D meeting in Rhinelander and Long Lake. Motioned to accept the July expense voucher by Bomberg, second by Theer, motioned passed unopposed.

11. Future Agenda Items/Upcoming meetings: VanPembrook reported she does not have any additional meetings until October. VanPembrook also reported on the Lumberjack RC&D meeting held in Long Lake. She was happy and impressed by the venue, Roadhouse 139. The

owners were very accommodating for the meeting. VanPembrook also expressed how impressed she and other members of Lumberjack were by both the representative (Sissie Sullivan) and the report from the Lake Association of Long Lake on the aeration project. The aerator is not installed, but has been delivered and should be in before winter.

12. Future agenda items: none.

13. Next meeting: September 12, 2016 at 6:30.

14. Motion to adjourn from Broullire, supported by Neuens. Passed without opposition.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott W. Goodwin

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