

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/Time: October 6, 2014

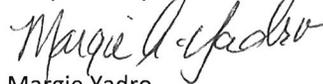
Location: Florence County Courthouse, second floor conference room

1. **Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by LCC Chairman, Edward Wenger. Committee members in attendance: Vice Chairwoman Yvonne VanPembrook; Supervisors Edwin Kelley, Jeanette Bomberg, Susan Theer, and Gary Steber. Farm Service Agent, Todd Broullire, was listed as excused. Also in attendance: Florence County Land Conservation Department Administrator, Margie Yadro, and Zoning Administrator, Rich Wolosyn; USDA-APHIS Representative, Jeremy Irish; and, area Lake Association Members, Cary Anderson, Glen Johnson, and Jay Weber.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** On a motion by Steber, supported by Theer, all were in favor to approve the agenda as posted on September 30, 2014.
3. **Approval of the previous LCC Meeting Minutes:** Moved by Kelley, seconded by VanPembrook, to approve the September 2, 2014 LCC Meeting Minutes as drafted. Motion passed.
4. **Agency Partner Reports/Open Forum:** Irish was on hand to update the committee on wildlife damage concerns where bear and deer damage appears to have increased from last year. He will bring the 2015 wildlife abatement budget proposal in front of the committee next month, followed by crop prices. No action was taken at this time. Lake Association members asked for Florence County Supervisors to consider creating a revenue stream to help fund aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention and management. The Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes Association (SECOLA) members reported support for offering the county financial resources to provide trained personnel that will conduct watercraft inspections at the county's boat landing on North Lake in 2015. Wenger noted that the decision to charge boat launch fees at county landings was not finalized at this time though pressure was being applied by the state to show that the county is asking for user fees at public sites that receive state grant funds. Conservationist Yadro read a correspondence from conservation partner Lumberjack RC&D congratulating Edwin Kelley, Chairman of the ANSWERS group, as the 2014 recipient organization of the "Chairman's Special Achievement" Award for contributions in promoting good forest stewardship.
5. **Administrative Summary:** Yadro shared an office work log for September highlighting engineering assistance given to the Town of Homestead, attendance in Wild Rivers Invasive Species Action Team meetings; membership in the state's county Deer Advisory Council, the Community Garden Harvest Party celebration; presentation at the local Town's Association Meeting; support of Natural Resource Education high student programming; shoreline evaluation conducted on Sea Lion Lake; and an application for a Cellcom Green Grant on behalf of Florence Schools.
 - A. **Farmland Preservation Planning (FPP):** Yadro supplied a "Scope of Services and Cost" agreement regarding a necessary update to the County's Farmland Preservation Plan (FPP). The stated objectives are to work with County Zoning and Land Conservation to develop farmland preservation programming consistent with the 20-Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan that meets state requirements under Wis. Stats. 91-01(1); and, to research data and develop text and mapping, while encouraging citizen participation. On

a motion by VanPembrook, supported by Bomberg, all were in favor to accept the agreement with Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission for next year's FPP updating services not to exceed \$14,500.

- B. **Invasive Species Prevention and Management:** Yadro distributed notes taken from an October 2, 2014 Invasive Species Prevention and Management Ad Hoc Committee meeting. WDNR Lakes Biologist, James Kreitlow, was in attendance to bring a state perspective to the group. The WDNR is currently working on revising the statewide AIS Strategic Plan. Kreitlow offered to research watercraft inspection grant program eligibility as proposed by the Committee. Water quality protection projects conducted locally in 2014 included: development and installation of AIS signage; watercraft inspector activities; decontamination equipment; public educational workshops; Point Intercept Plant Surveys; AIS treatments; channel dredging; fish recruitment studies; spawning reef proposal; boat landing improvements; lake management planning proposal; and transmission line right-of-way best management practices. The group asked to reconvene in the spring to continue developing a funding stream for invasive species prevention and management; a watercraft inspection program; rapid response protocols and resources; and maintain membership in the Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition. Yadro was asked to include the WRISC Memorandum Of Understanding as an action item on the LCC November meeting agenda.
 - C. **DATCP Cost-Share Projects/Reimbursements:** Yadro reported on cost-share project construction accomplished recently with the Town of Fence in accordance with offering state resources in order through the Townships. DATCP engineering assisted in overseeing installations at 5 culvert replacement sites and plans to conduct a final evaluation on October 20th along with a planning session for 2015 construction projects. The Town of Commonwealth and Town of Aurora change order reimbursements are being processed through DATCP at this time. No further action was necessary.
 - D. **Lumberjack RC&D Grant Projects:** Yadro updated the Committee on work underway with the RV Service Island installation at the Natural Resource Center. Also, the Crossroads Community Garden activities building construction bid request received no responses. She will make inquiries with area contractors. Yadro plans to supply this update to the Lumberjack RC&D Council at their quarterly meeting along with a brief presentation on the Lake Emily Fish Spawning Reef grant application. No further action was necessary.
 - E. **Resolution regarding DATCP Funding Formula:** Yadro had been asked by regional conservation partners, the North Central Land and Water Conservation Association, to develop a resolution that opposes DATCP's proposal to modify the 2016 county staffing formula to prioritize "qualifying conservation activities," not those identified in County *Land and Water Resource Management Plans*. On a motion by VanPembrook, seconded by Kelley, all were in favor to send a resolution regarding this opposition to the Florence County Board of Supervisors for consideration.
 - F. **Expense Vouchers:** on a motion by Steber, supported by Bomberg, all were in favor to approve the expense vouchers and recommended to the Florence County Audit and Budget Committee for payment.
6. **Future Agenda Items or Committee Concerns:** list the 2015 Wildlife Abatement budget and the WRISC MOU as action items for November. Upcoming meetings included: Legislative Advisory Committee on October 7th; Lumberjack RC&D meeting on October 17th in Antigo; County Deer Advisory Council meeting October 30, at the Florence Natural Resource Center.
 7. **Next meeting date:** Monday, November 3rd, 2014.
 8. **Call for Adjournment:** With all business completed and a motion by Steber, supported by Bomberg, all were in favor to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,



Margie Yadro
Florence County Conservationist