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## LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

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### Land Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date/Time:** November 4, 2013 6:30 PM

**Location:** Courthouse second floor conference room

1. **Roll Call:** Supervisors Jeanette Bomberg, Edwin Kelley, Gary Steber, Susan Theer, Edward Wenger (Chairman), and committee members, Yvonne VanPembrook (Vice Chairwoman), and Todd Broullire. Also attending: LCD Administrator-Florence County Conservationist, Margie Yadro; WDNR Northern Region Director, John Gozdziwski; National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) District Coordinator, Michael Stinebrink; USDA-APHIS Representative, Jeremy Irish; and, Florence County Zoning Administrator, Rich Wolosyn.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** On a motion by Steber, supported by Theer, all were in favor to approve the agenda as posted.
3. **Approval of the previous Meeting Minutes:** On a motion by Kelley, a second by Steber, all were in favor to approve the October 7, 2013 LCC Meeting Minutes as submitted.
4. **Agency Partner Reports/Open Forum:**  
Wildlife Damage Program: Representative Irish presented the 2014 Wildlife Damage Proposed Budget totaling \$20,053.46. According to Irish, claims are anticipated to be similar to last year.
  - A. On a motion by Kelley, supported by Steber, all were in favor to approve the budget as presented.

NRCS Operational Agreement: District Conservationist Stinebrink first reported on the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) status in the local counties. NRCS has committed \$70,784 of this funding to Florence County landowners this year. Due to the recent government shutdown, the deadline to apply projects for next year's EQIP funds has been extended to December 20, 2013. A list of eligible practices and payment rates was included. Stinebrink also shared a summary of federal budget issues that shape the federal Farm Bill which show Commodity Programs, Conservation, and Trade as the three largest components. The report concluded with an overview of the proposed Operational Agreement between NRCS and the County, necessary to offer federal conservation programs to local landowners through Land Conservation Department contacts.

- B. On a motion by Kelley, a second by Broullire, the LCC members unanimously supported the 5-year Operational Agreement with NRCS which will be forwarded to the full County Board for final consideration.

WDNR Report: Northern Director Gozdziwski spoke of his appreciation for Florence County's efforts in working together. He also noted that the wolf season had reached the state's harvest goals by October 31<sup>st</sup> in three harvest zones, two of which were in the northwoods; and, responding to the public's call for improved fishing, the Wisconsin Walleye Initiative of stocking larger fish is underway in four Florence County lakes. Gozdziwski told the group that he will take back the message of concern over limited terrestrial invasive management resources.

5. **Administrative Summary:** County Conservationist Yadro included a copy of the County *Connections* and the Florence County Lakes and Rivers Association newsletters that had published several conservation related articles. Yadro also reported on attending the North Central Land Conservation Association (NCLWCA) meeting in Wausau where highlights included strategic planning, department mergers, opposition to SB 349, budgets, policies and bylaws. A Natural Resource Education program for area high school students, hosted by the local UW-Extension, will have a water quality component. County landowners are pursuing a dredging permit for a project on Cosgrove Lake, assisted by Forestry and Parks. Yadro will schedule an engineering site visit for an erosion control assessment at the public boat landing there. Lumberjack has also approved a grant extension to the Crossroads Park development site. The first grant consideration round for the Community Garden's Activities Center project has also been approved. Yadro concluded her report with a brief explanation of the revisions approved for atcp 50 through the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), the department's primary funder.
  - A. On a motion by Steber, a second by Theer, all were in favor to direct Yadro to submit a Reimbursement Request to DATCP for eligible expenses incurred by the department in the first half of 2013.
  - B. On a motion by Steber, supported by VanPembrook, the vouchers were approved and recommended to Audit and Budget Committee for payment. All were in favor.
6. **Future Agenda Items or Committee Concerns:** VanPembrook reported on Lumberjack RC&D's review of grant project proposals. All must be received before the December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline and pass through with support from Land Conservation Committees. Lumberjack will soon set their 2014 grant budget. Yadro will coordinate any remaining projects to next month's LCC agenda. Bomberg asked that an Independent Contractor agreement proposal be brought to the Personnel Committee for review.
7. **Call for Adjournment:** With all business completed and a motion by VanPembrook, supported by Steber, all were in favor to adjourn until December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

*Margie Yadro*

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