

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

Land Conservation Committee (LCC)

Meeting Minutes

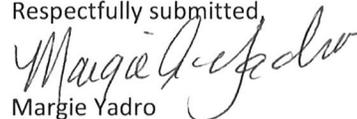
Date: December 1, 2014

Location: Florence County Courthouse, second floor conference room

1. **Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by LCC Chairman, Edward Wenger. Committee members in attendance also included: LCC Vice Chairwoman, Yvonne VanPembrook; Supervisors Edwin Kelley, Susan Theer, and Gary Steber. Supervisor Jeanette Bomberg, and Farm Service Agent Todd Broullire, were excused. Also in attendance: Florence County Land Conservation Department Administrator, Margie Yadro; Zoning Administrator, Rich Wolosyn; and, NWTC Student, Lia Ritchie.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** On a motion by Kelley, supported by Theer, all were in favor to approve the current meeting agenda as posted and distributed on November 25, 2014.
3. **Approval of the previous LCC Meeting Minutes:** Moved by Steber, seconded by Theer, to approve the November 3, 2014 LCC Meeting Minutes as drafted. Motion passed.
4. **Agency Partner Reports/Open Forum:** USDA-APHIS Representative, Irish, submitted the 2014 Crop Price Proposal for committee member consideration. Steber commented that the proposal adequately represented a local straw shortage driving up prices to \$210/ton.
 - A. On a motion by Steber, supported by Kelley, all were in favor to approve the 2014 Crop Price Proposal in the Wildlife Abatement Program as presented. Yadro will convey a signed agreement to Irish to establish eligible local landowner reimbursement recommendations.
5. **Administrative Summary:** Yadro distributed a 2012 Forest Inventory statement from the WDNR regarding browse conditions in the deer management units of the surrounding area. Committee members had requested this information following public concern expressed in the extra tags issued to an industrial landowner as a forest management tool. High deer impact browsing was noted on 7,363 acres of Unit 40 and 1,871 acres of Unit 50, where collected data supported the state desiring an additional antlerless harvest of 85 on one property holding (number based on one additional antlerless deer harvested per 250 acres). Yadro was asked to put this topic as a discussion/action item on the next LCC agenda. Yadro also reported on the County's legal opinion regarding the Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition MOU currently open for revisions. Corporate Counsel supported the County's continued involvement in this regional invasive species cooperative organization and also suggested the County as the member, so that all interested Departments could participate in equal capacity. Yadro will update the LCC members on any other recommended revisions to the proposed MOU draft. Yadro's worklog highlights included attending invasive species training and networking opportunities such as the State AIS Coordinator meeting recently held in Stevens Point. Wenger asked about any communication with the Department of Transportation regarding invasive species impacts on road right-of-ways. Yadro reported ongoing discussion with County Highway Commissioner, Jeff DeMuri, and asked if the County Highway or Legislative Committees could follow up with requesting additional State support towards this effort. An engineering survey was taken on a potential culvert replacement site in the Town of Long Lake. The local WDNR Transportation Liaison contact, Jon Simonsen, assisted in collecting water flow data at the Fay Lake Road stream crossing that appears to fit well within the atcp 50 scope of cost-share eligible projects. Yadro had also participated recently in the courthouse safety training exercise along with all county departments within the building. Wenger suggested Yadro to contact Economic Development regarding remote meeting participation. Yadro is also developing the County Connections newsletter for end of year distribution to all box holders in the County.

- A. **Farmland Preservation Planning (FPP):** Copies of the Bay-Lake Planning Commission Contract Agreement were provided regarding the state required update to the County's Farmland Preservation Plan. Yadro explained that consultant fees are an eligible cost covered under an FPP DATCP grant previously secured, though a 50% local match is required. She also recommended a change in the agreement language under Article #7 that would reflect that ... "final payment will be made by the County to Bay-Lake after successful state adoption of the updated Farmland Preservation Plan." On a motion by VanPembrook, supported by Kelley, all were in favor to contract with Bay-Lake Planning Commission under the suggested contract terms, not to exceed a total amount of \$14,500. Yadro will contact Planner Brandon Robinson to finalize payment language and timelines.
- B. **Lumberjack RC&D grant projects:** Yadro updated the Committee regarding the expenses related to construction of the RV Service Island recently installed at the Natural Resource Center. No formal action was necessary. Yadro will submit the total grant reimbursement request to Lumberjack in the amount of \$9,980 for purchased materials. Yadro also commended the Florence Utility management and crew for their efforts. In the Crossroads Community Garden grant, an additional request will be made to Lumberjack for reimbursing Florence Utilities \$431.48 for materials related to the installation of the water hydrant. The Activities Building is still being reviewed for construction at this time. Additional improvements are being considered by the Community Garden Committee for further development. Yadro reminded the group that two more local project requests have been submitted to Lumberjack for 2015 grant consideration. VanPembrook reported a change in review deadlines where all project proposals must now be submitted to the Council by their October meetings. Lumberjack's Executive Committee has tentatively approved their total 2015 grant budget to be maintained at \$70,000 for projects slated for implementation during 2015 in their nine county service region.
- C. **WDNR Aquatic Invasive Species grant proposal:** Yadro explained a grant opportunity to request additional WDNR Aquatic Invasive Species grant funds to add two County summer LTE positions. This would complement an earlier request for 11 LTE watercraft inspection positions already submitted for the 2015 boating season. Yadro believes that \$38,000 will sufficiently cover the duties outlined for the two summer positions over the next two years. An authorizing resolution is required by the State to commit the County' capacity to successfully complete the project; and, that it names the Conservationist as the Authorized County Representative. On a motion by VanPembrook, supported by Kelley, the motion passed to offer preliminary support to the resolution as stated and to send it on to the full County Board for adoption. Motion passed.
- D. **Expense Vouchers:** on a motion by Steber, supported by Theer, all were in favor to approve the expense vouchers and recommend them to the Florence County Audit and Budget Committee for payment.
6. **Future Agenda Items or Committee Concerns:** A WRISC Board of Directors meeting is planned for December 2nd in Marinette; a Deer Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled for December 18th at the Resource Center; and, Lincoln County will host the next Lumberjack RC&D Council meeting on January 23rd.
7. **Next meeting date:** Monday, January 5, 2015, at 6:30 PM.
8. **Call for Adjournment:** With all business completed and a motion by Steber, supported by Kelley, all were in favor to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,



Margie Yadro
Florence County Conservationist