

# 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

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Monday, December 7, 2015

6:30 PM

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## **LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **Florence County Courthouse**

SECOND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

### **MEETING MINUTES**

1. **Roll Call:** Committee members in attendance included – Chairman Edward Wenger; Vice Chairwoman Yvonne VanPembrook; Supervisors Edwin Kelley, Jeanette Bomberg, Gary Steber, and Susan Theer; and, Farm Service Agency Representative Todd Broullire. Also participating were: Land Conservation Department Administrator Margie Yadro, and Invasive Species Program Manager Scott Goodwin; USDA-APHIS Representative Jeremy Irish; and, Zoning Administrator Rich Wolosyn.
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** On a motion by Steber, supported by VanPembrook, all were in favor to approve the agenda as posted on December 3, 2015.
3. **Approval of Previous LCC Meeting Minutes:** Bomberg moved to accept the November 2, 2015 LCC meeting minutes as drafted. Seconded by Kelley. All were in favor.
4. **Agency Partner Reports/Open Forum –**  
Discussion/Action: USDA-APHIS 2015 Crop Price Proposal. Irish was on hand to present the crop rates for establishing reimbursements for local Wildlife Damage Claims. Irish noted that hay and grain values were averaged throughout the region though considerably down from last year's prices. VanPembrook moved to accept the rates as listed. Supported by Broullire. All were in favor.
5. **County Conservationist Summary:** Yadro provided a brief update on the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) positive result found recently in Oneida County. She also presented a preview of the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) extension form for *Florence County's Land and Water Resource Management Plan*. Yadro was directed to place this as an action item on January's LCC meeting agenda. Yadro also shared a spreadsheet of department revenue anticipated in 2016 totaling over \$300,000 and was pleased to see the continued growth for total program funding and conservation practice installations. She called attention to the state's 2016 Preliminary Allocation Report which detailed the funding staffing formula to the counties.
6. **Invasive Species Program Manager Summary:** Goodwin followed with an outline of the local Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) projects being finalized. Added to his report was the 2016 Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) project proposal that had recently received a funding award letter for \$28,000 from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). Goodwin also noted that communications continue with local property owners, WDNR Fisheries Biologist, Greg Matzke, and staff in regards to improvements in water quality, fish habitat, and water recreational use in the Long Lake watershed. A WDNR Lake Protection Grant will likely be pursued in the future, primarily focused on reducing risks associated with fish kills. Goodwin finished with a mapping update from the Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC) who has been conducting mainly terrestrial roadside invasive surveys in their 5 county region that includes Florence County. It is hoped that this information will help guide future plant management decisions.

7. **Discussion/Action – Farmland Preservation Plan (FPP) –**  
Certification requirements: Yadro reiterated the complicated aspects of the update to Florence County’s Farmland Preservation Plan document. According to DATCP, the Working Lands Initiative creates a new higher per acre tax incentive for farmland owners who participate either through a Farmland Preservation zoning ordinance or an individual Farmland Preservation agreement located within an Agriculture Enterprise Area. It also establishes a Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) Program which supplements locally sponsored funds for voluntary permanent purchase of development rights on qualifying farm parcels. Though the last component is currently not funded, all of these benefits are available only on local lands designated for long-term farmland preservation in certified county FP plan areas.  
  
Zoning District: Wolosyn distributed draft maps of potential parcels suitable for long term agricultural or productive forest use. After further discussion on future land use and/or restrictions on farmland preservation plan areas, Yadro was directed to request a DATCP representative and the county’s FPP planner to host an informational meeting to clarify implications of the state’s required update.
8. **Discussion/Action – Grant funded projects and proposals:** Yadro plans to present the Long Lake watershed improvement project for its second review at the January Lumberjack RC&D Council meeting. The Fish Passage Grant has also begun site surveys with engineering. DATCP cost-share can be considered as a match where eligible.
  - a. **DATCP Cost-Share Contract/Extension:** Yadro explained that there are two projects waiting engineering design that are preparing for construction in 2016. On a motion by Bomberg, supported by Steber, all were in favor to contract the balance of cost-share grant dollars available for culvert replacements on Highway U and Carlson Road in the Town of Homestead. Yadro will follow through with the necessary contracts and extension forms according to DATCP procedures.
9. **Discussion/Action – Conservation Legislation/Resolution(s):** Kelley moved to send LRB 3638 related to lake monitoring and protection grants to the Florence County Legislative Advisory Committee to consider further action. Seconded by VanPembrook. All were in favor.
10. **Discussion/Action – Recommendation for future Department Staffing, roles and responsibilities, potential funding mechanisms:** On a motion by Bomberg, supported by Steber, Yadro was directed to specify that the Conservation Specialist Technical position vacancy was contingent upon adequate funding, and present the updated description to the Personnel Committee for final approval. All were in favor.
11. **Discussion/Action – November Expense Vouchers:** On a motion by Kelley, seconded by Steber, the expense voucher requests will be sent to the Audit & Budget Committee to consider for payment. All were in favor.
12. **Future Agenda Items/Upcoming Meetings:** VanPembrook explained that the Lumberjack RC&D Council plans to form a grant committee which Yadro has agreed to participate on. Also, January 28 is the Lumberjack RC&D full council meeting hosted by Shawano County. Chairman Wenger thanked FSA Representative Todd Broullire for his many years of service to the Land Conservation Committee. Kim Broullire will be seated as the new FSA Representative at the January LCC meeting.
13. **Set next meeting date and call for Adjournment:** With all business complete, Steber moved to adjourn until January 4, 2016. Supported by Theer. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

*Margie Yadro*

Margie Yadro, Florence County Conservationist  
Land Conservation Department Administrator