



FLORENCE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

501 Lake Avenue, Room #249 Courthouse
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PH: 715-528-5940

Department Administrator: Margie Yadro

Monday, August 4th, 2014

6:30 PM

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Florence County Courthouse

SECOND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

MEETING MINUTES

- i. **Roll Call:** Land Conservation Committee Chairman, Edward Wenger, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Also in attendance were: County Board Supervisors, Gary Steber, Edwin Kelley, Susan Theer, Jeanette Bomberg; FSA Representative, Todd Broullire; and LCC Vice Chairwoman, Yvonne VanPembrook. Also in attendance: LCD Administrator, Margie Yadro; Zoning Administrator, Rich Wolosyn; and Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes Association Representatives: Glen Johnson and Joe Buchanan.
- ii. **Approval of the Agenda:** On a motion by Steber, supported by Theer, all were in favor to approve the meeting agenda as posted.
- iii. **Approval of Previous LCC Meeting Minutes:** On a motion by VanPembrook, seconded by Theer, motion passed to approve the July 7, 2014 LCC meeting minutes as submitted.
- iv. **Agency Partner Reports/Open Forum:** County Conservationist, Yadro, forwarded correspondence from agency partners: USDA-APHIS Representative, Jeremy Irish, who had no further update for this month; Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission, Brandon Robinson, was reported to be available to meet August 18th to discuss the proposal to update the County's Farmland Preservation Program in more detail; and, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) District Conservationist, Michael Stinebrink, supplied a written report. Yadro had attended their recent Headwaters Work Group meeting to assist in prioritizing conservation practices and assigning funding pools. In the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the forestry, pasture, and cropland designations were given equal appropriations at 27%, with farmstead receiving the balance of 19%. This assignment of funds will be reviewed annually by the 7 member counties of Wisconsin's Headwaters Region.

Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes Association (SECOLA) Representatives, Johnson and Buchanan, updated the committee members about their recent purchase of a pressure wash unit to aid in the prevention of further introduction and containment of aquatic invasive species (AIS) at the North Lake boat landing. The site is currently receiving about 20 hours per week of paid watercraft inspection time that they would also like to see increased. Discussion followed about the potential impacts of implementing boat launch fees at public landings. Theer explained that the Ad Hoc Committee is currently brainstorming options and opportunities that could help prevent and manage invasive species. Yadro encouraged watercraft inspection follow up through the AIS Action Team of the Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC) who currently manages the Clean Boats, Clean Waters grant positions for the area.
- v. **Administrative Summary:** Yadro supplied a copy of her monthly worklog that included several meetings attended, such as: ANSWERS, Lumberjack RC&D, and WRISC. DATCP engineering plans to be in Florence County in mid-August to review the construction site at Johnson Creek and coordinate culvert

replacements in the Town of Fence, among other conservation site evaluations. Yadro supplied copies of an updated draft of the WRISC MOU that will go into effect in 2015/16 and copies of their Board of Director's Annual Meeting that was held in Florence on June 4th. Twenty-three formal partners have been accepted into the organization. Yadro leads the WRISC AIS Action Team that met in July where highlights included Michigan budgets investing \$3.6 million into AIS and Terrestrial Invasive Species Management; and Lumberjack funding being requested for invasive species management toolboxes set up in each county. Upcoming meetings include WRISC on August 6 in Menominee County and the North Central Land and Water Conservation Association meeting in Antigo on August 7. Yadro also distributed the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Preliminary Allocations of funding to the counties for 2015. Florence County is anticipated to receive a total of \$128,522 of grant funds.

- a) **Discussion/Action – DATCP 1st Reimbursement Report:** On a motion by Bomberg, supported by Steber, Yadro was directed to submit the reimbursement claim to DATCP, reviewed by the grant oversight team, to cover eligible costs incurred by the county for the first six months of 2014. Motion passed.
 - b) **Discussion/Action – Invasive Species Management Action Plan proposal:** Yadro presented suggested updates to the original Invasive Species Strategic Plan, expanded as a county-wide Invasive Species Prevention and Management Plan. The process follows the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources recommendations in reaching goals and objectives of invasive species identification, rapid response, treatment, and monitoring; focused on reducing ecological and economical impacts. Yadro was thanked for her efforts and authorized to continue developing this action plan with the assistance of the Invasive Species Ad Hoc Committee members.
 - c) **Discussion/Action – Emergency Assistance MOU:** Committee members suggested that emergency response agreements be directed through the County Clerk's Office.
 - d) **Discussion/Action – Expense Vouchers to Audit & Budget Committee:** VanPembrook motioned to accept the voucher list totaling \$3,591.29 in county expenses and \$466.57 in designated grant expenses, supported by Bomberg. All were in favor to forward to the Audit & Budget Committee and the grant source to make payment.
- vi. **Future Agenda Items or Committee Concerns:** VanPembrook shared an update about recent changes at Lumberjack RC&D and explained their grant program and anticipated opportunities. Yadro reported introducing the Lake Emily Fish Spawning Reef as a grant proposal for 2015 funding. Two projects currently being constructed from this funding source include the RV station at the Natural Resource Center and the Crossroads Community Garden improvements. A timeline will be developed for 2014 final construction.
- vii. **Next Meeting Date:** With all business being concluded, the LCC meeting will adjourn until Tuesday, September 2nd, 2014.
- viii. **Call for Adjournment:** On a motion by Theer, seconded by VanPembrook, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Margie Yadro, Florence County Conservationist
Land Conservation Department Administrator