
FLORENCE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

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County Conservationist Margie Yadro

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Land Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: May 6, 2013 6:30 PM

Location: Courthouse second floor conference room

- I. **Roll Call:** Jeanette Bomberg, Todd Broullire, Edwin Kelley, Gary Steber, Susan Theer, Edward Wenger (Chairman), and Yvonne VanPembrook. Also attending: LCD Administrator, Florence County Conservationist, Margie Yadro; and, Zoning Administrator, Rich Wolosyn.
- II. **Approval of Agenda:** On a motion by Steber, supported by Theer, all were in favor.
- III. **Approval of the April 1, 2013 LCC Minutes:** On a motion by VanPembrook, a second by Bomberg, all were in favor.
Approval of the April 30, 2013 Interview Panel Meeting Minutes: On a motion by Theer, supported by Steber, motion carried.
- IV. **Agency Partner Reports:**
 - NRCS:** The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) District Conservationist Michael Stinebrink provided a written update regarding the status of federal programs being utilized across four counties and area tribes. In the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), consideration is being given to policy changes to encourage future applicants to submit requests earlier in the process. The application for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is May 31, 2013. Local interests typically include operators of cropland, pasture, and forestland that can be applied for at any time. In 2012, average annual payments per acre, showed cropland at \$20.16, pasture at \$13.90, and forestland at \$3.70. Contact Stinebrink for assistance or more information.
 - WLWCA:** The Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association's (WLWCA) March 13, 2013 Meeting Minutes were sent in regarding the Department of Agricultural, Trade and Consumer Protection's (DATCP) proposed ATCP 50 rule revision. WLWCA Executive Director Jim VandenBrook's list of concerns mirrored locally expressed objections including: primarily prohibiting cost share eligibility of local governments, and creating a lower cost-share rate for non-agricultural practices. Yadro will continue to follow.
 - NCLWCA:** A Spring Conference agenda was provided for the upcoming North Central Land and Water Conservation Association (NCLWCA) meeting. Hosted by Langlade County, educational presenters are expected to begin at 9:30 a.m. with a business meeting to follow at 2 p.m. Area legislators are invited to attend along with DNR Secretary, Cathy Stepp. Yadro plans to attend.
 - WRISC:** The Annual Meeting of the Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC) will be held on June 4, 2013 at the Florence Natural Resource Center, beginning at 8:00 am.
- V. **Administrative Summary:** County Conservationist Yadro gave an April activities report that included offering assistance to the Legislative Committee to meet regularly in the courthouse; and providing local landowner cost-sharing with a variety of projects including well decommissioning, culvert replacements, and farmland watering facilities. Yadro went on to describe website training for a changing county

website; offering to coordinate a county newsletter for Spring; hosting an interview panel session for AIS LTE grant positions; advertising a WRISC/AIS grant workshop for watercraft inspectors on May 20, 2013 at the Florence Natural Resource Center; also hosting a Lakes Planning Meeting with several area lake associations, seven lakes represented. Yadro drafted a flow chart to give a simplified overview to channel direct interests and support to volunteers, organizations, and staff. A new grant for Clean Boats, Clean Waters pilot project, sponsored by FCLARA, will be administered through WRISC. Yadro requested the group to focus also on watershed health where persistent toxic algal blooms occur, or fish kills. The Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes Association (SECOLA) has been awarded an AIS Rapid Response Grant and is considering the purchase of a boat wash unit. Though 3 watercraft inspectors are in place at area landings for peak boater times, boat wash logistic issues still need to be addressed for site placement (runoff), transport, fuel, refill, storage, liability, and maintenance. Yadro plans to bring this information to the June 4, 2013 FCLARA annual meeting. A Crossroads Park meeting is also planned for tomorrow, May 7, 2013 in the upstairs conference room.

New Business:

- VI. **Clarification of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement and activities as a formal partner of the Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC):** Florence County is a formal partner of the WRISC MOU. Yadro was requested to step back from a leadership role in staffing WRISC positions until corporate counsel guidance makes a determination. On a motion by Steber, supported by Bomberg, all were in favor to table the item.
- VII. **Consider opportunities for soil and water quality projects:** Yadro explained the thought process of addressing projects related to watershed health. Yadro asked if county funding could be used to subsidize a grant funded project with WRISC, operating in Florence County, to be reimbursed by the end of the year. The amount would have been less than the balance remaining in the Soil and Water Quality project account. Yadro was directed to make the request to the Audit and Budget Committee. No other action was taken.
- VIII. **Present Vouchers for approval and recommendation to Audit & Budget Committee for payment:** On a motion by Steber, support by Theer, all were in favor.
- IX. **Upcoming/Out of Town Meetings:** stated above in Administrative Report.
- X. **Future Agenda Items or Committee concerns:** Lumberjack RC&D has cast its final vote to award nearly \$10,000 toward the Crossroads Park project. The Sustainable Forestry Conference support was also given. Lumberjack has begun accepting proposals now for 2014 consideration. All must pass through the Land Conservation Committee to be considered. A May 8, 2013 Interview Panel meeting was tentatively set for 4:00 p.m. at the courthouse. Yadro will confirm.
- XI. **Call for Adjournment:** On a motion by Kelley, supported by Steber, all were in favor to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Yadro
County Conservationist