
FLORENCE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

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County Conservationist Margie Yadro

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Land Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: August 5, 2013 6:30 PM

Location: Courthouse second floor conference room

- a. **Roll Call:** Supervisors Jeanette Bomberg, Edwin Kelley, Gary Steber, Susan Theer, Edward Wenger (Chairman), and Committee Member, Yvonne VanPembrook. Also attending: LCD Administrator, Florence County Conservationist, Margie Yadro; Invasive Species Program Manager, Robert Richard; Watercraft Inspection Coordinator, Haley Winchell; USDA-APHIS Representative, Jeremy Irish; Zoning Administrator, Rich Wolosyn; and Fern resident, Stanley Suszka. Excused: Committee Member Todd Broullire.
- b. **Approval of Agenda:** On a motion by Steber, supported by Theer, all were in favor.
- c. **Approval of the previous Meeting Minutes:** On a motion by Steber, a second by Theer, all were in favor to approve the July 5, 2013 Minutes as submitted.
- d. **Agency Partner Reports:**
 - USDA APHIS:** Representative Irish was on hand to explain landowner involvement in wildlife abatement programs. At this time there are five local landowners enrolled, three received shooting permits, and three permanent fencing. Irish says that wolf damage is low, but expects to see bear damage go up. The state venison donation program will also continue. He asks to be advised if a USDA approved certified processor becomes available in the county.
 - NRCS:** The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) District Conservationist, Michael Stinebrink, offered regional information and resources from the federal Farm Bill programs. Stinebrink invites all to take part in a Local Work Group meeting scheduled for August 14th in Rhinelander that will help provide recommendations on local natural resource priorities and criteria for conservation activities and programs. A list of eligible practices and payment rates was also provided.
- e. **In an Open Forum:** Fern resident Suszka expressed his concern for terrestrial invasives on the road right-of-ways. Wild Parsnip was chosen as a plant to emphasize to the public. Yadro will place information in the local newspaper and other media to inform the public and work with agency partners that might have additional resources.
- f. **AIS Grant Project update:** Richard and Winchell updated the Committee members regarding aquatic invasive species (AIS). Two new populations of AIS were discovered this summer. Zebra Mussels were found in the Pine River, one of the state's wild rivers; and, a patch of Phragmites was mapped out on Cosgrove Lake in Spread Eagle. All of the current grant expectations are

being met. Lake and river data taken from the past five years is being compiled for future analysis. Both Richard and Winchell were commended for the great job they had done.

- g. **Administrative Summary:** County Conservationist Yadro included a copy of Wisconsin Statutes 66.047 that pertains to Noxious Weeds. A discussion followed regarding the NR 40 ruling categorizing invasive species into “restricted” or “prohibited” classifications. It appears that the local units of government can name more species as noxious weeds, but other considerations like regular mowing may warrant further research. Yadro also supplied the group with the August edition of the Northern Wisconsin’s Forest Insect & Disease Newsletter. Florence County was noted as having a couple of Aspen stands moderately defoliated in southern Florence County and west of Spread Eagle by gypsy moths. Other forestry concerns were included in the newsletter. Yadro also reported on a 6 month financial summary for the department. Though she feels state funding resources are tight for 2013, she supplied a copy of the 2014 preliminary allocation from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) which is looking much better with an 18% increase. At this time, the future revisions to the department funding formula may only allow for 10% of the total Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) grant to be used for support costs. Yadro noted that the county stayed consistent with \$45,000 included for the cost-share program.
- h. **2013 DATCP first reimbursement request:** On a motion by Bomberg, supported by Steber, all were in favor to submit the grant request.
- i. **Noxious Weed Management:** Yadro was directed to develop a resolution to address terrestrial invasives. No other action taken.
- j. **Present Vouchers for approval and recommendation to Audit & Budget Committee for payment:** On a motion by Steber, support by Bomberg, all were in favor to submit the bills as shown.
- k. **Future Agenda Items or Committee concerns:** noxious weeds.
- l. **Call for Adjournment:** With all business completed and a motion by Kelley, supported by Steber, all were in favor to adjourn until September 9th, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Yadro
County Conservationist