

Walworth County Land Conservation Committee

MINUTES

Monday, April 23, 2007 at 1:00 p.m.
Walworth County Government Center
Room 111
Elkhorn, WI 53121

Supervisor Lightfield called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

Roll call - Committee members present included: Supervisors Guido, Lightfield, Morrison, and Muzatko Citizen Member Byrnes and USDA/FSA Representative Papcke. Supervisor Burwell was absent, excused. A quorum was declared.

County staff present – Michael Cotter, Director, Land Use and Resource Management; Louise Olson, Deputy Director, Land Use and Resource Management; and Joeann Douglas, Recording Secretary

Also in attendance – Supervisors Ketchpaw, and Russell; Greg Igl, USDA - NRCS

Approval of Agenda - **Supervisors Muzatko and Morrison moved and seconded approval of the agenda. Motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Minutes – **Supervisors Muzatko and Citizen Member Byrnes moved and seconded approval of the February 19, 2007 minutes. Motion carried 6-0.**

Public Comment – None

Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) Thursday Note and Update - Louise Olson said WLWCA is very similar to Wisconsin Counties Association, working with Wisconsin legislators and various committees dealing with conservation issues. Ms Olson read a long list of the type programs WLWCA coordinates. Ms Olson asked the new Executive Director, Julian Zelazny to speak at the May 14, 2007 LCC Meeting. Supervisor Burwell is the SE Area Land and Water Conservation Association President and representative to WLWCA. She was not in favor of the direction of the previous Executive Director for WLWCA. However, Supervisor Burwell feels that Mr Zelazny is doing a very good job.

Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association Dues – Louise Olson said dues must be paid by June 1 to ensure Walworth County's voting privilege. She reminded the committee the invoice must go through Finance Department, requiring extra time. Supervisor Morrison asked about the possibility of receiving future grants to support the Conservation Division as has been the case in the past. Ms Olson said at present, most of the staff is being paid through grants as well as approximately 70% of the cost sharing dollars going to landowners for practices. Nutrient Management cost sharing is one of the possible areas for future grants to landowners. This illustrates the importance of WLWCA acting as a lobbyist on the county's behalf. However, grants competition has increased, making them more difficult to obtain. **Citizen Member Byrnes and Supervisor Morrison moved and seconded a motion to pay 2007 WLWCA dues as soon as possible. Motion carried 6-0.**

Walworth County White River Protection Initiative – Louise Olson indicated there is widespread support through the various plans adopted by the County and surrounding townships. The White River and its drainage area is listed as needing protection in the Walworth County Land and Water Resource Management Plan, the Walworth County Park and Open Space Plan, the Master Plan for the Town of Spring Prairie and the Land Use Plan for the Town of Lyons. The two-year grant will be funded at a total of \$50,000. (state dollars). The grant includes water quality monitoring, information and education, assisting in forming a White River Protection and Rehabilitation Association, stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP) working with the rural technical staff to implement needed conservation practices by dovetailing with USDA funds. The lakes grant funding the position of Lakes Specialist is nearing completion. The current net appropriation for the Conservation budget is \$25,000/year. Supervisor Russell felt the White River was very important to Walworth County. It was noted as part of the Fox River Basin. **Supervisors Muzatko and Morrison moved and seconded to recommend to the County Board pursuing application for the Walworth County White River Protection Grant. Motion carried 6-0.**

Environmental Working Group's Farm Subsidy Database – Louise Olson said the website provided agricultural data for all Wisconsin counties. Ms Olson provided information from the database comparing USDA subsidies for farms in Jefferson and Walworth County. Subsidies for Jefferson County totaled \$88,144,000 and subsidies for Walworth County totaled \$96,095,000, showing supervisors that Walworth County is very much an agricultural county.

Next Meeting Date – May 14, 2007 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment – **On motion and second by USDA/FSA Representative Papcke and Supervisor Muzatko, the meeting was adjourned at 1:31 p.m. Motion carried 6-0**

Submitted by Joeann Douglas, Recording Secretary. Minutes not final until approved by the committee at its next meeting.