

Walworth County Land Conservation Committee

MINUTES

Monday, August 11, 2008 at 1:30 p.m.

Walworth County Government Center
Committee Meeting Room 111
Elkhorn, WI 53121

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kilkenny at 1:32 p.m.

Roll call - Committee members present included: Supervisors Hawkins, Kilkenny, Ingersoll and Citizen Member Burwell. USDA/FSA Representative Papcke was absent, unexcused. A quorum was declared.

County staff present – David Bretl, County Administrator; Michael Cotter, Director of Land Use & Resource Management (LURM); Louise Olson, Deputy Director, LURM; and Joeann Douglas, Recording Secretary

Also in attendance – Nancy Russell, County Board Chair; Greg Igl, NRCS/District Conservationist; Jim Simons, Spring Prairie Town Chair.

On motion by Chair Kilkenny, Supervisors Hawkins and Citizen Member Burwell moved and seconded approval of the agenda. The motion carried 4-0.

On motion by Chair Kilkenny, Supervisors Hawkins and Ingersoll moved and seconded approval of the July 14, 2008 minutes. The motion carried 4-0.

Public Comment – none

Update on the 2008 Farm Bill – Greg Igl, NRCS District Conservationist gave an overview of the 2008 Farm Bill passed in May 2008. There is a 38% increase in funds to 4.2 billion dollars available in the next 5 years allocated for conservation. The largest change in is allowing of graduated penalties for those people out of compliance. Wisconsin has spent 21 million in 2008 in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Changes include energy conservation benefits, forest management funds and transition to organic farming. The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) largest change is equitable access regardless of what watershed land is in. The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is reauthorized and has over 2 million dollars allocated. In the past Walworth County has had 9 WHIP contracts. The Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) requires a sponsor with matching funds to purchase conservation easements. Land eligible includes private agricultural land, non-industrial private forestland and Tribal land. The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) provides technical and financial incentives to restore, protect and enhance wetlands. There will be a flat rate of \$4,000/acre on WRP permanent easements in Walworth County. The larger rate for Walworth County is due primarily to the county's location and land values.

Lake Benedict-Tombeau Lake District Representative – Rosemary Badame has expressed interest in serving as a representative. Michael Cotter welcomed her interest and said there has been little interest in the past from people in this district. **Supervisor Hawkins and Ingersoll moved and seconded forwarding the recommendation of Rosemary Badame as the Lake Benedict-Tombeau Lake District Representative to the County Board for approval. Motion carried 4-0.**

Southeast Area Land and Water Association Representative Nomination – At the Southeast Area meeting, Dorothy Burwell was re-appointed president and representative to the WLWCA state board; Louise Olson was re-appointed treasurer. **Supervisors Hawkins and Ingersoll moved and seconded recommending Dorothy Burwell as the Southeast Area representative to the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association. Motion carried 4-0.**

Southeast Area Land and Water Association Report – Dorothy Burwell said there was discussion of the groundwater study; industrial water usage is down and residential usage is up. Water is flowing out of Lake Michigan into a dry pond that used to flow out. Michael Cotter said the water diversion issue is very complicated and the public hearing stage will probably not be until next summer. The Great Lakes Compact as

it relates to Waukesha's diverting water from lake Michigan across the sub-continental divide is very controversial. One option would be to take the wastewater and send it back into the basin, which would be very expensive. There would have to be approval by the Governors of each state plus the Canadian Provinces before any diversion would be allowed. Treated wastewater going from Waukesha would have to meet Wisconsin DNR standards. Currently Milwaukee is operating at approximately 30% water usage capacity making it more attractive for businesses.

Ms Burwell also reported on the Southeast Area invasive species cooperative and said Audrey Greene is a part of it.

There was previously a resolution supporting the Clean Water Act by the Walworth County LCC.

Ms Burwell has been encouraging Lakeland School to participate in the poster contest. Louise Olson had also forwarded information to the school on the contest

Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association Membership and Dues (WLWCA) – Louise Olson said the WLWCA membership dues last year were \$950; this year's dues are based on equalized values and are \$1,481.10 Both the WLWCA dues and the \$50.00 for SE Area Land and Water Association are in the Walworth County 2009 budget. National dues of \$775 to \$1,775. were not put in the 2009 budget. **Citizen Member Burwell and Supervisor Hawkins moved and seconded approving the Southeast Area Land and Water Association dues of \$50. and the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association dues of \$1,481.10 Motion carried 4-0.**

Conservation Priority Listening Sessions – Louise Olson said WLWCA Executive Director Julian Zelazny is encouraging participation in helping the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters set conservation priorities for the next legislative session. Their website has a great deal of good information like the conservation scorecard for Wisconsin legislators. Seven issues were outlined as important. The WLWCA is an active participant in lobbying for the following three issues: Prohibition on phosphorus-containing lawn fertilizer; Groundwater regulation; and Establishment of a Carbonate Bedrock Management Area (Karst area management). Mr. Zelazny encouraged input to prioritize a forth item from the balance of the list that includes Global Warming mitigation; Private Land Conservation; Hunter, Trapper and Angler Bill of Rights; and Electronic Waste recycling requirement. Nancy Russell said comments could be e-mailed. Ms Olson provided a list of e-mails, dates and places where listening session are taking place. Dorothy Burwell said the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters has a lobbying day at the capitol that has approximately 500 members who meet with every single legislator.

Southeastern Wisconsin Land Conservation Committee's Area Tour – Louise Olson said registration for the Thursday, September 4, 2008 Racine County tour is due August 22. Nancy Russell said the Budget Workshop has been pushed back to 5:00 p.m. September 4. Ms Olson said tour attendees should be back in time for the workshop. Dorothy Burwell will be attending the tour.

Next Meeting Date – Monday, September 15, 2008 1:30 P.M.

Adjournment - **On motion and second by Supervisors Hawkins and Ingersoll, Chair Kilkenny adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:07 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.**

Submitted by Joeann Douglas, Recording Secretary. Minutes are not considered final until approved by the committee at the next regularly scheduled meeting.