

Walworth County Land Conservation Committee

MINUTES

Monday, June 16, 2008 at 1:30 p.m.

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

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

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

County staff present –David Bretl, Walworth 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; Robert Arnold, and Dorothy Burwell.

Supervisor Hawkins and Citizen Member Petersen moved and seconded approval of the agenda. The motion carried 3-0.

Supervisor Hawkins and Citizen Member Petersen moved and seconded approval of the May 19, 2008 minutes. The motion carried 3-0.

Public Comment – None

Lake Management District Representative Nominations – Michael Cotter said there was no interest at this time in serving on Benedict-Tombeau, Booth and Potters Lake Management Districts and suggested sending the remaining 5 that have interest shown to the County Board. Both Gerald Petersen and Rick Stacy have expressed interest in Lake Beulah. **Supervisor Hawkins and Citizen Member Petersen moved and seconded recommending to the County Board the following people to serve on Lake Management Districts: Dorothy Burwell – Lake Comus and Lauderdale Lakes; Roy Lightfield – Honey Lake; Jerry Grant – Whitewater/Rice Lake; Robert Arnold - Pleasant Lake. The motion carried 3-0.** There was a quorum issue regarding the Lake Beulah appointment. **A friendly amendment was made by Supervisor Hawkins and seconded by Chair Kilkenny to table all appointments to all Walworth County Lake Management Districts until the July 14, 2008 LCC Meeting. Motion carried 3-0.** Mr Bretl will again mention to the County Board/Executive Committee there are still openings.

Communication from Guardian Pipeline Regarding Expansion and Extension Project – Guardian Pipeline contractors have been working closely with Fay Amerson, Land Conservation Division to assure erosion control/stormwater measures are in place. Site preparation work has begun on compressor stations by Hwy 12 (LaGrange township) and on the corner of McCabe Road/Kettle Moraine Drive.

Working Lands Connection Newsletter – Louise Olson wanted to share the Working Lands Steering Committee findings including the importance of protecting existing farmland. In recent years, the rate of loss of farmland to development has increased by over 60%. Ms Olson also gave the information to Neal Frauenfelder to share with the Smart Growth Committee. The Working Lands Committee has looked at how to protect remaining farmland while encouraging sound economic development.

Article From Rod Nilsestuen, Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Regarding Farmland Preservation - DATCP Secretary Nilsestuen has been looking at ways to update and strengthen the Farmland Preservation Program through Planning and Zoning including exclusive agricultural zoning for participants; setting a flat per-acre tax credit instead of basing the credit on household income; establishing local planning grants; and purchasing of development rights. Louise Olson stressed the importance of Planning and Zoning Division in preserving farmland while balancing it with sound, compatible development. Ms Olson said she felt the best thing to do is to keep the LCC updated and involve the Smart Growth Committee. She said it was important to look at soil types when considering what is prime farmland. Citizen Member Petersen added that we are fortunate to have zoning controls in our county but that there may not be a level playing field with incorporated and unincorporated areas. Annexation is a problem when prime farmland is annexed. Mr Cotter said Mr Nilsestuen could be put on a future agenda to speak to the LCC.

Governor Doyle Signs the Great Lakes Compact – Michael Cotter said Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania are all on the verge of signing the compact. Ontario and Quebec have already adopted it. Wisconsin’s compact has language consistent with the other states. Mr Cotter said the compact is important since people are already looking enviously at Great Lakes water including Arizona and China; therefore, in the future we may consider drafting a resolution.

Next Meeting Date – Monday, July 14, 2008 1:30 P.M.

Adjournment - **On motion and second by Supervisor Hawkins and Citizen Member Petersen, Chairman Kilkenny adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:17 p.m. Motion carried 3-0.**

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