

Walworth County Land Conservation Committee

MINUTES

Monday, September 15, 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 1:35 p.m.

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

County staff present – 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; Rick Stacey, County Board Supervisor/ Lake Beulah Lake Management District Representative.

On motion by Chair Kilkenny, Supervisors Hawkins and Ingersoll moved and seconded approval of the agenda. The motion carried 5-0.

On motion by Chair Kilkenny, Supervisor Ingersoll and Citizen Member Burwell moved and seconded approval of the August 11, 2008 minutes. The motion carried 5-0.

Public Comment – Michael Cotter welcomed Mr Henningfeld who took Mr Papcke's place as USDA/FSA Representative since Mr Papcke passed away.

Lake Beulah Lake Management District Update – Well Number 7 Litigation – Supervisor Stacey asked for the LCC opinion on the litigation since he is both a Walworth County Board Supervisor, Village of East Troy district, and the Lake Beulah Lake Management District Representative for the county, causing a conflict, since the village and the town are suing each other. Michael Cotter said the LCC/County has no past positions on the issue because there was also a conflict with the last representative. The village needs water and the DNR originally approved the location of Well Number 7 (MW-1 on map), which is in an area annexed by the Village of East Troy and in close proximity to Beulah Lake. Since the well was approved and put in, other 15,000 square foot lot subdivisions are planned. All permits are through the DNR. Michael Cotter said the County view may be different from the Lake District view. Citizen Burwell suggested Supervisor Stacey abstain from any budget items or other items pertaining to the issue. Michael Cotter suggested Supervisor Stacey could abstain and bring it back to the LCC if they could provide help at a later date.

Southeastern Wisconsin Land Conservation Committee's Area Tour – Louise Olson said the September 4, 2008 Racine County tour was very interesting. It included 1,550 feet of Fox River streambank protection achieved at a cost of \$125,000. It was done in conjunction with Fox River Commission, Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, and Racine County Land Conservation. The Waterford Village Park project had streambank erosion due to high volume and foot traffic. Rock rip rap was installed to alleviate bank degradation on the Fox River. There were also rain gardens installed to control roof runoff and usage of native plants/shrubs. A wetland restoration, Eagle Lake Park was visited near Kansasville that helped address stormwater drainage, erosion, invasive species and fisheries problems. The next stop was a farm wetland restoration, 67 acres total with 40 acres of open water and 27 acres of native grass perimeters providing wildlife habitat and protection for Eagle Lake. The last project near Mt Pleasant is the Pike River Restoration, a 13-year project and is about half completed. It is providing flood protection for homes and businesses and water quality protection, and habitat improvement in the river system. The

project also includes buffering and allows for many recreational opportunities including trails and walking paths. Ms Olson said we will be hosting the 2009 tour and hope to center it around conservation projects around Geneva Lake.

Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association “Thursday Note” – Louise Olson said she has given the association each committee members’ name and asked that they tell her if they are not receiving their issue. Citizen Member Burwell also reminded the committee to let her know if they have a resolution they would like the WLWCA to pursue.

Correspondence from Forest County and Oconto County Opposing the Forest-Wide Travel Management Project Plan in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest - Citizen Member Burwell said she fully understands that this is a northern Wisconsin issue, but that we may want their support on one of our future issues. She feels they are going through great economic hardship but does not feel she is environmentally up to speed on the issue. **On motion by Citizen Member Burwell and seconded by Supervisor Hawkins, the LCC Committee will ask the WLWCA for their opinion to support the Forest County and Oconto County opposition to the forest-wide travel management project plan in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest and send their answer back to the LCC Committee for further action. Motion carried 5-0.**

Nancy Russell explained the issue was closing roads in the national forest and logging. USDA/FSA Representative Henningfeld added that unmanaged forests were part of the fire problem in western states.

Correspondence from Gathering Waters Conservancy Requesting Support for the Great Lake Gatherings – Michael Cotter said the Gathering Waters Conservancy was requesting a donation of \$500 to support the event. Louise Olson said it was not in the budget, but we could ask the Finance Committee to put it in the County Board budget. Chair Kilkenny suggested asking County Board Chair Russell to send a letter thanking them for the offer, but declining sending them a donation at this time.

Working Lands Initiative Conference – Louise Olson will be going to the conference on September 29, leaving at 6:15 a.m. – 6:30 a.m., driving to Stevens Point and returning the same day. Committee members should let her know if they care to attend. Nancy Russell will also be going.

WLWCA Convention – The convention will be held December 10-12 2008 at the Radison Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton. Ms Olson handed out the program agenda. Registration is \$225.00. Dorothy Burwell will be attending as the Southeast Area Land and Water Conservation Association and Walworth County representative. Ms Olson reminded the Committee that auction items are needed from local businesses for the convention auction. There is no dollar value cap and any item would be appreciated. She urged Committee members to call any local businesses that may be willing to donate an item and get in contact with either Ms Burwell or Ms Olson.

Next Meeting Date – Monday, October 20, 2008 1:30 P.M.

Adjournment - **On motion and second by Supervisor Hawkins and Citizen Member Burwell, Chair Kilkenny adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:27 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.**

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