

Walworth County Land Conservation Committee

MINUTES

Monday, May 18 2009 at 1:30 p.m.

Walworth County Government Center
County Board Room
Elkhorn, WI 53121

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kilkenny at 1:34 p.m.

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

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

Also in attendance – Nancy Russell, Walworth County Board Chair; Theodore Peters, Geneva Lake Environmental Agency/President, Linn Sanitary District; Sean Hunsen, Geneva Lake Environmental Agency Intern; Tim Lizotte, WDNR; Greg Igl, USDA/NRCS

Supervisors Hawkins and Ingersoll moved and seconded approval of the agenda. The motion carried 4-0.

Supervisor Hawkins and Ingersoll moved and seconded approval of the February 16, 2009 minutes. The motion carried 4-0.

Public Comment – none

Communication/Power Point Presentation from the Geneva Lake Environmental Agency (GLEA) – Theodore Peters, Executive Director of the Geneva Lake Environmental Agency (GLEA) and President, Linn Sanitary District spoke about the groundwater flow model of the Lake Geneva Area. GLEA was created the early 1970's and is an inter-municipal agency dealing with environmental issues affecting the Geneva Lake Watershed. Although the flow model dealt with Geneva Lake, it also provided a better understanding of southern groundwater systems in Walworth County and where groundwater feeding Geneva Lake comes from. GLEA created the model in conjunction with Madeline Gotkowitz, scientist for Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, UWEX, with support from area towns, villages, lake associations, corporations USGS Water Science Center and SEWRPC. The model improved understanding of how much groundwater reaches the lake, (about 36% inflows from groundwater); how groundwater pumping affects the lake, (reduces lake inflows by 4%); how it affects nearby streams, (reduces inflow to streams by 9% with 3 of 10 streams by a high percentage); and how climate variations affects the lake, (extremes in precipitation have a large impact on lake). Groundwater recharge in the Geneva Lake watershed was mapped showing areas with high infiltration rates. Mr Peters said the model could be used to determine the outcome of putting in an industrial development or high capacity well, and said sensitive, high infiltration areas most need protection from chemicals, heavy metals, etc. leaching into groundwater. Inflow and outflow data was collected from streams. Local, observation wells and high capacity wells provided additional data. GLEA wanted to know where the water was coming from, what were the contributors, how much they contributed, and also where the water was going when leaving the lake and how it left the lake. Lake levels are contingent on the formula: groundwater into the lake plus precipitation, plus stream base flow plus surface water runoff equals groundwater out plus evaporation plus surface water out. Study methods included a computer model based on regional hydrogeology of southeast Wisconsin, looking at land surface, shallow aquifer, the aquitard (under eastern part of lake), and deep bedrock aquifer. The aquitard under Waukesha County contributes to some of their problems. The model was calibrated with 796 observations of groundwater elevations. Model simulations included the calibrated model from 1990's pumping records as their base; predevelopment where no pumping was done; 2006 pumping; future conditions in 2035 (assuming an increase of 30% in pumping); and wet and dry years simulated. Model results showed groundwater elevations, total volume of inflows and outflows, the area of the lake contributing to groundwater, and streams baseflow. Mr Peters said the largest contributing factor to lake inflows (38%) was from precipitation. Peters was surprised to learn that groundwater contributed 36%, with the balance from surface water runoff (19%) and stream baseflow (7%). Geneva Lake is 13 feet higher than it was in 1894 when it was dammed. Lake outflows (4.5 million cubic feet) were primarily from the White River (64%), evaporation (35%) and only 1% from groundwater. This is a 4% reduction in total annual flow from predevelopment conditions. Pumping predicted

for 2035 decreases lake outflows by an additional 0.5%. In comparison to other counties like Waukesha who must recharge from as far away as Jefferson as their wells draw down their deep aquifer, Geneva Lake's recharge is much quicker and has interaction between shallow and deep aquifers. In future years after 2035 as conditions change, Geneva Lake may also require recharging from further away. Chair Kilkenny asked if septic systems and sanitary districts had an impact on the quantity of groundwater. Mr Peters said it is fairly neutral quantity-wise and private septic systems properly maintained can be better than large systems. However, water quality needs to be part of the equation.

LWRM Plan & First CAC Meeting Update – Louise Olson is absent, excused. **Supervisor Hawkins and Citizen Member Burwell made a motion to table. Motion carried 4-0.**

WLWCA Budget Shortfall – Executive Director Julian Zelazny's status will temporarily be changed to part time through October. Citizen Member Burwell said the Land and Water Board being changed from a board to a council will have ramifications that will need monitoring. No action is necessary at this time.

Federal Emergency Management Agency Correspondence related to the final Flood Elevation Determination for the Unincorporated Areas of Walworth County – Referred from County Board. Michael Cotter said Deb Grube is the point person and is waiting to put changes to floodplain areas on our maps. No action necessary at this time.

April 13, 2009 Correspondence from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) related to the Wisconsin Deer Donation Program – Tim Lizotte, WDNR is hoping to have those counties with CWD become active in the Deer Donation Program since all donated deer are tested for CWD and it has been found there are no health risks to humans. If Walworth County were to take on the program, there would be a pass through of money, no liability, and no additional work or funds needed from the county. There would be an annual meeting to approve payments. There has been some problem finding butchers willing to process the deer which must be kept separate. In Walworth County, Bob Block in Delavan who is unlicensed does do deer butchering. It would be necessary for him to become licensed by USDA Department of Agriculture if he butchers for the Deer Donation Program. The deer would be donated to the food pantries in Walworth County. Last year the program had almost 1,000 pounds of venison donated statewide. Michael Cotter suggested putting the Deer Donation Program on another agenda. Mr Lizotte asked to be present.

April 9, 2009 Correspondence from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development regarding USDA Rural Development Wisconsin Annual Report - Michael Cotter said the item is information only, no action needed. Mr Cotter added attending one of the openings which is similar for Habitat for Humanity is very worthwhile. Art Gonzales is the coordinator to contact to attend.

Communication from the Delavan Lake Improvement Association - Michael Cotter said the item is information only, no action needed.

Statewide Ban on Phosphorus Lawn Fertilizers – Michael Cotter suggested taking time to read Act 9. This is a time when lobbying efforts have proven beneficial. The LCC made it known that a statewide ban was needed and Julian Zelazny did a lot of work to make the ban happen.

Next Meeting Date – Monday, June 15, 2009 1:30 p.m..

Adjournment - **On motion and second by Supervisors Hawkins and Ingersoll, Chair Kilkenny adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:35 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.