

Walworth County Land Conservation Committee

MINUTES

Monday, February 20, 2012 at 1:30 p.m.

Walworth County Board Room 114

Elkhorn, WI 53121

The meeting was called to order by LCC Chair Kilkenny at 1:30 p.m.

Roll call - Committee members present included: Supervisors, Kilkenny, Grant, Citizen Member Burwell and USDA/FSA Representative Bellman. Supervisor Hawkins was absent. 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; Fay Amerson, Urban Manager; Deb Grube, Sr. Zoning Officer; Neal Frauenfelder, Sr. Planner; and Joann Douglas, Recording Secretary.

Also in attendance – Nancy Russell, Walworth County Board Chair; Carl Redenius, CZA member; Jody, Godfrey Law Office; an unidentified person who did not sign in.

Approval of the Agenda – **Supervisor Grant and USDA/FSA Representative Bellman moved and seconded approval of the agenda. Motion carried 4-0.**

Approval of the Minutes – **Citizen Member Burwell and Supervisor Grant moved and seconded approval of the January 16, 2012 LCC meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 4-0.**

Public Comment – none

Ordinance Amendment for Agricultural Structures - Discussion ensued regarding a proposed zoning ordinance amendment to reduce agricultural setbacks to buildings where animals are housed, as CZA is looking for a recommendation from the LCC. Points brought up were to be less restrictive, the conditional use is overly burdensome and costly and the overall animal unit per acre should be reviewed. It will be brought back before the LCC at the next meeting with recommendations from staff.

Land Conservation Division 2011 Annual Report – An annual report to the state from the LCC is a requirement under s.s. Ch. 92. Staff provided a copy of the report. **Supervisor Grant and Citizen Member Burwell moved and seconded placing the report on file. Motion carried 4-0.**

Communication Received from Secretary Ben Brancel, DATCP, Acknowledging Receipt of Resolution No. 77-01/12 – Opposing Further Land Conservation Staffing Grant Cuts – Louise Olson said that although Secretary Brancel did acknowledge receipt of the resolution, the cuts went through and the resolution was ignored. **Supervisor Grant and Citizen Member Burwell moved and seconded placing the correspondence on file. Motion carried 4-0.**

Farmland Preservation Plan Strategy and Legal Opinion – David Bretl said the legal opinion should be completed in approximately one week. It was decided after the legal opinion is given, a meeting will be planned with Kenosha County prior to scheduling a meeting with Secretary Brancel, DATCP. At this time, no action is required. However, if necessary, a special meeting could be called prior to the March LCC meeting.

Proposed ordinance amendment to Chapter 2 regarding Land Conservation Committee staff designation of responsibilities to County Conservationist – Michael Cotter said the language for a resolution brought up during the last LCC meeting to go before the Executive Committee was: to “review all Non-Walworth

County Conservation grant applications and forward a recommendation to the Walworth County Board of Supervisors. In cases where time limits prevent full board review, the Walworth County – County Conservationist may consider, respond, and endorse Non-Walworth County Conservation Grant applications after consulting Walworth County planning documents and general conservation practices.”

New LCC Draft for February 2012 meeting to be considered:

(5) The county soil and water conservation staff is responsible for the administration of the county soil and water conservation program and may exercise the powers granted to the land conservation committee under s.s 92.07. Staff will present Chapter 2 changes in language to present to the Executive Committee.

Citizen Member Burwell and Supervisor Grant moved and seconded to approve the language in item 5 and sending on to the Executive Committee. Motion carried 4-0.

DNR Stormwater Grant – Louise Olson said this grant was applied for in the past but was not awarded to Walworth County; it is a grant with a 50% match utilizing existing staff. Changes in criteria for the grant may make the state more receptive to our grant application. **Citizen Member Burwell and Supervisor Grant moved and seconded approval of the grant application to go on to the Walworth County Board. Motion carried 4-0.**

Next Meeting Date – Monday, March 19, 2012 at 1:30 p.m.

Adjournment – **On motion and second by Supervisors Grant and Citizen Member Burwell, Chair Kilkenny adjourned the meeting at 2:30 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.