

Walworth County Land Conservation Committee
MINUTES

Monday, January 16, 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, Hawkins, Citizen Member Burwell and USDA/FSA Representative Bellman. 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; Neal Frauenfelder, Sr. Planner; and Joeann Douglas, Recording Secretary.

Also in attendance – Nancy Russell, Walworth County Board Chair.

Approval of the Agenda – **Supervisor Hawkins and Grant moved and seconded approval of the agenda. Motion carried 5-0.**

Approval of the Minutes – **Supervisor Grant and Citizen Member Burwell moved and seconded approval of the December 19, 2011 LCC meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 5-0.**

Public Comment – none

Lake District County Representative Ordinance Amendment – Dorothy Burwell. Discussion ensued regarding an ordinance amendment to assure the lake district representative had no conflicts of interest and acted as an agent of the county. Chapter 33 states there should be a representative from the lake district, a representative from the town or municipality and a representative from the county. **Citizen Member Burwell and Supervisor Hawkins moved and seconded to have staff amend the ordinance to say that a Lake District Citizen Member County Representative could not reside in the lake district they represented unless they were also an elected County Board member.** Michael Cotter will take the amendment to the Walworth County Board at the February meeting for approval. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Codification of Resolutions and/or Endorsements of Stewardship Grant Applications – Michael Cotter; Discussion took place regarding the stewardship grant applications. It was agreed they were well vetted by DNR before coming to the county, but there should still be codification. These are third party grant applications with no county budget implications. **Supervisor Hawkins and Grant moved and seconded having staff draft an ordinance amendment consistent with LCC discussions, and send it to the Executive Committee with a copy to the LCC. The Walworth County Conservationist, when there are time constraints at the county committees, may consider, respond and endorse third party grant applications on behalf of the Walworth County Board, after consulting Walworth county plans and general conservation practices. Motion carried 5-0.**

Farmland Preservation Plan Strategy with Kenosha County – Neal Frauenfelder said the Farmland Preservation Plan has not been certified by the state with the major sticking point being a zoning issue. Many of the tracts in Walworth and Kenosha County Farmland Preservation have multiple zoning jurisdictions (670 in Walworth County) and could lose eligibility if the plan is changed to all farmland preservation tracts having one zoning jurisdiction. In doing this, it would be necessary to change the C-2 zoning requirement from 5 acre to a 20 acre density requirement. At the meeting with Kenosha County a

strategy was developed for certification that focused on three major issues: 1. Does the state statute require DATCP approval of a farmland preservation plan? 2. Does the state statute require an entire parcel to be in a farmland preservation area and farmland preservation zoning district(s)? 3. Does the state statute, Chapter 91, indicate that the Farmland Preservation Plan supersedes the county's Comprehensive Land Use Plan? Both counties will ask for legal opinions from Corporation Counsel. Once legal opinions are given, a second meeting with Kenosha County and Walworth County will take place prior to a meeting being set up with Ben Brancel, DATCP. If this option does not provide a successful outcome, the counties would then try to encourage farmers, landowners, towns, local representatives, etc. to become pro-active with the state to change their interpretation and requirements set forth by DATCP staff.

Next Meeting Date – Monday, February 20, 2012 at 1:30 p.m.

Adjournment – **On motion and second by Supervisors Hawkins and Grant Chair Kilkenny adjourned the meeting at 2:39 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.**

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