

**Walworth County Land Conservation Committee**

**MINUTES**

Monday, March 19, 2012 at 1:30 p.m.

Walworth County Board Room 114

Elkhorn, WI 53121

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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; 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;

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

Approval of the Minutes – **Citizen Member Burwell and Supervisor Grant moved and seconded approval of the February 20, 2012 LCC meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 5-0.**

Public Comment – none

Notice of Noncompliance Farmland Preservation Program: William Wright, Elizabeth Smith Life Estate, and Harry and Helen Boehning – Louise Olson said William Wright's operator chooses to not follow a nutrient management plan (a pre-requisite) and Elizabeth Smith Life Estate and Harry and Helen Boehning both are not taking the tax credit. **Supervisor Grant and Citizen Member Burwell moved and seconded to approve for this public hearing, as recorded, for these people to not take part in the Farmland Preservation Program and to accept their voluntary abandonment of the Farmland Preservation Program. Motion carried 5-0.**

Rapid Assessment of the Economic Value of Wisconsin's Wetlands – Louise Olson said the report was sent to the legislators by the Wisconsin Wetlands Association. Ms. Olson also sent it to Neal Kedzie's aide with no response from his office. **Citizen Member Burwell and Supervisor Hawkins moved and seconded to have staff send a letter on behalf of the LCC to Walworth County's legislators supporting the Wetlands Economic Value study and wetlands preservation. Motion carried 5-0**

Farmland Preservation Program Update – David Bretl said he contacted Kenosha County Corporation Council regarding their legal opinion and sent them his draft legal opinion. His draft will be sent to the LURM staff prior to finalizing it. Neal Frauenfelder said it was his understanding that after the legal opinions are given by Mr. Bretl and Kenosha County Corporation Council, staff will meet with Kenosha County prior to scheduling a meeting with Secretary Brancel, DATCP. At this time, no action is required.

Ordinance Amendment for Agricultural Structures - Discussion ensued regarding a proposed zoning ordinance amendment to reduce agricultural setbacks to buildings where animals are housed. CZA is looking for further guidance from the LCC regarding the small animal units such as chickens. Currently, each acre could house 100 chicken animal units. Discussion followed. Michael Cotter explained the process is a long way from being completed and the proposal must go from CZA to the towns then back to CZA for a public hearing and after the hearing to the full county board for a vote. **Supervisors Grant**

**and Hawkins moved and seconded to suggest not changing the animal units numbers and forward it back to CZA for further processing.** Further discussion followed regarding cost of a conditional use and the expense for a few fowl. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Next Meeting Date – Monday, April 23, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment – **On motion and second by Supervisors Hawkins and Citizen Member Burwell, Chair Kilkenny adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.**

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