

## Walworth County Land Conservation Committee Meeting

### MINUTES

Monday, September 17, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.

Walworth County Board room 114

Elkhorn, WI 53121

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The LCC Meeting was called to order by chair Kilkenny at 2:00 p.m.

Roll Call – Committee members present included: Supervisors Kilkenny, Russell, and Schiefelbein; Citizen Member Badame; and USDA, FSA Representative Sue Bellman. A quorum was declared.

County Staff present – David Bretl, County Administrator; Louise Olson, Deputy Director, Land Use & Resource Management (LURM); Fay Amerson, Urban Manager, LURM; and Joeann Douglas, Recording Secretary.

Also in attendance – Merilee Holst, Geneva Lake Conservancy; Lynn Ketterhagen, Geneva Lake Conservancy; and Sarah Schuster, Geneva Lake Conservancy

Approval of Agenda – **Supervisors Russell and Schiefelbein moved and seconded approval of the agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0.**

Approval of Minutes – **Supervisor Schiefelbein and Citizen Member Badame moved and seconded approval of the July 16, 2012 minutes. Motion carried 5-0.**

Public Comment – None

Certification of the Walworth County Farmland Preservation Plan – Louise Olson said Farmland Preservation certification has been received and we can now start implementing the soil and water conservation and nutrient management requirements that go hand in hand with the Farmland Preservation program. DATCP's needs for the plan were satisfied after meeting with them in Madison with the help of the IT Department for map compliance issues and no further changes were necessary.

ACE, McHenry County, IL discussion – Nancy Russell and Rosemary Badame both attended the meeting held in McHenry County, Woodstock, IL to compare how counties meet challenges such as local production of food by encouraging sustainable local food production and processing, farmland protection, access to food by eliminating food deserts, and creating awareness about local food through education. The purchase of development rights was also discussed. None of the counties have enough money to do anything substantial regarding development rights. Walworth County has encouraged that through our zoning which allows farm families to have businesses where they are producing and selling to the general public. It keeps agriculture strong in our county, provides an income source for farmers, and is also good for tourism.

Southeast Area Land and Water Conservation Tour, Wednesday, October 17, 2012; host, Kenosha County – Louise Olson asked that anyone wishing to attend let her know by the first week in October. Rosemary Badame will be attending. Others will check their schedules.

DNR Nonmetallic Mining Performance Review report for Walworth County – Louise Olson said there were two inspections completed by the Department of Natural Resources when we were audited on our nonmetallic mining program. Presently we cannot discuss the Baker Site because we have received notification that Baker would like to have a hearing. We have 15 days and must have the hearing by Friday, September 28, 2012. Our intent is to present it before the Land Conservation Committee to hear all the findings. Ms. Olson did submit the final DNR review, August 31, 2012 of our entire audit that indicates we are in compliance. Fay Amerson reviewed the conclusions and recommendations in the audit report. The DNR concluded that Walworth County is currently administering the Nonmetallic Mining Program in substantial compliance with State requirements.

Hackmatack Named Chicago Region's First National Wildlife Refuge – Louise Olson wanted the committee to be aware of the project, and said we have not been active in this proposal. She introduced Lynn Ketterhagen from the Geneva Lake Conservancy who has attended a recent Hackmatack meeting. Lynn said the majority of the Hackmatack corridor is in Bloomfield township with another section in Linn township. She wanted to know if there is any collaboration work they can do to be more involved. Nancy Russell suggested making sure it is in the Park and Open Space Plan. Sarah Schuster, Geneva Lake Conservancy also spoke regarding land acquisition. No land has been purchased yet but two parcels are being looked at for acquisition. One is in Genoa City just north of the German Settlement. Money, approximately \$29 million, comes from the Federal Duck Stamp fund and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The Illinois DNR has also made \$5 million dollars available for their side.

Results of DATCP County Survey of Impacts Related To Reductions in State Funding – Louise Olson said DATCP sent out a survey to determine the county's funding concerns. Bottom line is more work, less people, less funding from the state. The survey concerns were shared with the DATCP Director who in turn will share with the Board and others.

Next Meeting Date – Ms. Olson notified the LCC that there will be a special Hearing meeting on Friday, September 28, 2012 at 1 p.m. David Bretl spoke briefly regarding conducting a formal and somewhat more adversarial hearing than is usually the case. Mr. Bretl said the LCC will be the decision makers and urged the committee to check their calendars to make sure they were available, and to allow sufficient time for the hearing. Chair Kilkenny also reminded them that discussion is not allowed until the hearing takes place. The regularly scheduled October meeting is Monday, October 15, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment – **On motion and second by Supervisor Schiefelbein and Citizen Member Badame, Chair Kilkenny adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m. Motion carried 5-0**

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