

Walworth County Land Conservation Committee

MINUTES

April 21, 2014 – 2:00 p.m.

County Board Room 114 – Government Center
Elkhorn, Wisconsin

The meeting was called to order by LURM Director Michael Cotter at 2:00 p.m.

Roll call - Committee members present included: Supervisors, Kilkenny, Russell, Staples. USDA/FSA Representative Leedle and Citizen Member Badame. 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; and Wendy Boettcher, Recording Secretary.

Others present – Greg Igl, NRCS/ Area Representative, David Gundlach, NRCS Acting DC, Merilee Holst.

Approval of the agenda was moved and seconded by Kilkenny and Russell, with no withdrawals, and carried 5 – 0.

Approval of the February 17, 2014 Land Conservation Committee meeting minutes were moved and seconded by Kilkenny and Russell, with no withdrawals, and carried 5 – 0.

Public comment: None.

Chairperson Nominations/Elections – **Supervisor Kilkenny nominated Supervisor Nancy Russell, seconded by Badame; there were no other nominations. Nominations were closed. Motion carried 5-0**

Supervisor Kilkenny moved to close nominations and asked for unanimous consent for the election of Supervisor Nancy Russell as Chair. Seconded by Supervisor Staples. Motion carried 5-0

Vice-Chairperson Nominations/Elections – **Supervisor Kilkenny nominated Charlene Staples as Vice-chair, seconded by Badame. There were no other nominations. Nominations were closed. Motion carried 5-0.**

Supervisor Kilkenny moved to close nominations and appoint Charlene Staples as Vice-Chair by unanimous consent. Seconded by Badame. Motion carried. 5-0.

Role and Responsibilities of the Land Conservation Committee - Louise Olson briefly reviewed the LCC's programs and statutory requirements and offered to talk with anyone who had questions. The roles and responsibilities booklet have been distributed and briefly reviewed at the meeting.

Walworth County Lake Districts, 2014 – Louise Olson said she had started contacting people who were incumbents or showed interest; all incumbent citizen members expressed interest in the various lake districts. First choice to sit on a lake district goes to interested LCC members

followed by county board members and then interested citizens. Chair Kilkenny said he would be interested in Lake Comus for another term. Mr. Bretl will be sending a letter with the list of interested individuals and notifying county board members of their right to request appointments to the various Lake District positions. Selections would then go to the County Board as appointments.

Discussion/Possible Action – 2014 USDA Farm Bill Highlights – Louise Olson (enclosure) Olson introduced USDA/ NRCS Representative Greg Igl to address the recent Farm Bill Highlights with more to come.

NRCS District Conservationist Greg Igl commented on the 2014 Farm Bill, the NRCS WI Report 2013, and announced staff changes. Greg Igl is now an Area Resource Conservationist responsible for 18 counties. David Gundlach, a District Conservationist in Rock County, will take on Greg Igl's responsibilities in Walworth County. Also a new soil conservationist will be hired for the Elkhorn USDA office.

Discussion/Possible Action - 2013 summary of Wisconsin conservation from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (enclosure)

Some highlights this year, in addition to program reports:

- Winter Bale Grazing in Waupaca, Wisconsin – page 4
- Landscape Initiatives – Great Lakes and Phosphorus Reduction in the Fox River, Green Bay, page 10-11
- Top 40 Conservation Practices - Page 18-19

Discussion/Possible Action - “WLWCA Opposes Changes to Existing Regulations of High Capacity Well Permits until the Completion Of DNR Initiated Groundwater Studies.” – Lou Olson (enclosure). No action was taken.

Chairperson Russell did not have any announcements but did ask the LURM conservation staff attend a future meeting in order to give the Committee a rundown of the responsibilities of the LURM conservation staff.

The next regular meeting of the Land Conservation Committee was confirmed for Monday, May 19, 2014, 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment. On motion and second by Supervisor Kilkenny and Citizen Member Badame, Chairperson Russell adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Oldenburg/ Boettcher, LURM Assistant.
These minutes are subject to approval by the committee.