

**Walworth County Board of Supervisors
November 17, 2014 Land Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
Walworth County Government Center, County Board Room 114
100 W. Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Nancy Russell at 2:07 p.m.

Roll call was conducted. Members present included Chair Nancy Russell, Vice Chair Charlene Staples, Supervisor Dan Kilkenny, Citizen Member Rosemary Badame and USDA/FSA Representative William Leedle. A quorum was declared.

Others in Attendance:

County Staff: Louise Olson, Deputy Director, Land Use and Resource Management (LURM); Fay Amerson, Urban Conservation Specialist; Michael Cotter, Deputy Corporation Counsel/Director of LURM; David Bretl, County Administrator

Members of the public: Merilee Holst, Geneva Lake Conservancy

On motion by Vice Chair Staples and second by Citizen Member Badame, the agenda was approved with no withdrawals. 5-0

On motion by Supervisor Kilkenny and second by Citizen Member Badame, the October 20, 2014 minutes were approved by voice vote.

Public Comment – None.

New Business

- Discussion/Possible Action – Resolution authorizing signatory for Walworth County Land Conservation Division

Director of LURM Michael Cotter reported that Louise Olson will retire in January after many years of dedicated service. Cotter expressed his gratitude for all Ms. Olson has done for the County. One of her many duties as County Conservationist was being the authorized signatory for grants and all other associated documents necessary in grant administration on behalf of the County and the Land Use and Resource Management Department. Cotter said the draft resolution in the packet authorizes the Director of LURM and Deputy Director of LURM to sign those documents. In the absence of the Director or Deputy Director, the Chairperson of the Land Conservation Committee would have authority to sign.

Supervisor Kilkenny made a motion to approve the Resolution supporting a change to the “Authorized Representative” signatory for the Administration of Grant Programs on behalf of the Walworth County Land Use and Resource Management Department. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Staples and carried 5-0. Chair Russell thanked Ms. Olson and invited her to attend the December County Board of Supervisors meeting, as the Board will be honoring retiring managers and department heads.

- Discussion/Possible Action – Wisconsin Water Star Program – Fay Amerson
Urban Conservation Specialist Fay Amerson reported that the Water Star program was launched in Wisconsin approximately eight years ago. The program’s purpose is to recognize communities for their outstanding efforts in protecting water resources. Amerson completed the lengthy application process to register the County, which addressed surface waters, ground water, recreation and education. She interviewed officials at the Walworth County Public Works and Public Health Departments, University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Service, the Geneva Lakes Environmental Agency and Mukwonago River Partnership to obtain information on their activities to protect and improve water resources. The

documentation of the efforts, programs and actions conducted by each of these entities earned Walworth County the designation of Silver Water Star Community. There are 27 communities in Wisconsin who are Water Star communities, and Dane and Waukesha are the only other counties to receive the designation.

Amerson reported that during the application process she learned that there is much that can be implemented to improve water resources, such as installing culverts allowing fish passage and water conservation fixtures in buildings. The County received a great number of points for our nutrient management and invasive species programs. Amerson said that the designation will assist the County in future grant applications and will help launch education programs. **Supervisor Kilkenny made a motion, seconded by Citizen Member Badame, to accept the Silver Water Star Community award. The motion carried 5-0.** The award will be presented at the December County Board meeting, and Chair Russell asked if Ms. Amerson could provide a brief summary to the Board explaining the criteria for the award and the effort put into the application.

Next Meeting – Tentatively scheduled for Monday, December 15, 2014; 2:00 p.m. Mr. Cotter will notify the Committee if there is no need for a December meeting.

Adjournment

On motion by Vice Chair Staples and second by Citizen Member Badame, the meeting adjourned at 2:23 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Submitted by Becky Bechtel, Administrative Clerk. Meeting minutes are not considered final until approved by the committee at the next regularly scheduled meeting.