

Walworth County Board of Supervisors
October 20, 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 2:04 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: Deputy Director of LURM Louise Olson; Fay Amerson, Urban Conservation Specialist; David Bretl, County Administrator; Michael Cotter, Deputy Corporation Counsel/Director of LURM
Members of the public: C. Lars Olson

On motion by Vice Chair Staples, seconded by Citizen Member Badame, the agenda was approved with no withdrawals.

On motion by Supervisor Staples, seconded by Supervisor Kilkenny, the September 15, 2014 minutes were approved by voice vote.

Public Comment – None.

New Business

- Discussion/Possible Action – 2013 Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Annual Progress Report – Louise Olson

Deputy Director Louise Olson distributed the report from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP).

- Discussion/Possible Action – RCPP Program for Walworth County and Letter of Support – Louise Olson

The purpose of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is to address primary resource concerns of water quality and soil health in the Upper Mississippi River Basin. This is a cooperative partnership program led by the Missouri Department of Agriculture between Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin. The federal government administers the program, and approval of funding assistance is contingent upon meeting USDA standards and specifications. Walworth County's share for RCPP eligible landowners and farmers is \$48,596 per year from 2015-2019. Olson added that this is not a compliance enforcement project. **Supervisor Kilkenny made a motion to support the letter of commitment from Walworth County to participate in the RCPP. The motion was seconded by Citizen Member Badame and it carried 5-0.**

- Discussion/Possible Action – DATCP Report October 2014 – Louise Olson

Olson said the Committee members will receive the report via email or regular mail and noted that the County's Land and Water Resource Management Plan is due in 2015. The Committee will receive options for a 10 year plan or a 5 year renewal. This plan will report what is accomplished and it earmarks any funds coming in to Walworth County not just for staffing but for implementation of conservation practices. The animal waste storage ordinance will also be looked at by the Department of Agriculture in 2015 to be sure it is in compliance with all the rules and regulations. No action is required at this time but it should be noted on calendars.

- Discussion/Possible Action – Land Conservation staff funding – Louise Olson
The Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association report states that funding for conservation staff is reduced in DATCP’s budget and urges support to restore full funding for state aid to county departments. A copy of LCC’s budget/financial plan was included in the meeting packet.

- Discussion/Possible Action – Wildlife Abatement Contractual Agreement for 2015 FY & Crop prices – Louise Olson

The county has an agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for wildlife abatement to reimburse landowners for deer, geese and bear damage to crops. The USDA is responsible for measuring and estimating crop damage by wildlife. Olson referred to the pricing in the proposal, noting that the committee can accept the USDA pricing, the October 2013 pricing or an average of both. The pricing is then fixed at the rate chosen for one year. The County receives \$250 from the DNR to coordinate the program. **Supervisor Kilkenny made a motion to approve the Wildlife Abatement contract with the average crop pricing of the 2013 fall and present USDA prices. The motion was seconded by Citizen Member Badame and it carried 5-0.**

- Discussion/Possible Action – Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance – Chapter 26, Article VI – Review of Determination per Statute sec. 68.11- Fay Amerson

Urban Manager Fay Amerson reported that the ordinance reevaluation followed a request to review a departmental decision concerning a pit in Walworth County. Because the decision review process is relatively new territory, Amerson requested input from the DNR. The DNR reviewed the issues and made very few recommendations, except that Chapter 68 of the Wisconsin Statutes concerning appeals to decisions must be followed. Amerson recommended that the County request the DNR to provide guidance on any appeals it receives, as per NR 135 of the Administrative Code. The DNR suggested that the word “may” be inserted on Line 16 rather than “shall” concerning requesting an opinion of the DNR in a dispute. Amerson also noted that on Lines 17 and 18 the second reference to “the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources” should be deleted. **Supervisor Kilkenny made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Staples, to approve the Ordinance with the second reference to “the Wisconsin Department of Revenue” on Lines 17 and 18 removed. The motion carried 5-0.**

Confirmation of Next Meeting

Monday, November 17, 2014; 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment

On motion by Supervisor Kilkenny, second by Citizen Member Badame, the meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.