

**Walworth County Board of Supervisors
Land Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 20, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.
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, USDA/FSA Representative Matt Polyock and Citizen Member Rosemary Badame. A quorum was declared.

Others in Attendance:

County Staff: Michael Cotter, Director of Land Use and Resource Management (LURM)/Deputy Corporation Counsel; David Bretl, County Administrator; Fay Amerson, LURM Urban Manager; Brian Smetana, LURM Senior Rural Technician

On motion by Supervisor Kilkenny, second by Supervisor Staples, the agenda was approved with no withdrawals.

On motion by Supervisor Kilkenny, second by Citizen Member Badame, the June 15, 2015 Land Conservation Committee meeting minutes were approved by voice vote.

Public Comment – There was none.

New Business

- Discussion/Possible Action – Walworth County Land and Water Resource Management Plan – 5 Year Extension Presentation – Fay Amerson

Fay Amerson, LURM Urban Manager, and Brian Smetana, LURM Senior Rural Technician, presented the Walworth County Land and Water Resource Management Plan – 5 Year Extension Presentation that is scheduled for presentation before the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board on August 4th. The presentation is a requirement to renew and receive funding for the next five years. A handout of the presentation was distributed at the meeting.

Amerson explained the application form, checklist, and 5-Year Work Plan that was submitted to the Department of Agriculture in order to appear on their agenda. She stated they will be allotted 20 minutes for their presentation and they were asked to limit the slides to 20. She said there are five counties applying for an extension and Walworth County will be the first presentation. Amerson stated it was important to prove to the Board that the plan was intended to be through year 2020 to qualify for the five year extension. She gave a brief explanation of the seven goals within the Land and Water Resource Management Plan. Smetana presented both the structural and educational accomplishments that were achieved with Walworth County's assistance over the past five years. Amerson spoke of the Land Conservation Division and the many programs that protect the lakes within Walworth County. She stated that Audrey Green monitors the lakes for the presence of aquatic invasive species and provides the public with educational information. Smetana spoke about grassed waterways that provide water quality protection, animal waste, and nutrient management programs. Amerson spoke briefly on construction erosion control permits, infiltration on new development sites, and reclamation on most mining sites. She stated that approximately 400 landowners participate in the Farmland Preservation Program. Amerson highlighted the White River County Park acquisition and spoke briefly about the conservation design standards. Amerson stated Walworth County

was awarded the Silver Star relative to the Water Star Program issued to Wisconsin municipalities who do exemplary work protecting and managing groundwater and surface waters. Smetana stated Walworth County funds the conservation program using grant and program fees. He presented a chart showing the Land and Water Resource Management Plan Budget for 2010-2015 and the projected funds for 2016-2020. Amerson gave a brief overview of the goals for the next five years and concluded the presentation by recognizing the many conservation partners.

Chair Russell gave a few suggestions to Amerson and Smetana for their presentation. She suggested a contoured map showing the elevation changes, woods, agricultural land, etc. reflecting erosion and other challenges of Walworth County.

Amerson stated that every county is required to have a Land and Water Resource Management Plan to be eligible for the state funding. The Plan is written for a 10 year period and only approved for a 5 year period. The county is required to return every five years.

Confirmation of next meeting – The next meeting was confirmed for Monday, September 14, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment

On motion by Supervisor Kilkenny, second by Citizen Member Badame, the meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

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