

**Walworth County Board of Supervisors
Land Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 18, 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 2:17 p.m.

Roll call was conducted. Members present included Chair Nancy Russell, Supervisor Dan Kilkenny, USDA/FSA Representative Matt Polyock and Citizen Member Rosemary Badame. A quorum was declared. Charlene Staples arrived at 2:18 p.m.

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 Sr. Rural Technician; Supervisor Rick Stacey

On motion by Supervisor Kilkenny, second by Citizen Member Badame, the agenda was approved with no withdrawals.

On motion by Supervisor Kilkenny, second by USDA/FSA Representative Polyock, the April 27, 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 – Fay Amerson and Brian Smetana

Fay Amerson, LURM Urban Manager, stated the Board previously received the five year work plan that accompanies the Land and Water Resource Management Plan. The plan defines goals, objectives, tasks and activities the Land Conservation staff will implement over the next five years. The Land and Water Conservation Plan is a multi-year plan approved by the Department of Agriculture. Land Conservation will be requesting another five year extension while presenting the updated plan to the State in August. Amerson gave a brief overview of the memo and Draft 5-Year Work Plan that were distributed to committee members. She stated that “Groundwater” was added to Goal No. 1, and Item 6 under Objectives was added as recommended by Chair Russell recognizing farm operators for exemplary land and water conservation achievements. Objective No. 7 under Goal No. 2 was added to protect shorelands and waterways from adverse impact caused by development and vegetation removal and to assist the Walworth County Zoning Division with implementing the new shoreland zoning standards contained in NR 115. The word “Springs” was added to Goal No. 5. Objective No. 8 under Goal No. 6 was added to provide assistance to Walworth County Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTP) to achieve phosphorus reduction goals. Brian Smetana, LURM Sr. Rural Technician, stated the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is currently requiring all WWTP in the state to reduce phosphorus output. Amerson stated that staff hours were adjusted along with various editing corrections. Michael Cotter, Director of LURM/Deputy Corporation Counsel, mentioned the possibility of adding the Farmland Technology Days to this plan. Cotter offered the committee a viewing of the LURM power point that will be presented to the state. Chair Russell requested a viewing once LURM was ready to present it. **Supervisor Kilkenny made a motion, second by Citizen Member Badame, to approve the Walworth County Land and Water Resource Management Plan - 5 Year Extension with the caveat that the Walworth County Farm Technology Days Proposal be included. Motion carried 5-0.**

- Discussion/Possible Action – Walworth County Farm Certification Proposal – Nancy Russell
Cotter mentioned that Smetana added this matter to the previous proposal and motion. He suggested the process not include something that has to be purchased, shows favoritism, or applies pressure on a neighboring farm. Chair Russell asked Matt Polyock, USDA/FSA Representative, for his opinion. Polyock stated his original thought was that this would be a positive way to recognize farms that are following the requirements, but also agrees the program could also be the source of some challenges. Chair Russell stated farmers may not want to go through the tax credit process and this may be a way to get them involved. Cotter stated that LURM conducts a landscaper workshop that is well attended and there is an incentive to be placed on a list after going through the workshop. The 5-Year Work Plan is written to come up with the methodology for certification. Chair Russell asked LURM and the committee to think about a process that is fair and leaves little room for speculation.

- Discussion/Possible Action – DNR Approval of Amendment to Regional Water Quality Management Plan/Village of Walworth – Michael Cotter
Cotter informed the committee that this was approved and is merely informational. **Supervisor Kilkenny made a motion, second by Supervisor Staples, to place the DNR Approval of Amendment to Regional Water Quality Management Plan/Village of Walworth on file. Motion Carried 5-0**

- Discussion/Possible Action – Sewer Service Area Amendment / Village of Mukwonago – Michael Cotter
Cotter gave a brief overview of the Sewer Service Area Amendment for the Village of Mukwonago. He pointed out that the entire area is within the boundary agreement between the Village of Mukwonago and the Town of East Troy and that Neal Frauenfelder, LURM Senior Planner, performed his review and nothing warranted a notice to the DNR. **Supervisor Kilkenny made a motion, second by Citizen Member Badame, to place the Sewer Service Area Amendment/Village of Mukwonago on file. Motion carried 5-0**

- Discussion/Possible Action – Recognition of Greg Igl nearly 40 years with NRCS – Michael Cotter
Cotter briefly announced Greg Igl's retirement after approximately 40 years of service with National Resource Conservation Services (NRCS). Amerson stated that the retirement party will take place on Sunday, May 31st from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Sunset Park at the recreational multi-purpose facility located at 200 Devendorf Street, Elkhorn, WI 53121.

Confirmation of next meeting – The next meeting was confirmed for Monday, June 15, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment

On motion by Supervisor Kilkenny, second by Supervisor Staples, the meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.