

**COUNTY OF EAU CLAIRE
EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN
"NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING"**

In Accordance with the provisions of Chapter 19, subchapter IV, Wisconsin Statutes, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of the following public meeting:

THE LAND STEWARDSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

WILL MEET ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2018 TIME: 12:00 PM

PLACE: Room 203, Ag Resource Center, 227 1st St West, Altoona, WI 54720
CALL IN NUMBER: 855-947-8255 PASSCODE: 9251467#

OPEN SESSION

AGENDA

The Subcommittee will discuss and may act on any of the following items:

1. Call to Order by Chair
2. Approve Minutes of September 19, 2018 meeting
3. Stewardship Subcommittee's process and involvement in taking Conservation Easements
4. Stewardship Fund balances
5. Future agenda items
6. Set Next Meeting Date
7. Adjourn

PLEASE NOTE: *Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of individuals with disabilities through sign language, interpreters or other auxiliary aids. For additional information or to request the service, contact the County ADA Coordinator at 839-4710, (Fax:) 839-1669 or 839-4735, tty: use Relay (711), or by writing to the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Eau Claire County Courthouse, 721 Oxford Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54703.*

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POSTED**

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY
LAND STEWARDSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES – WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2018
AGRICULTURAL & RESOURCE CENTER – ROOM AG203 – ALTOONA, WI

MEMBERS PRESENT: Doug Burrows, Dave Dresel, Kevin Stelljes, Rick Koziel, Dave Carlson, Glory Adams
MEMBERS EXCUSED: Sean Bohan
STAFF PRESENT: Greg Leonard (P&D - Land Conservation Division)
OTHERS PRESENT: Lindsey Ketchel (Executive Director-Landmark Conservancy)

1. Call to Order by Chair

Chair Burrows called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. Open meeting requirements had been complied with. Stelljes provided an update on the Brown's property and another transaction that is being considered by the Parks and Forestry Committee. Burrows reminded everyone of the upcoming Kiwanis property celebration.

2. Approve Minutes of August 29, 2018 meeting

Minutes of the August 29, 2018 meeting were reviewed. Motion by Stelljes/Carlson to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried, 6-0-0.

3. Stewardship Subcommittee's process and involvement in taking Conservation Easements

Burrows introduced Lindsey Ketchel, Landmark Conservancy Executive Director. Ketchel provided background information on her work in Vermont, Alaska, and Minnesota working on conservation easements, including the concepts of smart development, corridors, and focused development. Stelljes stated the County can primarily take donated easements but questioned when it would make sense for the County to hold an easement versus another entity such as Landmark Conservancy. Ketchel mentioned easements can allow public access or not. If access is not allowed, then another entity besides Eau Claire County may become a better holder of a conservation easement. Carlson asked what are a landowner's benefits? The donated easement could be considered a charitable donation. Koziel asked who would determine the value of the easement. This would be completed by an appraiser, similar to determining value of land by outright acquisition. Carlson asked if Knowles-Nelson Steward Program funds could be used to purchase easements. Ketchel was not sure. Stelljes asked about responsibilities the County would have if it held an easement. The County would have to be able to do yearly monitoring of the easement and have funds available to complete these tasks, and potentially set up a reserve or defense fund to ensure compliance with the easement. Stelljes stated that easements may become the next tool for active acquisition by the Land Stewardship Subcommittee. Burrows asked what the typical closing ratio for easements is. Ketchel replied from 10-20%. Stelljes commented it may become challenging for the County to acquire easements but can continue working with partners such as Landmark Conservancy.

4. Stewardship Fund balances

Leonard provided an update on Stewardship Fund transactions to date. With the donation of \$100 from Jane Edson, the balance of the Stewardship Fund is \$20,649.51.

5. Future agenda items

Conservation Easements discussion will continue for the next meeting.

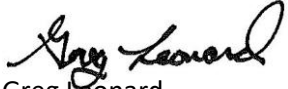
6. Set Next Meeting Date

The next meetings are scheduled for October 17, and December 5, 2018.

7. Adjourn

Burrows adjourned the meeting at 1:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Greg Leonard
Subcommittee Clerk

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