

Eau Claire County
LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday, March 26, 2018 • 5:15 p.m.
Agriculture & Resource • 227 1st Street West • Room AG203
Altoona, Wisconsin

Members Present: Gary Gibson, Ray Henning, Tami Schraufnagel, John Richie, Glory Adams, Dean Solie, Ricky Strauch

Members Absent: Robin Leary

Staff Present: Greg Leonard, Chad Berge, Amanda Schultz

Others Present: Celie Borndal – USDA-NRCS

1. Call to Order
Gibson called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.
2. Confirmation of Compliance with Open Meetings Law
Gibson confirmed compliance with the open meetings law.
3. Public Input Session (15 minute maximum) – Discussion
(none)
4. Approve Minutes from February 26, 2018 meeting – Discussion/Action
ACTION: Motion by Henning/Adams to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried, 7-0-0.
5. Review Vouchers and Ledger Update – Discussion
Expenditures and revenues for February were reviewed. Reimbursements for 2017 grants were received in February and were posted to 2017 revenues.
6. Cost-Share Applications – Discussion/Action
The following Cost-Share application was presented for approval:
Lyle Schlomer – Nutrient Management Plan– \$2,990.00 (DATCP-SEG grant funds)
Schultz explained that this request includes land both in Eau Claire and Trempealeau Counties. DATCP program cost-share agreements allow Eau Claire County to develop the agreement including all of the land under one operator’s control. She has coordinated with Trempealeau County to assure this farmland is not being covered by an agreement within Trempealeau County.
ACTION: Motion by Strauch/Solie to approve the Cost-Share Application. Motion carried, 7-0-0.
7. Bidding Procedures – Discussion/Action
The Land Conservation General Bidding Procedures for Cost Share Projects draft document was reviewed. Berge explained that both DATCP and DNR cost-share programs administered by Land Conservation rely upon local cost-containment procedures. This draft incorporates elements from neighboring County Land Conservation offices. Discussion followed if the requirement of projects following the procedures if the estimated cost exceeds \$10,000.00 could cause problems with project implementation. Based on costs of equipment and fuel, mobilization costs alone could account for 10-20% of a \$10,000 project. An option would be to adjust the requirement for bidding to \$25,000 or \$30,000. These draft procedures have yet to be reviewed by the Purchasing or Corporation Counsel.
ACTION: Motion by Henning/Strauch to amend the draft document to require bidding of projects estimated in excess of \$30,000.00, and for staff to forward to Purchasing and Corporation Counsel for review.
Motion carried, 7-0-0.
8. EPA – EE grant application – Discussion/Action
Leonard provided an update of the EPA Environmental Education grant application entitled “Putting the ‘Clear

Water' Back in the Eau Claire River – Cultivating Community Capacity for Healthy Soils & Healthy Water.” Western Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC) is the primary grant recipient. Both Eau Claire and Clark County LCDs will be major partners. The Partnership Letter of Commitment to the project is needed for the grant application, which is due April 10, 2018.

ACTION: Motion by Adams/Richie to authorize the LCC Chair to co-sign the Partnership Letter of Commitment on behalf of the LCC. Motion carried, 7-0-0.

9. Tree Program Update – Discussion

An overview of the Tree Program was provided. This year’s offering includes “bundles” of trees and shrubs, which have been requested in the past. The program’s tree distribution is scheduled for April 20th.

10. Land Conservation Commission Tours – Discussion/Action

Each year the LCC has an annual tour. The schedule though sometimes does not allow the LCC to see the outcomes of projects based on the tours. As a solution, our office could provide for more than one tour through the year, such as spring and fall, with the additional tour being smaller in scale than the annual tour. With the potential for new members being on the LCC after the April elections, this item will be discussed after the seating of the new LCC members. No action taken.

11. Wisconsin Land+Water Conference Update – Discussion

At the Wisconsin Land+Water Conference, elections for the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) were held. Elected to the LWCB are Brad Matson (Iron County), Monte County), and David Solin (Langlade County); the alternate is Michael Hofberger (Calumet County). They will begin service in January 2019.

The resolution drafted by Leonard in support of removal of the NOI-NOD funds from the DATCP funding formula was passed by the West Central Area Association, and presented at the business meeting as a resolution from the floor. This resolution was adopted by the Wisconsin Land+Water Conservation Association.

12. Agency Updates

Celie Borndal, USDA-NRCS, informed the LCC that her term as the Acting District Conservationist will soon be completed. With budget cuts, the District Conservationist position in Eau Claire County will not be re-filled. The position will be a Soil Conservationist, with the District Conservationist duties performed out of the Chippewa Falls office. Borndal updated the LCC on the ongoing CSP signup, the status of EQIP projects, Honey Bee Habitat, and Forestry and Grazing plans. There will not be a second EQIP sign-up period. The LCC thanked Borndal for her services.

13. Set date for next meeting

The date for the next LCC meeting was set for Monday, April 23, 2018 at 5:15 pm.

14. Adjourn

Gibson adjourned the meeting at 6:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Greg Leonard
Clerk, Land Conservation Commission