

Eau Claire County
LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday, July 16, 2018 • 5:00 p.m.
Agriculture & Resource • 227 - 1st Street West • Room AG103
Altoona, Wisconsin

Members Present: Robin Leary, Gary Gibson, Ray Henning, Ricky Strauch, Heather Deluka, Glory Adams, Dean Solie, Tami Schraufnagel

Members Absent: (none)

Staff Present: Greg Leonard, Liz Fagen, Amanda Peters

Others Present: Mark Hagedorn (UW-Extension), Ryan Peaslee (Wisconsin DNR), Eleanor Wolf, Tammy Smith Schroeder, Sean Bohan, Steve Strey, Kate Beaton, Chase Mohrman

1. Call to Order

Chair Leary called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

2. Confirmation of Compliance with Open Meetings Law

Leary confirmed compliance with the open meetings law.

3. Public Input Session (15 minutes maximum) – Discussion

Eleanor Wolf provided input on the proposed livestock moratorium and was pleased to be working with the commission to discuss the issue. A moratorium is needed as it starts the discussion and prevents someone from jumping the gun. She looks forward to coming back to the next LCC meeting.

Tammy Smith Schroeder provided input on the proposed livestock moratorium and stated she is against it.

There are currently regulations in place, and Land Conservation and the Planning and Development offices are doing their job. Putting a livestock moratorium in place is putting a business on hold for one year.

Sean Bohan introduced himself. He has been recommended by the Land Stewardship sub-committee as a new member. He has a natural resources degree from UW-Madison and is the Senior Engineer and owner of Advanced Engineering Concepts.

Steve Strey is present tonight to learn about the proposed livestock moratorium. He is a farmer near Foster. He does have some questions: do we currently have non-compliance issues with the existing ag performance regulations, and do we have permits which have been applied for.

Kate Beaton works with the League of Conservation Voters, and is on the Common Council for the City of Eau Claire. She is in support of the proposed livestock moratorium. In the east and south-west parts of the state there are currently issues with manure, and fears that these issues will be coming here. She wants to see if Eau Claire County needs additional regulations, if needed.

Libby Stupak submitted written comments for the public comment period. The comments were read, and a copy is attached to these minutes.

Leary reminded everyone that the proposed livestock moratorium is not formally on the agenda this evening but thanked everyone for providing input.

4. Approve Minutes from June 18, 2018 meeting – Discussion/Action

ACTION: Motion by Gibson/Henning to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried, 8-0-0.

5. Review Vouchers and Ledger Update – Discussion

May expenditures and revenues were reviewed. The Rain to Rivers group has been more active recently.

6. Eau Claire County Conservation Cost-Share Program policy update – Discussion/Action

Leonard provided an overview of the updated cost-share program policy. The original policy referenced Farm Service Agency programs which no longer exist. These references were updated, in addition to referencing newer techniques to measure significant barnyard runoff.

ACTION: Motion by Schraufnagel/Adams to approve the revised Eau Claire County Conservation Cost-Share

Program policy as presented. Motion carried, 8-0-0.

7. Cost-Share Applications – Discussion/Action

The following Nutrient Management Cost-Share application was presented for approval:

Warren Honadel – Nutrient Management Plan– \$5,596.00 (DATCP-SEG grant funds)

Peters explained the different cost-share rates Eau Claire County utilizes to maximize the available funding.

ACTION: Motion by Solie to approve the Nutrient Management Cost-Share Application. Motion carried, 8-0-0.

8. Farmland Preservation Agreement Applications – Discussion/Action

Peters presented the Farmland Preservation Agreement applications as submitted within the Golden Triangle Ag Enterprise Area (AEA). The 4 applications represent 1 farming operation with different land ownership. The applications must be based on ownership. Most of the farm is zoned for Farmland Agriculture Preservation (AP), but these applications will include some land that is un-zoned and was not eligible for Farmland Preservation in the past.

Greg & Sharon Zimmerman and Scot & Jennifer Zimmerman, 909.008 Ac. (755.658 Ac. zoned AP)

Julie Welke, 80.000 Ac. (all zoned AP)

Larry & Carol Zimmerman, 559.738 Ac. (all zoned AP)

Scot & Jennifer Zimmerman, 80.058 Ac. (all zoned AP)

These applications will bring the amount eligible for signing Farmland Preservation Agreements to 32%.

Schraufnagel thanked Tammy Smith Schroeder, Steve Strey, and the other farmers who formed the Golden Triangle AEA.

ACTION: Motion by Strauch to approve the Farmland Preservation agreement applications as presented.

Motion carried, 8-0-0.

9. Budget discussions

Leonard reviewed the budget process outline was just recently released by the County Administration. Staff are working on budget, but indications from administration are for a zero-budget increase.

10. Land Stewardship appointment update – Discussion/Action

The Land Stewardship sub-committee has a recommended Sean Bohan as an appointment to the sub-committee to replace Monica Lewis, as she has recently moved from the area.

ACTION: Motion by Henning to approve the appointment of Sean Bohan to the Land Stewardship sub-committee. Motion carried, 8-0-0.

11. Land Stewardship matching contribution for the Eau Claire Kiwanis Club property – Discussion/Action

The Land Stewardship subcommittee has been approached by West Wisconsin Land Trust (WWLT), now known as Landmark Conservancy, seeking a donation to assist in the purchase of the Eau Claire Kiwanis Club property in the Town of Union. The Town of Union has budgeted funds for the purchase, and WWLT will be receiving DNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant funds. WWLT has also received private donations for the purchase, but was \$7,500 short of the purchase price. The Land Stewardship subcommittee offered a dollar per dollar match, up to \$3,750, to assist WWLT to raise the remaining funds. WWLT has received the matching donation of \$3,750. This is the first transaction where the Land Stewardship subcommittee has been requested to donate to a project in this fashion. Staff drafted an agreement which incorporated the restrictions contained within the DNR grants, which Corporation Counsel has reviewed.

ACTION: Motion by Adams to approve the matching contribution of \$3,750.00 from the Stewardship Fund to Landmark Conservancy for the purchase of the Eau Claire Kiwanis Club property. Motion carried, 8-0-0.

12. Staff and Agency Updates

Mark Hagedorn, UW-Extension, provided comments on proposed livestock moratorium and the relationship Farm Technology Days (FTD) being hosted by Eau Claire County in 2020. A moratorium would create a great

opportunity for discussion and learning but may be a bad perception with the upcoming FTD event. A large group of volunteers for FTD 2020 went to this year's FTD event in Wood County to gain experience. Ryan Peaslee, Wisconsin DNR, explained the fire season continued into June of this year, and we now still in a secondary fire season with the dry conditions. Meetings with private forest landowners are now going on to develop forest management plans.

Tammy Lindsay, USDA-NRCS, was not able to attend the meeting, but provided an email reminder of the upcoming Local Working Groups meeting to be held at the Thorp Fire Hall on August 1, 2018. Leonard is planning on attending.

13. Future agenda items (Livestock Moratorium)

The proposed livestock moratorium will be placed on the next LCC agenda.

14. Set date for next meeting

The date for the next LCC meeting was set for Thursday, August 16, 2018 at 5:00 pm.

The September LCC meeting was set for Thursday, September 20, 2018 at 5:00 pm.

15. Adjourn

Leary adjourned the meeting at 6:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Leonard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "G".

Greg Leonard
Clerk, Land Conservation Commission