

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY
LAND STEWARDSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES – WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2018
AGRICULTURAL & RESOURCE CENTER – ROOM AG203 – ALTOONA, WI

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin Stelljes, Glory Adams, Monica Lewis (via telephone), Dave Dresel, Doug Burrows, Dave Carlson
MEMBERS EXCUSED: Rick Koziel
STAFF PRESENT: Greg Leonard (P&D - Land Conservation Division), Josh Pedersen (Parks & Forest)
OTHERS PRESENT: Rick Remington (West Wisconsin Land Trust)

1. Call to Order

Chair Stelljes called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. Open meeting requirements had been complied with.

2. Approve Minutes of January 17, 2018 meeting

Minutes of the January 17, 2018 meeting were reviewed. Motion by Carlson to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried, 6-0-0.

3. Update on West Wisconsin Land Trust and Bayfield Regional Conservancy merger

Rick Remington provided an update of the merger of West Wisconsin Land Trust with Bayfield Regional Conservancy. The process started 2 years ago, with formal merging occurring about 2 weeks ago, but the merger process is still on-going. Staff will be as it exists now, with the combined staff bringing the organization close to its desirable level. Stelljes asked about existing easement transfers to the new organization. Remington explained most can be transferred and this is part of the on-going merger process, which can take another year or 2 to complete everything. Communications in relation to easements have gone out. The geographical area of the new organization will be the same. The newly merged organization will be one of the larger land trusts in the state.

4. Update on Kiwanis property

Remington reported that they are moving forward with closing on the property, hopefully in June. They have received a \$1,000 private donation and a donation from Pheasants Forever of \$2,750, which will meet the match requirement the Land Stewardship Subcommittee requested of \$3,750. Stelljes recommended to staff to contact Tim Sullivan from Corporation Counsel, who has assisted with these actions of Land Stewardship in the past.

5. Update on Brown's property

This property was originally considered by Land Stewardship, but was referred to the Parks and Forest Committee. A Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant application has been submitted to the WI-DNR, expecting a closing after the grant is approved in mid-summer. Dresel reported that the Brown Family has been very patient. Stelljes reported that he is researching on his own the possibility of an existing easement which may not have been properly documented, or an "easement by necessity".

6. Annual report to contributors and to the County Board

Stelljes wondered if Land Stewardship should create an annual report independent of the annual LCC report. This could be more comprehensive, including description of successful and failed attempts, and the time and effort in pursuing projects. The consensus was to hold on creating an expanded report.

7. Land Acquisition Proposals for Consideration

An approximately 29 acre property adjacent to County Forest land is currently listed at \$85,000 on Travis Private Drive. A different person has contacted Stelljes with interest in potentially selling 40 acres. Stelljes will contact the owner to get permission to view the property; Carlson and Dresel will look at the property and review.

Monica Lewis announced that she will soon be moving and will not be a resident of Eau Claire County. She will not be able to serve on the Land Stewardship Subcommittee. The group will reach out for recommendations for a replacement on the Subcommittee.

Stelljes announced that election of officers will need to occur at the next meeting.

8. Set Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date was set tentatively for Wednesday, May 16, 2018 at noon.

9. Adjourn

Stelljes adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Leonard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Greg Leonard
Subcommittee Clerk