

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.

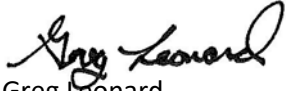
6. Set Next Meeting Date

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