

Eau Claire County
LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday, July 29, 2019 • 5:00 p.m.
Agriculture & Resource Center • 227 – 1st Street West • Room AG120
Altoona, Wisconsin

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

Members Absent: Tami Schraufnagel, Heather DeLuka

Staff Present: Greg Leonard, Amanda Peters, and Liz Fagen

Others Present: Rhia Holden, USDA-NRCS

1. Call to Order

Chair Leary called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm.

Rhia Holden introduced herself as the Acting District Conservationist in the Altoona Field Office with a 120-day appointment. Everyone introduced themselves and welcomed her.

2. Confirmation of Compliance with Open Meetings Law

Leary confirmed compliance with the open meetings law.

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

(none)

4. Approve Minutes from May 14, 2019 meeting – Discussion/Action

ACTION: Motion by Henning to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried, 6-0-0.

5. Approve Minutes from May 14, 2019 Joint Meeting with Planning and Development – Discussion/Action

ACTION: Motion by Henning to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried, 6-0-0.

6. Review Vouchers and Ledger Update – Discussion

The May and June expenditures and revenues were reviewed, as well as the tree and native plant sale report.

7. Cost-Share Applications – Discussion/Action

The following Nutrient Management Best Management Practice Cost-Share applications were presented for approval:

Mark Karow – Nutrient Management - \$14,920.00 (DATCP SEG funds)

Wyatt Wathke – Nutrient Management - \$1,400.00 (DATCP SEG funds)

ACTION: Motion by Gibson/Solie to approve the Nutrient Management Best Management Cost-Share applications. Motion carried, 6-0-0.

The following Well Abandonment Best Management Practice Cost-Share applications were presented for approval.

Dan & Mary Fisher – Well Abandonment - \$384.00 (County funds), \$384.00 (landowner funds).

Matthew Werlein – Well Abandonment - \$296.00 (County funds), \$296.00 (landowner funds).

ACTION: Motion by Adams to approve the Best Management Cost-Share applications. Motion carried, 6-0-0.

8. Adoption of Standards – Ag Performance Standards and Manure Storage ordinance – Discussion/Action

The USDA-NRCS Technical Standards referenced within Chapter 17.04 – Agricultural Performance Standards and Manure Storage of the County Code were adopted as part of the recreation of Chapter 17.04 on June 18, 2019 by the County Board. Any future revision of these standards must be adopted by the LCC prior to the revisions being made part of Chapter 17.04. This action will confirm and document the specific dates of each Technical Standard.

ACTION: Motion by Adams to adopt the USDA-NRCS Technical Standards referenced within Chapter 17.04. Motion carried, 6-0-0.

9. Update LCC Cost Share Policies – Discussion/Action

With the recreation of Chapter 17.04, updating the Eau Claire County Cost Share Program policies will clarify that eligible practices will include practices to bring a site into compliance with the Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions contained within Chapter 17.04.

ACTION: Motion by Henning to approve the revisions of the Eau Claire County Cost Share Program policies. Motion carried, 6-0-0.

10. Nutrient Management Memorandum of Understanding with Adjoining Counties – Discussion/Action

This is a first draft of the MOU for nutrient management plans developed for requirements in one county and include cropland in another county. The MOU would allow both counties to be assured that the rules adopted within a county apply to all land within the county, regardless of where the nutrient management plan is developed. Recommendation is to get a formal opinion from Corporation Counsel of who should be authorized to sign.

11. Staff and Agency Updates

Holden reported on the upcoming Area Local workgroup scheduled for September 9 in Thorp. Fagen Reported on the manure pit closure which was utilized as an area training event. Peters reported that Tim Dutter will be applying for a variance in relation to his manure pit. When it was installed, the standard required a 2 ft. separation from high water mottling; today's standard requires a 2.5 ft. separation.

- a. Land Stewardship Subcommittee Update: Land Stewardship is working on acquiring an easement to lands the Parks Department recently acquired and is working on an event for Eau Claire River riparian owners.
- b. Demo Farm: Lease is being developed with Bush Bros.
- c. Multi-Discharger Variance (MDV) program: DNR as tentatively approved of the use of the 35% support for purchase of a No-till drill. Peters reported that yesterday she received notice from Xcel Energy that the No-till drill grant proposal will be funded as requested. Combining MDV funds, Xcel Energy grant funds, and donations from Pheasants Forever and an anonymous donator, the entire funding of the No-till drill is secure without any tax levy.
- d. Water Quality Trading with the City of Augusta: Per the recommendation of Administration, a resolution was presented to the County Board from the Planning & Development Committee to authorize the Land Conservation Manager to act on behalf of the county for the Water Quality Trading agreement with the City of Augusta.

12. Future agenda items

Follow up on Nutrient Management Memorandum of Understanding will be on the next agenda.


13. Set dates for next meetings

The next meeting was set for Monday, August 26, 2016 at 5:00 pm in the Ag Center.

14. Adjourn

Leary adjourned the meeting at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Greg Leonard
Clerk, Land Conservation Commission