

Eau Claire County  
**LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES**

Monday, November 18, 2019 • 1:00 p.m.  
Agriculture & Resource Center • 227 – 1<sup>st</sup> Street West • Room AG203  
Altoona, Wisconsin

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**Members Present:** Robin Leary, Gary Gibson, Glory Adams, Heather DeLuka, Ray Henning, Dean Solie

**Members Absent:** Tami Schraufnagel, Ricky Strauch

**Staff Present:** Greg Leonard, Amanda Peters and Liz Fagen-Land Conservation; Rod Eslinger-Planning & Development

**Others Present:** Jonas A. Borntrager, Simon A. Borntrager, Andy E. Gingerich, Vernon E. Borntrager, Adin Gingerich, Steve Weiss, Randal J. Hill, Nathan Duerkop

1. Call to Order

Chair Leary called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. A quorum was present.

2. Confirmation of Compliance with Open Meetings Law

Leary confirmed compliance with the open meetings law.

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

Jonas Borntrager commented on the existing hog barns within their Amish community; questioned if manure storage could be exempt from the ordinance if less than a certain amount is stored, such as 5,000 or 10,000 gallons; concerned there could be changes with current practices for manure spreading; concerned there could be expensive engineering costs; and would like existing hog barns grandfathered to not need to meet manure storage standards.

Vernon Borntrager questioned if there is a difference between above and below ground manure storage standards.

Steve Weiss wondered if it is acceptable to see more frequent manure spreading and commented the amount of manure is not too much from the hog barns.

Randal Hill commented the Amish have a modest lifestyle.

10. Hearing no objection, Chair Leary moved Agenda Item 10 above the remainder of the items.

Manure storage, manure transfer systems, and barn gutters – Discussion/Action

Leonard and Peters reviewed criteria which would require a permit under the Agricultural Performance Standards and Manure Storage ordinance. The ordinance requires a permit for manure storage and manure transfer systems, as well as abandonment. The ordinance does not define storage by size or capacity. Leonard mentioned the Ag Ordinance Special Committee which drafted the recommendations wanted uniformity of the standards across the county regardless of the size of the operation. Solie discussed his manure pit which even though constructed to standards could have been a larger contributing potential than the small hog operations not following standards.

Gibson excused himself from the remainder of the meeting as he had another commitment (1:45).

Leary questioned staff if they have had an opportunity to perform a site visit on any of these hog operations with “gutters”? Staff had not yet been invited to any of the farms in question. Leary wants to hold on making any decision until staff are allowed access to some of the farms in question and encouraged the farmers present to allow site visits.

4. Approve Minutes from October 21, 2019 meeting – Discussion/Action

**ACTION:** Motion by Adams to approve the October 21, 2019 minutes as presented. Motion carried, 5-0-0.

5. Review/Approval of October 22, 2019 Joint Planning & Development, Groundwater Advisory and Land Conservation meeting minutes  
**ACTION:** Motion by Henning to approve the October 22, 2019 minutes as presented. Motion carried, 5-0-0.
6. Leonard Rice Engineering (LRE) presentation at Joint meeting – Discussion/Action  
The presentation was discussed. No action was taken on this item.
7. Review Vouchers and Ledger Update – Discussion  
The October expenditures and revenues were reviewed.
8. Cost-Share Applications – Discussion/Action  
The following Nutrient Management Best Management Practice Cost-Share applications were presented for approval:  
Daniel & Dawn Von Haden – Nutrient Management - \$6,110.00 (DATCP SEG funds)  
Larry Wathke – Nutrient Management - \$9,360.00 (DATCP SEG funds)  
**ACTION:** Motion by Solie to approve the Nutrient Management Best Management Cost-Share applications. Motion carried, 5-0-0.  
  
The following Well Abandonment Best Management Practice Cost-Share application was presented for approval.  
Kaye Rhody – Well Abandonment - \$280.63 (County funds), \$280.63 (landowner funds).  
**ACTION:** Motion by DeLuka to approve the Well Abandonment Best Management Cost-Share applications. Motion carried, 5-0-0.
9. Conservation Awards – Discussion/Action  
Potential Conservation Award recipients were discussed. Many of the potential recipients have previously been awarded. No awards will be given this year.
10. Manure storage, manure transfer systems, and barn gutters – Discussion/Action  
This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.
11. Committee, Staff and Agency Updates  
Staff provided brief updates on the following:
  - a. Eau Claire River Watershed Coalition
  - b. Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) program
  - c. Multi-Discharger Variance (MDV) program
  - d. Water Quality Trading with the City of Augusta
  - e. Land Stewardship Subcommittee
  - f. USDA-NRCS / FSA – Solie reported the FSA County Executive Director resigned and currently Eau Claire has a joint appointment with Chippewa County.
  - g. DNR-Forestry – no update.
  - h. UW-Extension
12. Future agenda items  
Barn gutters will be on the next meeting agenda.
13. Set dates for next meetings.  
The next regular LCC meeting was set for Monday, December 16, 2019 at 1:00 pm in the Ag Center.

14. Adjourn

Leary adjourned the meeting at 2:40 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