

**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES – WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2020
AGRICULTURAL & RESOURCE CENTER – ROOM AG103 – ALTOONA, WI**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robin Leary, Gary Gibson, Heather Deluka, Ray Henning, Tami Schraufnagel, Dean Solie, Glory Adams, Ricky Strauch
MEMBERS ABSENT: (none)
STAFF PRESENT: Greg Leonard, Chad Berge, Amanda Peters and Liz Fagen-Land Conservation
OTHERS PRESENT: Lyssa Seefeldt-UW-Extension; Ryan Peaslee-WI DNR

1) Call to Order

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

2) Confirmation of Compliance with Open Meetings Law

Leary confirmed compliance with the open meetings law.

3) Public Comment Period

None.

12) Committee, Staff and Agency Updates

To facilitate advisors schedules and hearing no objections, Leary moved Agency Updates up on the agenda.

h) UW-Extension

Seefeldt provided an update on the upcoming Farm Technology Days, July 21-23, 2020.

g) DNR-Forestry

Peaslee provided an update on the increased participation for landowners wanting forestry outreach, tree planting plan development, and fire academy training.

4) Approve Minutes of December 16, 2019 meeting

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

5) Review Vouchers and Ledger Update

The December expenditures and revenues were reviewed

6) Land Stewardship subcommittee vacancy

Leonard reported that the recent passing of Doug Burrows has left a vacancy in the Land Stewardship subcommittee. His absence will be greatly missed. Leonard reported that he had reviewed vacancies procedures with Corporation Counsel. There is not a pressing requirement to fill the vacancy. The Land Stewardship subcommittee will be searching for candidates.

7) CREP contract termination

Berge reported that FSA terminated Dennis Goss's CREP contract on August 8, 2019. The contract went into effect on October 1, 2017. It is the LCD's understanding that the contract was terminated due to the fields not being seeded by the contract deadline. When FSA terminates a CRP contract, the LCD is required to terminate the CREP agreement. The participant is required to pay back all payments plus a 25% termination fee. It is at the discretion of the LCD whether the termination fee will be sought. The 25% Termination Fee due to Eau Claire Land Conservation would be \$1,590.07. It is a recommendation of staff that the termination fee be reduced to cover the cost of staff time associated with the local contract administration, which would equal \$400. Discussion followed on the program requirements and the knowledge participants would have prior to signing contracts.

ACTION: Motion by Gibson to request the full 25% Termination Fee as outlined within the CREP program. Motion carried, 8-0-0.

8) Manure storage, manure transfer systems, and barn gutters

Strauch reported that a group of Amish farmers recently attended a Bridge Creek Town meeting and were requesting support of having manure storage less than 1,500 gallons exempt. Leonard explained that the Eau Claire County ordinance has never had a lower size limit, therefore all manure storage facilities are required to have a permit. Staff have not yet been invited to visit the hog operations with the "gutters" which can help with determinations if these farms have storage. Leonard has been in contact with Wisconsin Land+Water, and no one else has heard of any exemption requests. Staff will continue to reach out to these farmers to get an invitation to visit these farms.

9) Wildlife Damage Program update

There is a proposal to have the Wildlife Damage Program administered by the Wisconsin DNR beginning in January 2022.

10) County and Area Poster & Speaking Contest

Tami Schraufnagel and Glory Adams will be attending the Area Meeting and Contests and will assist with Speaking Contest.

11) 2020 WI Land+Water Conference

Leonard reminded members the registration deadline is approaching and to contact Jenna if attending. Adams is planning on attending.

12) Committee, Staff and Agency Updates

Brief updates were provided as follows.

- a) **Eau Claire River Watershed Coalition:** Upcoming Winter Workshop will be held in Thorp-Feb. 10th and Augusta-Feb 12th. Subgrants have also been announced.
- b) **Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) program:** Nothing further was reported.
- c) **Multi-Discharger Variance (MDV) program:** The no-till drill which will utilize some of these funds has been ordered. The no-till drill will be purchased without any tax-levy dollars.
- d) **Water Quality Trading with the City of Augusta:** The project is continuing with cost-estimates being generated.
- e) **Land Stewardship Subcommittee:** The subcommittee is working on a possible future land donation.
- f) **USDA-NRCS / FSA:** Nothing further was reported.
- g) **DNR-Forestry:** Was previously reported.
- h) **UW-Extension:** Was previously reported.

13) Future agenda items

Manure Storage/barn gutters will be on the next meeting agenda.

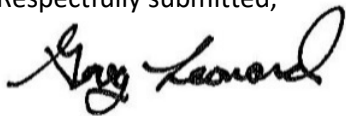
14) Set Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. in Rm 103 of the Ag Center.

15) Adjourn

Leary adjourned the meeting at 2:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Greg Leonard, Subcommittee Clerk