

**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

MEETING MINUTES – MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2020

REMOTE MEETING - EAU CLAIRE, WI 54703

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Gibson, Ricky Strauch, Heather DeLuka, Missy Christopherson, Dean Solie, Glory Adams, Tami Schraufnagel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Robin Leary

STAFF PRESENT: Greg Leonard, Amanda Peters, Jenna Hazelton, Liz Fagen and Chad Berge – Land Conservation Division; Rod Eslinger and Jared Grande – Planning & Development Department

OTHERS PRESENT: Ryan Peaslee – WDNR, Nicholas Besasie – USDA-NRCS

1) Call to order by Chair

Chair Gibson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2) Roll call

A roll call was taken; Gibson, Strauch, DeLuka, Christopherson, Solie, Adams and Schraufnagel were present. Leary was absent. A quorum was present.

3) Confirmation of Compliance with Open Meetings Law

Gibson confirmed compliance with the open meetings law.

4) Public Comment Period

None.

5) Review/Approval of July 20, 2020 meeting minutes – Discussion/Action

ACTION: Motion by Christopherson/Schraufnagel to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote, 7-0-0.

6) Review Vouchers and Ledger Update

The July expenditures and revenues were reviewed. Christopherson asked about the expenditure for native plants. Leonard explained this is for the tree and native plant sale program in which Land Conservation sells those plants which were purchased. The plants were sold and delivered this spring, but the payment for them was now due.

7) Approval of new and/or previously authorized Cost-Share agreements – Discussion/Action

No Cost-Share agreements were previously authorized. The following Best Management Practice (BMP) Cost-Share applications were presented for approval:

Elmer Kaufman – Well Abandonment - \$400.00 (County funds) and \$1,100.00.00 (landowner funds)

Eric Wehling – Nutrient Management Planning - \$1,776 (DATCP-SEG funds),

Leonard explained that Well Abandonment is typically cost-shared at 50%, with a maximum of \$400. SEG cost-sharing for Nutrient Management is typically \$40/ac (\$10/ac for 4 years), but if fields previously received a different amount, the difference is offered to make the total amount \$40/ac.

ACTION: Motion by Adam to approve the Best Management Practice cost-share applications. Motion carried on a roll call vote, 7-0-0.

8) Authorizing Land Conservation Manager to establish an Aquatic Invasives Species program network with Beaver Creek Reserve – Resolution: File No. 20-21/056 – Discussion/Action

Leonard reported the content of this item was presented last month by AJ Leiden with Beaver Creek Reserve. This is the formal resolution which has been reviewed by Corporation Counsel and is on the agenda for the Planning & Development Committee meeting on August 11th, and on the County Board agenda for August 18th. DeLuka asked if the decision to follow the “Designated Agent” route will be up to the County Board. Leonard explained the

resolution as presented includes in the 3rd bullet point that the process will be to follow the Designated Agent route with Beaver Creek Reserve.

ACTION: Motion by DeLuka to approve the resolution as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote, 7-0-0.

9) Manure storage on small farm hog farms – Discussion/Action

Leonard provided an update of small hog farm buildings being erected with gutters. These barns are being built within the Amish community in the un-zoned towns; as such Land Conservation staff are not always aware of the construction. When a landowner needs to apply for an Erosion Control permit, staff have conversations with the farmer and the gutters are constructed within the guidelines which were included in the packet. Leonard further reported about one farm he visited prior to construction, explained the gutter guidelines, but then there was a report of a pit on the farm. Upon re-inspection, Leonard explained the barn was built with gutters as requested, but the gutter was being drained into a soil pit. This pit was clearly constructed for manure storage, and the farmer removed and properly closed the pit. Staff have reached out to DATCP staff to assist in providing an alternative for the Amish community in construction of the hog barns: the gutter guidelines can be followed which would not be considered manure storage, or a “pre-approved design” with a manure storage permit could be constructed. The pre-approved design would still need site evaluation for items such as depth to bedrock and/or groundwater prior to issuance of a permit. Christopherson asked if it is appropriate to open the ordinance for revision at this time. Leonard explained with the gutter guidelines as our in-house working policy, this is working when we have the opportunity to explain it to farmers. Gibson suggested following up with Corporation Counsel on this question. Staff will report back to the LCC.

10) Stormwater permitting and program review – Discussion

Fagen provided a program overview of the Stormwater permitting program and the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program. Fagen utilized the Land Conservation webpage as the outline for the review.

11) Committee, Staff and Agency Updates

Brief reviews and updates were provided. Berge provided an update on recent County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC) recommendations and the Natural Resource Board.

- a) **Eau Claire River Watershed Coalition:** The group continues to meet remotely.
- b) **Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) program:** Large-Scale TRM-staff will soon send a flyer to landowners in the Fall Creek watershed.
- c) **Multi-Discharger Variance (MDV) program:** No report.
- d) **Water Quality Trading with the City of Augusta:** Planning on 2021 construction.
- e) **Land Stewardship Subcommittee:** No report.
- f) **USDA-NRCS / FSA:** Nicholas Besasie, Resource Conservationist located in Altoona, introduced himself. EQIP and Conservation Stewardship project signups have been ongoing.
- g) **DNR-Forestry:** Ryan Peaslee reported that after fire season was complete, he has been busy with private lands management and CRP field checks.
- h) **UW-Extension:** No report.

12) Future Agenda Items

Follow up of the hog operations with manure pits will be topic of discussion.

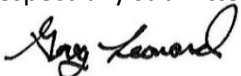
13) Set Date for next meeting

The next meeting was set for Monday, September 21, 2020 at 1:00 pm as a remote meeting.

14) Adjourn

Gibson adjourned the meeting at 1:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Greg Leonard, LCC Clerk