

LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

February 11, 2008

Regular Meeting

Present: Al Sabastiani, Chairman; Robert Dixon, Vice Chairman; Committee Members: Dick Colby, Glenn Licitar, Mike Keckeisen and Sylvia Breene. Fran Dehmlow was excused from attendance. Others present: Chris Murphy, County Conservationist; Patrick Gatterman, LWCD; Reesa Evans, LWCD; Chuck Sibilsky, LWCD; Jon Rabaidek, WDNR Wildlife; Barry Benson, APHIS; Jon Field, NRCS; Don Fornasiere, Tri-Lakes Management District; Terry James, Lake Camelot Property Owners; Tony Nepscha, land owner.

Call to Order: Chair Al Sabastiani called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. in Adams County Courthouse Conference Room A231.

Agenda: Motion made by Colby/Breene to approve amended agenda. Motion carried, with Keckeisen voting “nay”, believing amendment was too late.

Minutes: Motion made by Licitar/Dixon to approve minutes of 12/10/07 meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Motion made by Dixon/Keckeisen to approve minutes of 11/7/08 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Land & Water Conservation Department

Wildlife Abatement & Claims Program: Barry Benson passed out documents concerning Own Rock Cranberries. Barry recommended installation of woven-wire fence. The current estimate for the project is \$40,800 (about \$4/linear foot). The cost-share amount would be \$30,600, paid through the State of Wisconsin. Motion made by Keckeisen, seconded by Colby, to amend Adams County Wildlife Abatement Budget from \$37,875.73 to \$68,475.73 to permit this fencing plan to go forward. Motion carried unanimously.

Barry then passed out sheets summarizing 2007 wildlife damage claims. Barry recommended all but 3 of the people on the list be approved for payment. The 3 people not recommended for payment require more investigation if they met program requirements. Motion made by Licitar, seconded by Colby, to approve the claims for payment except those three. All in favor.

WDNR: Jon Rabaidek, the new wildlife biologist stationed at the Friendship Ranger Station, introduced himself to the committee.

NRCS: Jon Field passed out a sheet with updated information on EQIP funds. Seven EQIP projects in Adams County were approved. About 10 WHIP projects in Adams County were approved. His office has also been working on designations of highly erodible land in Adams County, as well as CREP/CRP in Waushara and Marquette Counties.

FSA: Dick Colby reported that there will be an FSA meeting on Wednesday of this week. The disaster program has been expanded to include grazing, but no guidelines outlining eligibility have been provided.

NCLWCA: Chris Murphy reported 2008 is the assigned year for Adams County to have a tour. This has been set for August 15, 2008. Further information will be provided as arrangements are made.

CWWP: No report

Golden Sands RC & D: Reesa Evans reported there are three new members-at-large. Discussion occurred about the president's proposed budget—it includes no funds for RC&D operations. Consensus of the committee was send a letter to congress asking for reinstatement of funds. Individuals were also encouraged to write such letters.

STAFF REPORTS: Staff reviewed and answered questions.

Motion made by Keckeisen, seconded by Licitar, to approve staff reports. Motion carried unanimously.

Travel Requests: Chris submitted a request to attend one day of a three-day grazing conference. Motion made by Colby, seconded by Dixon, to approve his requests. Motion carried unanimously.

Lake Protection Grant cost-share contracts: None.

Soil & Water Resource Management cost-share contracts: None.

2008 Soil & Water Resource Management allocation: Chuck reported that he had removed the amount previously recommended for CWWP projects. Motion by Keckeisen, seconded by Colby, to amend policy by substituting “agricultural” in place of “livestock” so the first sentence will read “\$13,300 will be applied to practices that address agricultural concerns.” Motion carried unanimously.

2008 Plan of Operations: Chris indicated that since the last meeting, he had taken comments from LWCD staff about the proposed 2008 Plan of Operations. Chris reviewed changes and discussion occurred. Motion made by Colby, seconded by Licitar, to approve the 2008 Plan of Operations as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Amendment of Payment to Fenner Excavating: The original Fenner Excavating bill, which has already been paid, was in error. An amended invoice shows that \$821.29 is still due. Discussion occurred. Motion made by Keckeisen, seconded by Colby, pay \$821.29 to Fenner Excavating with the money to be paid out of 100E4456185491. Motion carried unanimously.

11:08 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. Break taken.

Non-Metallic Mining: Patrick reported in 2007, the state mandated counties to amend their non-metallic mining ordinances to meet NR135 standards. Patrick has been working on amendments and has a copy of the revised ordinance available for review. The next step will be to schedule a public hearing.

Correspondence: Terry James indicated that his letter did not raise any issues involving zebra mussels, so the reference to zebra mussels in the response to him was inaccurate. He has already talked to Scott Watson of the WDNR, who will be discussing the error with the WDNR Secretary, Matt Frank.

Bills/Financial Report: The committee packet contained the 2007 financial report. Bills have been submitted to the Finance Office and copies of the bills were available for committee members to review.

11:35 a.m. Jodi Helgenson, Register of Deeds, arrived.

Register of Deeds

Financial Reports/Annual Reports: Jodi passed out copies of her financial report and her annual report.

WRDA/WCCO Conference: Jodi will be attending this conference in Madison on March 3-5, 2008.

Jodi asked the committee to consider returning her part of the meeting to first thing in the meeting, instead of going after the Land & Water Conservation Department.

Land Information Committee

Barb Petrovsek, County Financial Officer, had requested that there be an agenda item to clarify the duties & responsibilities of the Land Information Committee authorized by resolution at the January 2008 County Board meeting. After considerable discussion and input from the County Corporation Counsel, Jack Albert, it was determined that the intent of the resolution was to have a Land Information Committee that functioned as the prior Land Information Committee had before revising the committee structure occurred. Attorney Albert read out the responsibilities and duties of such a committee from the Wisconsin Statutes. Barb Petrovsek and Jodi Helgeson leave at 12:50 p.m.

Next Meetings: A public hearing on Easton Dam to be held on 2/19/08 at 8:00 p.m..

The next regular business meeting will be 3/7/08 at 9 a.m.

Adjourn: Motion made by Dixon, seconded by Breene, to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Al Sebastiani, Chair
Planning & Development Committee
Adams County