

**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES – MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2016
AGRICULTURE & RESOURCE CENTER – ALTOONA, WI**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ray Henning, Tami Schraufnagel, Robin Leary, Gary Gibson, Bruce Willett, Glory Adams, Dean Solie, Ron Erickson

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT: Kelly Jacobs, Chad Berge

OTHERS PRESENT: Jen Roetter (NRCS), Fred Poss (Lake Eau Claire Association)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:17 PM by Chair Leary.

2. Public Input Session

Fred Poss, Lake Eau Claire Association

- Cleaned out upriver traps
 - o 8,000 or more yards out of Troubled Waters trap
 - o Gravel pit, 4,000 or more yards
 - Also searching for alternate places to move sand from out of the gravel pit deposit site to allow for more space
- Thanked the County for support thus far and asks for continued support as they move forward
- Army Corp of Engineers looking at cleaning out back channels and feasibility of that (sediment & phosphorus)
- Working with Rain to Rivers and/or Eau Claire River Coalition on some initiatives
- Poss and the Association put 183 cribs in the lake and completed 55 treefalls since last fall

Lake Altoona also finished digging today or yesterday and would love to see them do more fisheries habitat work too.

3. Approve Minutes

Motion by Erickson to approve the February 8, 2016 minutes as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

4. County Cost-Share Applications and Ledger Update

LCC reviewed.

5. Opportunities in the CREP program

Chad Berge presented information about the program. Indicated that we are currently working out the best process given that we have all new staff involved at both USDA and County (as compared to the previous enrollments). About 70 current contracts will be expiring within the next year so we are preparing for re-enrollments but also want to get the word out about this program to others. Very good financial incentives for both the 15 year agreement and permanent easement options. There is also some potential for new practices (i.e. pollinators). Suggestion to include information on this program on our County website? Berge will also share with Bob Bosold on the upcoming conservation message radio spot.

6. Land Stewardship Subcommittee Members

Nominations are accepted via applications on the website – boards, commissions, councils. Land Stewardship Subcommittee requested delaying the nominations until after the April 5 elections. Land Conservation Commission members agreed that those currently appointed on the Subcommittee will remain in their position until a new person has been selected to replace them.

7. Rain to Rivers Program Internal Audit

The Land Conservation Commission, by consensus, directed Lance Gurney, Scott Rasmussen, and Kathy Schauf to schedule a meeting to review the findings in the February 8 memo and requested that they report back to LCC by their next meeting. The LCC asked that they be informed of when the meeting is scheduled and want a response to this in a reasonable manner.

8. Agency Updates and Committee Member Report

USDA-NRCS report – Jen Roetter, District Conservationist

- Five more EQIP applications were upgraded to High Priority. NRCS will know by the end of March of which applicants were funded. The contracts will be awarded by April.
- Monarch initiative -Eight practices funded in last year's fall signup
- CSP - \$'s for what they are doing plus an additional enhancement
 - 17 applications goal by the end of the month (currently have eleven in the system)
 - Renewals coming too (from 2012 signup)
- CRP SAFE - acres all used – 2,500 acres. Pollinators and native grasses
 - 17 landowners this spring.
- CRP HEL – rates are really good
 - February 26th general CRP. Only 35 signed up: rest went to the SAFE and HEL
- Earth Team volunteers – biologist training with UWEC
 - Working now and through the summer – mostly CRP focused
- Program Support Specialists being hired for Altoona, Durand, & Barron

Leary thanked the County and the Committee for the opportunity to attend the Wisconsin Land + Water Conservation Association Annual Conference. She reported on sessions that she attended:

- Lake Superior Fish Community
- Endangered Resources
- Clean Water Act/Safe Drinking Water Act.

Also discussed the elections for three LWCB members.

Glory Adams also added highlights from the following presentations:

- Ray Archuleta (keynote on soil health)
- Kewaunee Co. Public Health and Groundwater protection ordinance (Protective measures in a Karst foundation)
- Ken Bradbury – Recharging of Groundwater (Problems locally).
- Adaptive Management being pursued by Muniwater – seeking a variance for 20 years to look from GB at phosphorus.
- Manure irrigation (Pathogens covered, 800 page report coming out soon)
- Wetlands (DNR developing a screening process)
- Farmer led watersheds (including Dunn County)
- Running effective meetings

Jacobs also discussed the WI Land+Water awards given to Greg Leonard for State Conservation Technician of the Year and Dave Carlson for State Conservation Steward.

11. Next Meeting Date

Monday, April 11, 2016 at 5:15 PM at the Ag & Resource Center in Altoona.

12. Adjourn

Leary adjourned the meeting at 6:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Jacobs, Land Conservation Manager