

**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY
LAND STEWARDSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2016
AGRICULTURAL & RESOURCE CENTER – ALTOONA, WI**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin Stelljes, Rick Koziel, Doug Burrows, Bruce Willett, Dave Carlson, Monica Lewis
MEMBERS EXCUSED: Randy Tews
STAFF PRESENT: Kelly Jacobs (P&D - Land Conservation Division)
OTHERS PRESENT:

1. Call to Order

Chair Stelljes called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm.

2. Approve Minutes

Motion by Lewis to approve the March 17, 2016 meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.

3. Land Stewardship Subcommittee Nominations

Terms for Rick Koziel and Dave Carlson were extended at the March meeting for another three years. At this time, we are looking for a replacement for the seat currently held by Randy Tews and a replacement for Tews appointment was discussed. A few names surfaced and it was discussed that we should invite a couple of individuals to our next meeting – Jacobs will contact them with a brochure and application form. Members by consensus decided to delay that appointment until the next meeting.

4. Long Term Strategy for Land Stewardship in Eau Claire County

A draft visioning document / white paper was circulated to the members for their review over the next several weeks. This document is intended to influence the dialogue in other planning efforts. There was a suggestion to include a section that outlines what our Committee's role is in those efforts. Also discussed adding a section on how the plan was created on a very low budget as a volunteer effort. Suggestion to also include dialogue about the actual benefits associated with "taking the land off the tax roll".

5. Land Acquisition Proposals for Consideration

Discussion continued on Senske property.

Carlson will be following up on the DNR Elk Creek Fishery Area property.

Burrows reported on the Fitz property. Stewardship has been providing a cheerleader role and ensuring public access and facilitating discussions. Suggestion to serve as a member of the management board for continued county involvement? Perhaps schedule a working session in the future to develop an MOU and bounce some ideas around for continued management at the site. Discussed some potential options that the Trust could further pursue as well. By consensus the Stewardship Subcommittee members encouraged Parks and Forest to turn over their responsibility to the Stewardship Subcommittee in order to represent the county in continued dialogue. Also the Subcommittee would engage with the Trust on a potential MOU. If approved by Parks, Burrows agreed that he could take the lead on these efforts and Lewis indicated she was also interested in assisting. Overall, the members were glad that neighbors had an opportunity to provide input as part of the recent process with Ayres and Associates. Also, good that everyone did their due diligence and land stewardship can help to ensure public access through continued land management discussions.

Discussion began on the Franks property. Motion by Carlson to make initial contact with the landowner and try to determine timber values as part of site visit. All in favor. Motion carried. Stelljes will contact him to see if they are available within the next week.

5. Set Next Meeting Date

Wednesday, May 18, 2016 at 12:00 PM. Email updates/reports on project status in between those meetings. Send comments on the vision to Stelljes within the next week or so as well.

6. Adjourn

Burrows made motion to adjourn at 1:24 pm. Second by Carlson. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Jacobs
Subcommittee Clerk