



**MINUTES**  
**ROCK COUNTY PDR/PACE AD HOC COMMITTEE**  
**MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2010, 4:00 P.M.**  
**COUNTY COURTHOUSE - CONFERENCE ROOM 250**  
**JANESVILLE WI**

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Sweeney called the meeting of the PDR/PACE Ad Hoc Committee to order at 4:00 p.m.

**Committee Members Present:** Chair Alan Sweeney, John Lader, Rich Bostwick, Neil Deupree, Julie Christenson, Neil Walter, Doug Marklein, Mark Gunn, Bill Barlass, Ray Henschler, Julie Backenkeller, Archie Morton, Dave Rebut, Robert Fizzell, Don Jones, Fred Hookham, Brad Cantrell, Ramona Flanigan, and Scott Farrington.

**Committee Members Absent:** Charley Rusch and Todd Schmidt.

**Staff Present:** Tom Sweeney, LCD; Randy Thompson, UWEX; Steve Schraufnagel, Planning; Carrie Houston, Planning; and Wade Thompson, Planning.

**Others Present:** Paul Benjamin and Robert Fizzell.

2. **Adoption of Agenda:** Chair Sweeney entertained a motion to adopt the agenda. Jones motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Lader. **Motion Carried.**
3. **Adoption of Minutes:** Chair Sweeney entertained a motion to adopt the minutes from the December 1, 2009 meeting. Walter motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Barlass. **Motion Carried.**
4. **Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements.** John Lader attended a meeting in Fond du Lac regarding the Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) component of the Wisconsin Land Initiative (WLI) and noted from those in attendance at this meeting, Rock County is quite a bit ahead of this group. John continued with an update on the status of the application for establishing an AEA in La Prairie Township. Chair Sweeney noted the WLI meeting that will be held on Wednesday January 20, 2010 in this same room.
5. **Refined List of Eligibility Criteria – Carrie Houston, Planning**  
Houston reviewed the refined list of program eligibility criteria. She reviewed each of the final criteria; 1) Located in Agricultural Preservation Area; 2) In private ownership and not currently protected through another agreement designed to maintain agricultural use in perpetuity; 3) Natural Resource Conservation Service land evaluation soil score of 60 or greater; 4) 35 acres or larger with at least 50% classified as workland [more than one property owner, with less than 35 acres each may file a joint application if the total lands meets the minimum of 35 acres]; and 5) Not currently within any town or Village/City planned development areas. Rebut discussed the 35-acre minimum and stated that this criterion should only be used for isolated acres/parcel. Morton discussed the issue of special circumstances surrounding lands that may be within or abutting planned development areas. Marklein discussed the issue of changing the soil score from 70 to 60.

6. **Preliminary LESA Factor Weighting System – Wade Thompson, Planning**  
Wade Thompson reviewed LESA. Thompson continued the conversation with the Potential County PACE/LESA program components, groups and factors. The land evaluation (LE) component is comprised of the soil group, which is broken down to the suitability factor. The site assessment (SA) component is broken into three groups; 1) agriculture, 2) development, and 3) natural resources. Within the agriculture group three factors are proposed a) field size, b) percent of site as workland, and c) compatibility of surrounding land use. Within the development group, four factors are proposed; a) distance from other protected lands, b) distance from existing sewer service area boundaries c) distance from sub-divisions, and d) distance from major transportation corridors. Within the natural resource group, the only factor proposed is percent of site covered by environmentally sensitive areas (water related). Thompson continued with the factor weighting, stating that all factors are not created equal and the assigned weight identifies a factor's relative importance when compared to all other factors. In closing, Thompson recommended that the soil factor carry a minimum of 33% and a maximum of 40% of the weight of the LESA score.

Wade Thompson distributed the LESA Factors weighting exercise, which requires the Ad Hoc Committee to break into four groups, based on the color dots on their nameplates. Wade Thompson asked each group to complete four questions, weighing all proposed LESA factors, and turn in one survey per group. Question one pertains to components, question two pertains to groups, question three pertains to agricultural factors, and question four pertains to factors for development.

7. **Questions and Discussion** – At 5:20 p.m. Chair Sweeney reconvened the group stating another group had scheduled the room for use at 5:30 p.m. Noting that the groups didn't have sufficient time to complete the exercise, Chair Sweeney requested that individuals complete the LESA Factors weighting exercise at the next meeting.
8. **Future Meeting Date** – Chair Sweeney recommended March 1, 2010 with a 4:00 p.m. start time as the next meeting date.
9. **Adjournment:** Jones motioned to adjourn the PDR/PACE Ad Hoc Committee at 5:30 p.m., seconded by Walters. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Sweeney  
County Conservationist

**Minutes are not official until adopted by the PDR/PACE Ad Hoc Committee.**

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