



MINUTES

**ROCK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2014, 7:15 P.M.
LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
CONFERENCE ROOM
440 N US HWY 14
JANESVILLE WI**

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Bostwick called the meeting of the Land Conservation Committee to order at 7:17 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Richard Bostwick, Tom Brien, Wes Davis, Jason Dowd, Dave Rebut, Rick Richard, Alan Sweeney, Larry Wiedenfeld

Committee Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Tom Sweeney, LCD; Andrew Baker, LCD; Norvain Pleasant, Supervisor; Mike Plankey
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Supervisor Sweeney motioned to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Supervisor Dowd. **Motion Carried.**
3. **Election of Committee Vice Chair:** Supervisor Wiedenfeld nominated Supervisor Sweeney for the Committee Vice Chair, asking for a unanimous vote. Supervisor Sweeney nominated Supervisor Wiedenfeld for the Committee Vice Chair, Supervisor Wiedenfeld declined to serve as Vice Chair. Chair Bostwick asked for further nominations from the Committee, hearing none, Chair Bostwick took a vote. A unanimous vote was cast for Supervisor Sweeney.
4. **Set Meeting Day and Time:** Chair Bostwick asked the committee if the current committee meeting day and time were ok. Hearing no requests from the committee, Chair Bostwick stated no change will occur.
5. **Approval of Minutes – April 2, 2014:** Supervisor Wiedenfeld motioned to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2014 Land Conservation Committee meeting, seconded by Supervisor Richard. **Motion Carried.**
6. **Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements:** Chair Bostwick expressed his appreciation to Norvain Pleasant for his service to the Land Conservation Committee. Chair Bostwick asked all meeting attendees to provide the committee with an introduction. Tom Sweeney noted that a spring LCC Conservation practice tour will occur in mid to late June.
7. **Bills/Transfers/Encumbrances:** Supervisor Sweeney motioned to approve the bills as presented, seconded by Supervisor Brien. Tom Sweeney provided answers to questions regarding the bills. **Motion Carried.**
8. **Soil and Water Resource Management Program**
 - a. **Approval of 2014 Grant Contract:** Supervisor Wiedenfeld motioned to approve the grant contract, seconded by Supervisor Rebut. Tom Sweeney reviewed the grant contract. **Motion Carried.**

- b. Approval of Cost Share Agreements:** Tom Sweeney presented the cost share agreements to the committee for consideration. Supervisor Davis motioned to approve the cost share agreements for Drake/Delzer and Logan Frei for Nutrient Management, seconded by Supervisor Brien. **Motion Carried.**
9. **Approval of 2014 Gypsy Moth Suppression Grant:** Tom Sweeney provided background information on the Gypsy Moth Suppression program and reviewed the contract. Supervisor Davis motioned to approve the contract as presented, seconded by Supervisor Brien. **Motion Carried.**
10. **Resolution: Authorizing Option to Purchase Agreement for the Plankey Property for the Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) Program.** Supervisor Sweeney motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Dowd. Andrew Baker provided the Committee with a brief program overview and continued to explain the Plankey Option to Purchase. Andrew Baker stated that the Resolution's Executive Summary identifies the maximum purchase price allowed by the program guidelines. The conversation continued with Mr. Baker stating that Mr. Plankey is willing to negotiate the purchase price of the easement. Supervisor Richard asked if precedence has been set on negotiations. Baker stated this is the first time this issue has come up. Baker continued that the federal rule on easement purchases under the Agricultural Conservation Easement program was changed under the Farm Bill, which requires the County to pay a larger percentage of the purchase value. Supervisor Sweeney asked for Staff recommendation. Baker stated that a \$2,500/ acre price would be a good starting point, since this reflects the averages of past easement values. A short discussion occurred regarding the potential for redevelopment of the farmstead. Supervisor Davis asked if \$2,400/ acre would be appropriate. Supervisor Sweeney stated that was a good starting point. Supervisor Richard offered \$2,246/acre based on the county paying 17% of the purchase price. Supervisor Sweeney stated that offer is defensible and remains consistent with past program purchases. Supervisor Wiedenfeld agrees with Supervisor Richard and stated that this is a fair and equitable offer. Mr. Plankey agreed to accept the offer as discussed. Supervisor Dowd motioned to amend the Resolutions Executive Summary to reflect the offer accepted by Mr. Plankey, seconded by Supervisor Rebut. **Motion Carried.** Chair Bostwick asked for a vote on the Resolution with the amended executive summary. **Motion Carried.**
11. **Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements Program – Update:** Andrew Baker reviewed the Federal Program funding and provided the committee with an update on past applications status. Baker also spoke of the 2014 program applications.
12. **Adjourn:** Supervisor Wiedenfeld motioned to adjourn the May 7, 2014 Land Conservation Committee meeting at 8:45 pm, seconded by Supervisor Brien. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Sweeney
County Conservationist

Minutes are not official until adopted by the Land Conservation Committee.