



MINUTES

**ROCK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY JULY 6, 2016, 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 7:19 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Rich Bostwick, Wes Davis, Anders Dowd, Brenton Driscoll, Kara Hawes, Alan Sweeney, and Jeremy Zajac.

Committee Members Absent: David Rebout

Others Present: Tom Sweeney, County Board Chair Russ Podzilni
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Supervisor Davis moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Supervisor Driscoll. **Motion Carried.**
3. **Approval of Minutes – June 1, 2016:** Supervisor Hawes moved to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2016 Land Conservation Committee meeting, seconded by Supervisor Davis. **Motion Carried.**
4. **Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements:** County Board Chair Russ Podzilni asked to address the Land Conservation Committee regarding appointing Supervisor Al Sweeney to the Rock Koshkonog Lake District. Board Chair Podzilni informed the committee of Justin Schultz resignation from Same and that Supervisor Sweeney agreed to the appointment. Supervisor Davis informed the Committee that he and Norm Tadt, Senior Conservation Specialist attended the Southern Area Tour. Supervisor Davis also expressed concern about that private parties are interested in purchasing Water Control Dams in Wisconsin.
5. **Review of Bills paid.** Chair Bostwick asked if any committee member had questions regarding the bills paid last month. **None being heard.**
6. **Land and Water Resource Management - Approve Cost Share Agreements.** Tom Sweeney presented the cost share agreements that need to be approved. Supervisor Dowd moved to approve the cost share agreements presented, seconded by Supervisor Driscoll. **Motion Carried.**
7. **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program – Approve 15 Year Agreements.** Tom Sweeney presented the 15 year agreements that need to be approved. Supervisor Sweeney moved to approve the 15 year CREP Agreements as presented, seconded by Supervisor Driscoll. **Motion Carried.**
8. **Farmland Preservation Program – Approve Notices of Non-Compliance for James M Rowley Trust and David M Hoff.** Tom Sweeney presented the Notices that need to be approved. Supervisor Sweeney moved to approve the Notices of Non-Compliance for James M Rowley Trust and David M Hoff as presented, seconded by Supervisor Davis. **Motion Carried.**

9. **Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE):**
 - A. **Morton Easement Status:** Tom Sweeney led a discussion centered on the status of the John and Kathy Morton Easement Purchase.
 - B. **Program Financial Status:** Tom Sweeney distributed a copy of a spread sheet he uses to track the financial status of the program. Note this is not an audited document. Based on the health of the program and the limited funding from other sources, the committee may want to amend the program to consider easements as a sole purchaser. This amendment will need to start at the PACE Council level. The Committee agreed in concept and advised Tom Sweeney to schedule a PACE Council Meeting for their consideration.
 - C. **Sayre Easement Status and Potential for a supplemental payment to secure easement. Program Update.** Tom Sweeney presented a status on the Sayre Farms easement. Tom Sweeney met with Tom Sayre Jr. and was asked if the Committee would consider a supplemental payment not to exceed the appraised value of the easement. Tom Sweeney explained the situation that the appraisal submitted as part of the application to the DNR for Knowles-Nelson Stewardship funding was conducted using the Yellow Book appraisal method. Due to the value of the easement, DNR conducted their own appraisal using a different method. The net result was a \$150.00 per acre discrepancy between the two methods. Supervisor Sweeney stated this is an opportunity we cannot pass up, since this 356 acre easement will be the largest easement to date. The committee discussed the merits of a supplemental payment while recognizing an existing LCC policy of a maximum of \$1,600 per acre payment. Supervisor Sweeney moved to allow Tom Sweeney to negotiate for the committee a supplemental payment not to exceed the LCC policy of \$1,600/acre, total purchase price, seconded by Supervisor Davis. **Motion Carried.**
10. **Set Date and Time for August LCC Conservation Tour.** The committee agreed that the August LCC Conservation Tour will occur on Friday August 12, 2016 to start @ 9:00 am.
11. **Adjourn:** Supervisor Zajac moved to adjourn the July 6, 2016 Land Conservation Committee meeting at 8:27 pm, seconded by Supervisor Davis. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Sweeney
County Conservationist

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