

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>APPROVED MINUTES</b>  <b>LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING</b>  <b>Thursday, December 15, 2016 – 3:00 P.M.</b>  <b>USDA Service Center, Conf. Rm 104</b>  <b>1124 Professional Drive</b>  <b>Dodgeville, WI 53533</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Iowa County Wisconsin</b></p>
<p><b>Meeting was called to order by Secretary, Carol Anderson at 3:00 P.M.</b></p>		
<p><b>Roll Call, Approval of this Agenda and Approval of the Minutes of October 13th, 2016.</b>  Members present: Bob Bunker, Greg Parman, Dan Nankee, Dave Gollon, and Carol Anderson. Members absent: Dave Ladd, Roger Dax and Rod Anding. Others present: Larry Bierke, Andy Walsh, Rob Hemling, Len Olson, Doug Carden, John Meyers and Jim McCaulley. Discussion of adding LCD transition to other business.  Sup. Anderson made a motion to approve the agenda (agenda #16) for this December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting the addition to Other Business. Sup. Gollon seconded the motion. Motion carried. Sup. Nankee made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting. Sup. Parman seconded the motion. Motion carried.</p>		
<p><b>Report from committee members and an opportunity for members of the audience to address the committee. No action will be taken.</b>  None.</p>		
<p><b>NRCS Update.</b>  Andy Walsh reported that the number of EQIP applications indicates a strong interest. Pheasants Forever staff update: Martin Moses is new hire for Farm Bill Biologist position and will assist with Farm Bill programs and projects. Fifteen year CREP contracts are expiring and contracts will begin re-enrollment. Upland grassland areas and stream filters are eligible. Field visits will begin in the next two months and will be a big workload.</p>		
<p><b>NRCS Staff.</b>  Motion by Sup. Parman to approve Jim McCaulley to write letter to NRCS to request filling vacant NRCS Soil Conservationist position. Sup. Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried.</p>		
<p><b>LCD Staffing Update.</b>  Jim McCaulley reported that an LTE staff position (Pat Brooks) was added and Len Olson's hours increased to 4 days per week from 2.5.</p>		
<p><b>NMP/LWRM Report.</b>  Rob Hemling reported that Nankee and McNett jobs have been completed. Contract extensions will be requested for projects not completed. 2015 contracts can be paid in January and requests to DATCP made by February 15th. All NMP funds have been contracted. LCC permission was requested to extend 2016 contracts not completed. Dam inspection forms were sent to NRCS and brushing was completed on two dams. Motion by Sup. Gollon to accept report and grant the contract extensions. Seconded by Sup.</p>		

Parman. Motion carried.

**Farmland Preservation Report.**

Len Olson provided a FPP update and reported on the 2016 Self-Certification forms and filing fee. Two participants, Linda Errthem and Thomas Palam requested to voluntarily drop out of FPP. LCC approval was requested to forward the Notice of Non-Compliance to WI Dept. of Revenue. Motion by Sup. Anderson and seconded by Sup. Nankee. Motion carried. Sup. Gollon discussed that he would like the term “Non-Compliance” not used in “voluntary situations.”

**Birch Lake and River’s Grant Update.**

Grant approval will be known by February or March, and another grant cycle occurs in February. The grant would be used to hire another engineer for a second opinion for the costs to remove the Birch Lake Dam. Doug Carden made a presentation to County Board for the “Save the Lake” efforts. He gave an update on DNR permitting DNR letter indicates tentatively to issue a permit to dredge the lake. Currently waiting 30 days for comments and advertising in Dodgeville Chronicle. The group needs to work out an agreement with Iowa County on dam management. Doug Carden indicated that the lake is a resource for school activities and over 50 businesses are in the fund drive. By the end of February they will have the money. In June 2016 the group brought the proposal to LCC. John Meyers indicated a need for a letter of support from the village and township. Sup. Gollon said DNR may come back with comments and also indicated that on the County level, there should be an agreement on the operation and management of both lake and dam together.

**TP #15 Letter to DNR.**

Jim McCaulley reported to the committee that the Gov. Dodge Dam is still identified by NRCS as owned by County, and received a letter from NRCS indicating its over 50 years old and has reached its design life. The letter was forwarded to the DNR.

**SW Badger Letter of Support.**

Discussion by Jim McCaulley that he will send a letter of support for \$5,000 in kind support to SW Badger RC&D.

**Annual WLWCA Conference on March 15-17, 2017.**

Jim McCaulley reported to the committee that the conference’s location is the Oststoff Resort at Elkart Lake. The conference includes breakout sessions and he encouraged LCC and LCD staff attendance. Please let the LCD office know if planning to attend by the February 15 deadline.

**Future of the LCD Options.**

Jim McCaulley is retiring effective January 13. Jim distributed an outline for future transition (3 month look ahead). He discussed and handed out a Summary of Iowa County’s Land Conservation Department from 1990 to 2016. The need to continue with DATCP engineering assistance was discussed. Also discussed was possible nutrient trading in the future. Cost-sharing for farms and reduce money spent for bricks and mortar may be an option. Discussion by Sup. Gollon on building into LCD budget to help

communities involved with sewer treatment plant re-construction.

**Other Business.**

Larry Bierke, County Administrator, distributed questions for a future LCC meeting related to the LCD. Larry indicated that Grant County merged with planning and zoning in 2013, staff not happy; staff had conflict of mission and roles; outreach suffered; and more expensive and not less. Jim VandenBrook, Executive Director for WI Land+Water, told Larry that two counties, Buffalo and Calumet, merged and then reversed the merge. Jim VandenBrook suggested contacting Columbia and Outagamie counties to interview for good conservation programs. Sauk County is currently facing problems. On December 19<sup>th</sup> Larry is meeting with Lafayette County, and is meeting with Buffalo and Calumet Counties at some point. One option is to appoint an acting LCD head until decisions are made. John Meyers suggested taking the questionnaire to Farm Bureau for input. LCC Chair Bunker indicated a January meeting to discuss the LCD transition. A meeting date of January 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm in the USDA Service Center's conference room 104 was set.

**Motion to set the next meeting date and adjourn.**

The next regular meeting of the LCC was set for February 9th, 2017 at 3:00pm at the USDA Service Center. Meeting was adjourned at 4:15pm.