

Minutes of Land Conservation Committee

Date of Meeting: December 5, 2011
Members Present: Mike Klimoski, William Bostwick, Glenn Remington, Eugene Kamps, Tom Schultz
Members Absent: Rick Bina
Others Present: Marie Graupner, Sally Hull, Jeremy Irish, Becky Frisch, Robin Stowe, Peggy Lane
Location: Wolf River Room, Resource Center, 837 Clermont Street, Antigo

The meeting was called to order by Klimoski at 10 a.m.

Minutes of the Last Meeting:

Bostwick made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Kamps seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried. Schultz made a motion to excuse Bina. Bostwick seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

Old Business/Report of Events Attended:

Kamps attended the Executive Committee meeting. Work to be done at the Arboretum was approved and will now go to the Lumberjack Council for the second round of approvals.

Agency Reports:

DNR – A written report was presented. The report outlines timber sales, hours at the Antigo Service Center, and the deer and bear harvest numbers.

NRCS – Peggy Lane said CSP payments should be completed by early next week. Sign ups for EQIP and WHIP programs are due February 3, 2012. Sign up for CSP is due January 13, 2012. Construction on the access roads at the Bures and Smith farms is completed and the Crockford project is almost finished with only a few minor details to take care of.

FSA – There is a meeting set for Tuesday, December 6, 2011, to count ballots.

Recommendations for Improvements to Wildlife Damage Control:

Graupner received an email from the DNR seeking suggestions to the Wildlife Damage Control program. Jeremy Irish asked the committee for any suggestions they have for improvements to the program. Suggestions were for better hunter access and better notification of the program. Jeremy said there were 48 bears trapped in 2011. He handed out a fact sheet on managing starling conflicts at dairies and feedlots.

Lumberjack RC&D Council Member at Large:

The Lumberjack RC&D Council has three members at large positions open. Kamps is currently the representative with Schultz as the alternate. Remington made a motion to nominate Dave Solin for the member at large position. Kamps seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried. Graupner will check with Dave Solin on his acceptance of the nomination.

WLWCA Resolutions:

The WLWCA conference is being held this week. Graupner has received five resolutions that will come to the floor for a vote. Schultz will be voting for Langlade County. The committee reviewed the resolutions which included:

- 1) Reduction of phosphorus loading (affects mostly Green Bay/Lake Michigan). Committee votes NO.
- 2) Retain agriculture tax classification in wetland reserve program. Committee votes NO.
- 3) Keep Asian Carp from coming into state waters. Committee votes YES.
- 4) NRCS to consider climate change impact. Committee votes NO.
- 5) Merger of Land & Water Conservation Board with Land Conservation employees. Committee votes YES.

More resolutions may come to the floor and need a 2/3 vote to bring forward.

Farmland Preservation Program:

Graupner mailed out notices of non-compliance for Farmland Preservation. Two landowners did not respond back by the deadline. Schultz made a motion to issue notices of non-compliance to the Farmland Preservation Program to Walter & Barbara Igl and Antoniette Honzik. Kamps seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried. These landowners had the option of withdrawing from the program but did not acknowledge that option.

SWRM:

Several preliminary plans of the 2012 SWRM allocation have been distributed. These plans are to be presented to the Land and Water Conservation Board at their December 6 meeting. Langlade County could be cut from \$85,000 for staffing to \$74,467 because of budget lapses in DATCP. Schultz made a motion to send a resolution to county board supporting full staffing dollars from SWRM. Kamps seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

Review Status of Transformation Plan:

Robin Stowe attended the meeting to discuss the transformation plan that was presented to the Water and Land Use Committee. The plan calls for Becky Frisch to be department head for the Land Conservation Department effective January 1, 2012 and to contract with Lincoln County for technician services and resources. Currently, Land Conservation is staffed by one person and having a contract with Lincoln County will provide us with many more resources than we have available. Also, as SWRM funding is getting tighter, we need to show the state that we are committed to agriculture. The transformation plan originated with the Land Conservation Committee. The committees will stay the same and this will not create a new position. Jean Higgins in the Land Records Department will be retiring at the end of the year. Her replacement will provide support to Land Conservation.

Graupner, Alex Crockford, and Becky Frisch will be presenting to the county board early next year about the AEA area. There are 22,000 acres of Langlade County land enrolled in the AEA; this is more than any other AEA in the state. Training for CPA's and tax preparers will be held December 19. A letter has been sent to Ben Brancel from DATCP supporting the AEA and funding. This transformation plan will also help get more resources to support the AEA.

Department Update:

Graupner handed out a news article on conservation budget cuts. She has a book on 2011 Ag Statistics for Wisconsin. Langlade County has 65 milk herds with 61 of them Grade A and 4 that are Grade B farms. Langlade County is the highest producer of oats in the state. Graupner has been doing FFP spot checks, the poster contest was held, and she is waiting for the 2012 allocation to be announced.

Bills:

Schultz made a motion to pay the bills submitted. Remington seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

Upcoming Events:

The WLWCA annual meeting will be held December 7-9 in Wisconsin Dells. Graupner and Schultz will be attending.

Solid Waste Clean Sweep contracts will be coming out soon and will need to be signed by year-end. Schultz made a motion to give Kamps the authority to sign the Clean Sweep contracts. Bostwick seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

Next Meeting:

The next LCC meeting will be January 9, 2012, at 10 a.m.

Adjournment:

Bostwick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:02 p.m. Kamps seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

Submitted by,
Sally Hull