

MINUTES
KENOSHA COUNTY LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday, December 8, 2010
Kenosha County Center
Conference ROOM B
19600 - 75th Street
Bristol, Wisconsin 53104

Members Present: Ron Johnson, Kim Breunig, Judy Jooss, Marvin Drissel, Dave Daniels
Jerry Hebard - NRCS

Staff Present: Dan Treloar, County Conservationist
Andy Buehler, Director County Development
John Roth, Long-Range Countywide Planning Director
Jeff Yersin, County Conservation Engineer

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Chairman Johnson.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Members of the committee introduced themselves.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

None

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE February 2, 2010 LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Kim Breunig made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 2, 2010 Land and Water Conservation meeting. The motion was seconded by Judy Jooss. The motion passed unanimously.

UPDATE ON DATCP SOIL AND WATER MANAGEMENT GRANTS

Dan Treloar reported that Land & Water Conservation completed 16 projects. 10,860 linear feet of grassed waterway, 1 rock chute, 3 stream/river bank restoration/protection projects, and 6 well abandonments. Jeff Yersin designed the majority of the projects installed. Mr. Treloar presented photos of several projects and also showed a video of the drain tile installation on the Krupinski/Epping waterway. Mr. Treloar explained we cost-shared three Nutrient Management Plans with the segregated funds, he chose farmers in water quality management areas as a priority.

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

Working Lands Initiative Update – Mr. Treloar noted that Kenosha County had one A-1 rezone that required a rezoning fee for 1.7 acres and was submitted to DATCP for 2010. The County has been awarded a \$30,000 grant to update its Farmland Preservation Plan (FPP) which needs to be completed and adopted by December 31, 2011. Mr. Treloar explained that the FPP has to be consistent with the comprehensive plan and wants to make the FPP an appendix to the comprehensive plan. Several other counties have taken that approach. He mentioned creating an appendix will save us a lot of time and effort. A map will be added to the comprehensive plan showing potential Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEA). A-1 Zoning District areas will remain unchanged. Mr. Treloar explained that DATCP mailed letters to all FP participants instructing them to contact their local Land Conservation Department. He only received four phone calls. He also explained the schedule of compliance that is offered to existing FP participants and the 5-years they are given to bring their farms into compliance. Mr. Treloar said he would be developing a FPP Advisory Committee soon and it would begin meeting in the next month or so.

WLWCA dues and possible WLWCA/WALCE merger – Mr. Treloar explained the make-up of the associations, staff and LCD members. Both associations are lobbying for the same thing so it seems only natural to combine the organizations and put them under the direction of one paid executive director, who answers to one combined board of directors. Perry Lindquist from Waukesha County has taken the lead in preparing the merger process, dues, committee structure and by-laws. Overall the merger would streamline the organization and increase efficiency with a bigger more diverse membership.

Mr. Treloar explained the WLWCA dues increases are the result in losses and reduction of traditional funding from DATCP and the WDNR among others. Mr. Treloar feels that WLWCA have been very fiscally responsible, cutting staff, downsizing their office space, reducing vehicle expenses and allocating part-time pay for a full-time director, who has been doing a great job. The committee decided to have Ron Johnson scope-out the merger and dues situation at the conference and then get back to us with more information.

Mr. Treloar also detailed the charitable items donated from local businesses to support WLWCA educational outreach. He thanked the Jelly Belly Corp. Rust-Oleum Corp. and Jockey Corp. for their generous donations.

NOTE: Ron Johnson reported back that due to a rash in outside source fund reductions WLWCA will require this one-time dues increase to balance their budget. Mr. Johnson said that the merger is moving forward and with the other positive work that WLWCA is doing he felt the dues increase should be paid for 2011.

WLWCA Conference Resolutions

Resolution #1 – Support, unless the SE WLWCA Area presents opposing information at the conference.

Resolution #2 - Support

Resolution #3 - Support

Rural Land owners Expo – Mr. Treloar described the expo, trade show and farmers market. He handed out the expo brochure and discussed the break-out sessions. The expo had an attendance of about 100+, Nancy Washburn from Main Street Market in Union Grove catered the event. The energy track was very well attended. The expo will be held again next year on November 5th and he mentioned possible session ideas.

WDNR Water Regulation & Zoning Vacancy - Mr. Treloar explained that Heidi Kennedy has moved into a new position, so right now her position is vacant. Mr. Treloar noted that she will be greatly missed and we wish her well in her new role as shoreland policy coordinator. Mr. Treloar explained her position was partly funded through a costal grant program, which should increase the chances that the WDNR will fill her position sooner rather than later. Mr. Treloar asked the committee to voice their support for a replacement.

Ag Shoreland Policy – Mr. Treloar described a new office policy to help manage disturbances in shoreland areas that do not have stream history and the WDNR does not take Chapter 30 jurisdiction. The Ag Shoreland would allow vegetative clearing to improve farm drainage. This policy does not apply where the shoreland is developed, the adjacent lands must be completely in agriculture. Permitted ditch dredging will require spoils spread under the technical standards in ACTP 48 and the landowner must maintain a 20-foot stream corridor buffer. Buffers would be vegetated according to NRCS technical standards. A 20-foot buffer would begin to have a water quality improvement effect. The buffers could be planted to hay and SWRM cost-share could offset the seeding expenses. The policy will be brought to Land Use Committee for their approval.

2011 Tree Program – Mr. Treloar handed out the tree order form, he explained the bulk mailings were done early this year with the expo brochure; he is inserting 4000 forms in the *Ties to the Land* newsletter and has added a fillable form to the website. Stock and prices are the same as last year and hoped to use the cold storage building again in 2011. Mr. Treloar explained that last year because we sold the 3-foot Arborvitaes we profited \$2000.00, but the trees were very variable in size and some customers were disappointed.

AGENCY REPORTS: NRCS AND FSA

Jerry Hebard handed out a report for Kim Iczkowski (FSA) on the nominations and election for local representatives to the FSA Farm Board. Marvin Drissel explained the board oversees all aspects of Farm Services Agency.

Jerry Hebard handed out reports on farm bill programs. He explained that up until January 14th he is taking applications for EQIP, CRP (General and Continuous) and WHIP. Mr. Hebard explained the different programs and eligibility requirements. Another General CRP sign-up will probably occur in 2011, if CRP acreage fall below the 40 million acre cap. We have six new CRP sign-ups in Kenosha County.

Mr. Hebard mentioned that the very capable Brandi Richter would be filling in after his retirement.

OTHER BUSINESS ALLOWED BY LAW

Mr. Treloar asked the committee to thank Jerry Hebard, for his 40 1/2 years of faithful service, as he moves into retirement. **Good luck Jerry!!**

Judy Jooss talked about Honey Bear farms property on the north side of Powers Lake. The road to this property is narrow and very curvy. The property was commercially zoned and a portion of it was sold to Dean Chudy who added a warehouse and Galaxy Golf and Gifts. This has created a lot of new truck traffic in conflict with local pedestrians. He wants to expand his business which could increase trucking even more. Walworth - Bloomfield Township approved a rezoning for the expansion. Power's Lake District was opposed to this rezone. A petition is being brought before the Bloomfield Township to block the Comprehensive plan amendment. Mr. Chudy has offered to clear the road side to increase safety.

Judy Jooss said that Powers Lake had had a very successful year at Water Milfoil control, luckily there was less to deal with and less chemical application was required. There are using a liquid herbicide that is injected below the water surface. Ms. Jooss said we really had fabulous results after reviewing their follow-up survey. Mr. Treloar mentioned that Powers Lake did receive a 3-year Aquatic Plant Management grant and it helped pay for herbicide applications in 2010.

Kim Breunig asked about the status of the Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge. Mr. Treloar explained that he and Mr. Buehler had attended a public meeting that the USF&W put on in Bristol last month. The USF&W are still scope the exact size and location of the potential refuge. This large general area was chosen for its location near major metropolitan areas and its location along a major bird migration route. Normally these refuges are between 10,000 and 20,000 acres. It is all voluntary and would not forbid hunting. It looked like the best open space was located in McHenry County, open grassland with little or no development. It would require the full support of Washington D.C. USF&W staff told us that the original planning started in 1995 and "you have to start somewhere, if you're going to preserve large tracts of land".

NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME

The next meeting date was tentatively set for after the tree program early May. Notification and agendas will be out sent prior to that date.

ADJOURNMENT

Kim Breunig made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Judy Jooss and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by
April A. Webb, Administrative Secretary