

Lincoln County Land Information, Conservation Committee and University Extension
Minutes of Wednesday March 5th, 2014 3:00pm
Lincoln County Service Center
Lower Level Conference Room 156
801 N Sales Street
Merrill, WI 54452

Members Present: Frank Saal, R. James Alber, Hans Breitenmoser Jr, Jeff Hetfeld

Excused Members: R. Wayne Plant

Visitors: Debbie Moellendorf, Diane Wessel, Garth Swanson, Dan Bowers, Dan Marzu, Art Lersch, Amanda Kostman

1. Call Meeting to Order:

The Land Information, Conservation & U-W Extension committee meeting was called to order by Chair Saal at 3:00 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes from the February 12th 2014 Committee Meeting

Motion by Alber second by Breitenmoser to approve the minutes from the February 12, 2014 committee meeting. Motion carried.

3. Public comment

No public comment

LAND INFORMATION AND CONSERVATION

4. Discuss /Action on 2013 Budget Modifications

Motion by Alber second by Breitenmoser to approve the 2013 Budget Reports. Motion carried.

5. Discuss/Action on 2013 Budget Carryovers

Motion by Saal second by Breitenmoser to approve the 2013 Budget Carryover Requests. Motion carried.

6. Budget Reports/Retained Fee Report

The budget report and retained fee report was included in packet for committee review.

7. Farmland Preservation Program

Diane reported that Lincoln County is eligible to apply for a Farmland Preservation Planning grant in 2014 for up to \$30K or 50% of the cost of plan development. The grant funds would be available from the time of the award through 2016. The county has received an extension until December 2016 for plan development. The County will apply for the maximum funding. There is no penalty if the county does not utilize the entire grant award.

8. O&A on Staff Activity Reports

The staff activity reports were included in packet for committee review.

Private On Site Waste Systems – Diane stated that Land Services is developing a process to follow up on systems that have not complied with the state required maintenance program. She stated that the county has had the maintenance program since 1991, counties that participate in the Wisconsin Fund are required to have a 3 year maintenance program, and that new requirements are that all systems not currently in the program be inventoried by 2017 and included in the program by 2019. The process staff is currently working on is to meet current requirements, not an expansion of the program to meet new requirements.

Shoreland restoration - Saal asked if the work is similar to POWTS, a follow through and compliance check of landowners meeting requirements of an agreement with the county. Diane agreed that is the nature of the work on shoreland restoration.

Working lands initiative – Diane explained the components of the Working Lands Initiative: Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEA), Farmland Preservation Zoning, and Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE). Owners of agricultural lands in Lincoln County will no longer be eligible to claim farmland preservation income tax credits after all existing contracts expire unless Lincoln County develops an AEA or adopts Farmland Preservation Zoning. Diane explained the requirements, time commitments, process for establishment, and income tax credit rates, and penalties for conversion for each of the programs. The committee requested that a map of existing AEAs in Wisconsin and further discussion on AEAs be at the next committee meeting.

UW-EXTENSION

9 Discuss/Action on 2013 Budget Modifications

Motion by Hetfeld second by Alber to approve the 2013 Budget Modifications. Motion carried.

10. Discuss/Action on 2013 Budget Carryovers

Motion by Saal second by Breitenmoser to approve the 2013 Budget Carryover Requests. Motion carried.

11. 2014 Summer Affirmative Action Internship Program (SAAIP)

Dan Marzu reported that he received a letter on Monday indicating that Lincoln County was not selected for the 2014 Summer Affirmative Action Internship Program.

12. Revised 2014 North-Central Region Innovative Grant; Request for Committee Chair to Sign the Revised Grant Application and any Proposal Acceptance Documents forwarded by the North-Central Region Innovative Grant

Dan reviewed the 2014 North Central Region Grant with the committee and indicated that the funds were modified to include funds not received from SAAIP. He also indicated that he had met with Randy and Dan regarding the summer intern position and neither had issue with moving forward as long as outside funding was secured for the position. **Motion** by Alber second by Breitenmoser to approve submission of the grant by the March deadline. Motion carried.

13. North Central Region WACEC Meeting rescheduled for April 21, 2014

Debbie advised the committee that the North Central Region WACEC meeting originally scheduled for February 21st was cancelled due to weather. The meeting has been rescheduled for April 21st at Grand Lodge in Rothschild. Committee members should contact Debbie if they are planning to attend so she can register them.

14. Education Roles of County Extension Educators at County Fairs

Debbie indicated that there seems to be some confusion regarding the role of Extension Educators in the County Fair. She distributed and reviewed a handout entitled "Educational Roles of County Extension Educators at County Fairs". She elaborated on how Lincoln County Extension Educators partner with the Lincoln County Fair on educational opportunities at the Lincoln County Fair, including providing support and resources for the Junior and Open Division departments, serving as an advisor for the Market Animal Show and Sale program, and putting up educational displays at the fair. All of which are in line with document distributed.

Supervisor Alber requested that the Collaborative Arrangements for 4-H Portion of County Fair be placed on the next agenda for discussion.

13. Discuss & Set next meeting date and time

The next Land Information, Conservation and University Extension Committee meeting will be held on April 9th, 2014 at 10:00am

14. Adjournment

Motion by Breitenmoser second by Saal to adjourn at 4:10 pm. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Debbie Moellendorf, Diane Wessel and Terri Pankow