

Lincoln County Land Information, Conservation Committee and University Extension
Minutes of Wednesday April 9th, 2014 10:00am
Lincoln County Service Center
Lower Level Conference Room 156
801 N Sales Street
Merrill, WI 54452

Members Present: Frank Saal, R. Wayne Plant, Jeff Hetfeld, Hans Breitenmoser Jr, James Alber
Visitors: Diane Wessel, Debbie Moellendorf, Art Lersch, Tammy Hansen, Rebecca Kludy

1. Call Meeting to Order:

The Land Information, Conservation & UW-Extension committee meeting was called to order by Chair Saal at 10:00 am.

2. Approval of Minutes from the March 5th, 2014 Committee Meeting

Motion by Hetfeld second by Alber to approve the minutes from the March 5th, 2014 committee meeting. Motion carried.
Alber: #8, Q&A on staff reports, POWTS maintenance program is an over-reach of government. Request for future agenda item to amend minutes to include POWTS comment.

3. Public comment

The committee thanked Frank Saal for years of service and leadership

UW-EXTENSION

4. Review 2014 Extension Budget Report

The budget report was included with the packet. Hetfeld asked for clarification on the agent contract line item. Debbie clarified that this is the expenditure for the annual contract between the University and the county for the educator positions that was approved at the February committee and County Board meetings. She further indicated that the county is invoiced for half the contract amount in February/March and the remaining half in fall. Plant then asked for clarification on the accounts that appear to be over budget. Debbie indicated that we are receiving revenue to cover these expenditures but they are not reflected in the budget as we did not either anticipate receiving the revenue when our 2014 budget was prepared or in the case of a few accounts per the direction of Finance the revenue is deposited in our general revenue account (i.e. postage and copy revenue) versus being deposited into the expenditure account. We will be doing budget modifications at the end of the year to balance all of these accounts.

5. Collaborative Arrangement for 4-H Portion on County Fair – Supervisor Alber

At its September 2013 meeting the committee requested that Debbie Moellendorf ask Marathon County Fair organizers whether it would be possible for Lincoln County 4-H members to participate in that fair if the Lincoln County Fair at some future point is not to be held. In her July-September written report which was presented to the committee in November (copy of relevant section in this month's meeting packet), Moellendorf shared that she was told that Marathon County Fair rules prohibit 4-H members from other counties from participating in its fair exhibits. No further requests of Moellendorf were made concerning this matter. Discussion took place about the state statute that governs county fairs (59.56(14)). Alber reiterated his concern that the Lincoln County Fair could one day cease to exist and that this is why he requested that Marathon County be approached. He also expressed displeasure with the Marathon County Fair policy of excluding 4-H members from other counties. Breitenmoser stated that the possibility of Lincoln County 4-Hers showing in Marathon County was explored and that it is not an option. Saal requested that a future committee meeting agenda with our new committee include an overview about the roles of various entities involved in the Lincoln County Fair.

6. Resolution Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development and Updates on Lincoln County Events/Projects

Becky Kludy, President of the Lincoln County 4-H Leaders' Association, Inc. provided background on the resolution that they are presenting for committee action. They would like to request that this resolution be brought to the May County Board meeting, the next evening one, which would allow 4-H volunteers to attend. **Motion** by Saal second by Plant to approve and bring the resolution to the May County Board meeting. **Motion** by Alber second by Hetfeld to add a WHEREAS to state "In 1934, the Lincoln County 4-H Leaders Association was formed." Amended motion carried. Original motion carried. Debbie then provided an overview of the Centennial events/projects planned. This information was attached as the last page of her written report included in the committee packet.

7. Wisconsin Associated County Extension Committee Conference, June 23-24 in Eau Claire

Motion by Alber second by Saal to provide mileage and per diem for committee members to attend conference. Motion Carried. Debbie anticipates that registrations will be due in late May/early June so let her know if you are interested in attending.

8. Q&A on Agricultural Development Educator Written Report

The Agricultural Development Educator written report was included in agenda packet for committee review. Dan was not present as he is participating in the Public Issue Leadership Development Conference in Washington D.C.

9. Q&A on Community and Economic Development Educator Written Report

The Community and Economic Development Educator written report was included in agenda packet for committee review. An update was provided on the ADRC Central Wisconsin planning project.

10. Q&A on Family Living Educator and 4-H Youth Development Program Advisor Written Report

The Family Living Educator written report was included in agenda packet for committee review. Amanda was not present at the meeting as she is on vacation this week.

11. Q&A on Wisconsin Nutrition Education Written Report

The Nutrition Education written report was included in agenda packet for committee review. Tammy highlighted the new locations/groups they are providing nutrition education programs.

a. Discuss/ Action on WNEP County Agreement Letter for October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015

Tammy distributed a copy of the annual county agreement letter that is included in the grant application due in May. The letter indicates that Lincoln County agrees to provide physical office space and other resources (computers, paper, copies, and other equipment) to support the program. **Motion** by Alber second by Breitenmoser to approve and sign this letter. Motion carried.

12. Q&A on 4-H Youth Development Educator/Department Head Written Report

The 4-H Youth Development Educator/Department Head written report was included in agenda packet for committee review. Debbie highlighted that she has secured financial support from Ministry Good Samaritan Health Center to offer a Be Safe program training here on May 17th for local youth groups to implement.

LAND INFORMATION AND CONSERVATION

13. Working Land Initiative Agricultural Enterprise Areas

This agenda item was at the committee's request at the March meeting. The committee had asked for information on the benefits of establishing an Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) in Lincoln County. An educational brochure "Landowner's Guide to Understanding Farmland Preservation Income Tax Credits", a map of the Heart of America's Dairyland AEA, and a map of AEAs statewide was included in the packet for committee review. Diane explained the income tax benefits that could be available to eligible landowners through establishing an AEA and/or farmland preservation zoning. Diane explained that Lincoln County could establish a new AEA, or work with surrounding counties to expand the existing Heart of America's Dairyland AEA into Lincoln County. She explained that expanding the existing AEA may be more beneficial for agricultural product marketing purposes than would creating a new AEA.

For Lincoln County to add land in the Heart of America's Dairyland AEA (via Town of Corning), **one** of the following would need to occur:

- The Marathon County town of Halsey petitions to join the AEA
- The Marathon County towns of Rietbrock, Rib Falls, and Hamburg petition to join the AEA
- The Marathon County towns of Rietbrock, Rib Falls, Stettin, and Berlin petition to join the AEA
- The Taylor County town of Goodrich petitions to join the AEA

Motion by Alber second by Saal to direct department head pursue work with Taylor County staff and conduct AEA educational sessions in towns.

14. 2015 Soil and Water Resource Management Grants

Diane summarized the 2015 Joint DATCP/DNR Soil and Water Resource Management Grant application:

- Staffing request: \$155,841
- Land and Water Resource Management Implementation (bond funds/cost-share): \$150,000
- Land and Water Resource Management Implementation (Seg funds/nutrient management): 1200 acres @ \$28/acre = \$33,600
- Targeted Runoff Management Projects: \$300,000

Diane explained that DATCP applies a formula to the grant requests and the amount awarded will be less than the amount requested. The grant award for staffing is based upon 100% funding for the 1st position and 70% for the 2nd position; however DATCP has indicated that the portion of the 2nd position may be decreased for the 2015 award.

Diane indicated that the county is typically awarded \$55K-\$60K for bond funds/cost-share and the county prioritizes the projects requesting funding because the amount of funded is usually considerably less than the project requests. Diane also indicated that in the past, Lincoln County has transferred a considerable amount of seg funds/nutrient management to other counties, and that under-spending/transferring grant awards is a negative factor in future grant awards. DATCP has indicated that if the county does not anticipate using the funds, we should not request funding. Diane indicated that the Land Services Department and UW-Ext are implementing a nutrient management program in Lincoln County and will utilize 2014 seg funds with plans to expand the program in 2015.

Diane summarized the Targeted Runoff Management Projects:

- Resolution 2014-04-22 Targeted Runoff Management Grant – DNR Brad Juedes – Animal Waste Management Project \$150,000
Motion by Saal second by Breitenmoser Motion carried
- Resolution 2014-04-23 Targeted Runoff Management Grant – DNR – Park Avenue Dairy – Animal Waste Management Project \$150,000

Motion by Saal second by Breitenmoser Motion carried

15. Future of Conservation Staffing Grants

Past staffing grants funded 100% of 1st position and 70% of 2nd position. DATCP has indicated that in 2015 the 2nd position funding may be 80% of 70%, which equates to 56%. Diane indicated that conservation staff funding has decreased over the years. Diane also indicated that because the funding is based on the previous years' actual staff costs, the staffing award will be further decreased in 2016 because 2015 staffing award will be based on higher staffing costs (Diane Hanson vs. Diane Wessel salary), and because since the combination of departments, the Land Services Administrator is no longer 50% conservation-related activities, and therefore less of the Administrator's salary is eligible for staffing grant. Diane indicated that by changing the 2nd position in the staffing request from the Land Services Administrator (less than 30% conservation activities), to the Shoreland Specialist (95-100% conservation activities), the grant request and anticipated award for 2015 will maintain 2014 levels. She expressed concern that future staffing levels will be at decreased levels.

REGISTER OF DEEDS

18. Q&A on ROD Monthly Munis Report

The ROD Monthly Munis report was included in agenda packet for committee review.

19. Q&A on ROD Monthly Written Report

The ROD Monthly written report that was included in the agenda packet for committee review

21. Discuss & Set next meeting date and time

Effective April 15, 2014 UW-Extension is part of Administrative and Legislative Committee. The next Administrative and Legislative Committee meeting is May 5, 2014 at 9:00am.

Effective April 15, 2014 Land Information and Conservation is part of the Land Services Committee. The next Land Services Committee meeting is May 8, 2014 at 12:00pm

22. Adjournment

Motion by Plant second by Breitenmoser to adjourn at 11:30 am. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by: Diane Wessel, Debbie Moellendorf, and Terri Pankow