

**Lincoln County Land Services Committee
Minutes of Thursday, March 12, 2015, 1:00 pm
Lincoln County Service Center, Room #156**

Members Present: Julie Allen, Loretta Baughan, Wayne Plant, Curtis Powell & Greta Rusch. Jeff Hetfeld joined the rest of the Committee at the tour site at 1:25. Visitors: Diane Wessel; Land Services Administrator, Sarah Koss; Register of Deeds, Dan Bowers; Zoning Program Manager, June Winters; Zoning Program Assistant, Nancy Bergstrom; Corporation Counsel and 6 others. Supervisor Breitenmoser was excused from today's meeting.

1. Call Meeting order - Meeting was called to order by Chairman Powell at 1:00 p.m.
2. Tour site in the town of Bradley that will be subject of the public hearing - at 1:03 p.m. the Committee left to tour the site. The Committee returned at 2:10 p.m. Chairman Powell reconvened the meeting at 2:15 p.m.
3. Approval of the February 12, 2015 Land Services Committee Minutes – M/S Baughan/Rusch to approve the minutes. Motion carried all ayes.
4. Public Comment – There was no public comment.

REGISTER OF DEEDS

5. Q&A on Monthly Munis Report – Koss asked if there were any questions on the reports and there were none.
6. Q&A on Monthly Written Report – There were no questions.
7. 2014 Carryover Request - Koss explained the need for the carryover. She said she does not need a signature but does need a voice vote to approve & forward to Finance. M/S Allen/Plant to acknowledge the carryover request as proposed and forward to finance. Motion carried all ayes.

The Committee moved to item #9 on the agenda as it was too early to start the public hearing.

LAND SERVICES DEPARTMENT

8. 2:30 p.m. Public Hearing – Public Hearing was called to order at 2:30 p.m. Hearings were held on the items listed in the notice. Chairman Powell explained the rules of conduct for public hearings and introduced the Committee members. He called the first hearing.

CONDITIONAL USE REQUEST

1. A request by Mathew Lehan to allow for farm animals in a Rural Residential 3 zoning district. The property is located in the SW¼SW¼ of Section 23, T35N-R6E, in the Town of Bradley, with an address of W5640 County Road A. The tax parcel number is 04.233506.011.001.02.00. The request is being heard under section 17.3.02(1) of Lincoln County Ordinances

Mathew Lehan was present to explain & support his request. He wishes to have a small hobby farm not to exceed 10 goats & some chickens for eggs. He said that he had obtained the Town of Bradley approval. Bowers asked Lehan if he had any problems or questions with the conditions. He said that he would like to have roosters but could abide by the recommended conditions. Plant asked about the animal unit equivalency that Bowers had recommended and Bowers explained the requirements. Hetfeld commented that it is a residential area and asked if there were any other similar requests in the area and Bowers said that he wasn't aware of any. Bowers said that there were other farms in the immediate area but they were zoned appropriately.

Harry Gladwin, Town of Bradley Plan Commission Chair, was present. He said that both the Plan Commission & Town Board gave their approval. Town Board's approval was with conditions "as suggested by zoning". Gladwin added that

there was no one in attendance at either meeting in opposition. Powell reiterated the Bradley Town Board approval on 9/9/15 (4-0 vote) with conditions as suggested by zoning.

Chairman Powell called for any other proponents and/or opponents and there were none. Chairman Powell closed the public hearing for the Conditional Use request.

M/S Baughan/Allen to APPROVE ON CONDITION with the conditions as listed in the staff report.

Conditions:

1. The number of animals must not exceed the standard allowed in 17.5.09(4).
2. The pasture area is located to meet the standards of 17.5.09(5) and is not located in a regulated wetland.
3. Chickens are allowed but roosters are prohibited.

There was discussion on the request. Hetfeld commented that he feels that this is a residential area and must have been zoned as such for a reason and he is against the request. Powell commented that there are agriculture uses in the immediate area.

Powell called for a roll call vote. Plant-Aye, Hetfeld-Nay, Allen-Aye, Baughan-Aye, Powell-Aye, Rusch-Aye. Motion carried 5-1.

Committee moved to item #10 on the agenda.

9. Agency Updates – there were none.

Committee moved to item #14 on the agenda.

10. Resolution 2015-03-12 (Nutrient Management Farmer Education Grant) – Wessel explained the need for the grant & the program. It covers education of land owners & soil testing required as part of developing nutrient management plans. Baughan asked how many tests this may pay for. Dan Marzu, UW Ext. Agriculture Development Educator, explained that the tests are approximately \$8 each but some of the funds would be used for equipment & education so it is hard to estimate how many tests it would cover. Baughan asked what is tested for and Marzu said that it is phosphorus, potassium and calcium levels were the most checked. Wessel explained that 1 test per 5 acres more/less is what is typically required so plans would require multiple tests depending on area. Wessel explained that the money covers soil sampling & educational meetings. Wessel explained about other grants that are used for similar uses. The monies haven't always been utilized before and the plan is to boost this program with education through this grant.

M/S Baughan/Rusch to approve the proposed resolution with a wording change that Plant had mentioned. In the 6th "Where as" the word "tentatively" be removed and forward to County Board for the March 17, 2015 meeting. Motion carried all ayes.

11. Resolution 2015-03-10 (Opposing State Proposed Property Tax Reform) – Baughan had questions on the 3rd "Where as" regarding the number of positions at the state level eliminated & at county level added. Wessel explained that it would create a position in each county and it is inferred that it would be a full time position. Also the 2nd to last "Where as" about the specific savings and Wessel said that it depends on how many parcels there are in the county. Baughan asked if the annual cost estimate for our county included the cost of the "Tax Administrator" and Wessel said that it did. There was discussion. Baughan complimented Wessel on the wording of the resolution.

It was noted that the number of the resolution had originally been #13 but had been changed in the numbering for County Board to #10. M/S Allen/Rusch to approve the proposed resolution 2015-03-10 and forward to County Board.

Allen/Hetfeld to amend the motion to add "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors directs the County Clerk to send this resolution to Governor Walker, the Joint Finance Committee, and all Wisconsin Counties." Motion to amend carried all ayes.

Amended motion carried all ayes. Motion approved as amended and will be forwarded to County Board for the March 17, 2015 meeting.

Powell moved to agenda item #17

12. Letter in opposition to state proposed elimination of the Wisconsin Fund Grant Program – Wessel briefly explained the “Wisconsin Fund” to the Committee. Governor Walker is recommending elimination of this program with the proposed state budget. There was a memo in their packet from Warren Hohn & June Winters, staff in the Land Services Department, that help administer the fund for the state in Lincoln County indicating the need for the program. Wessel had prepared a letter to Mary Czaja & Tom Tiffany from the Committee indicating our opposition to the elimination of this program. Wessel also gave the Committee a copy of a letter received from the Wisconsin Counties Association in opposition to eliminating this program. There was discussion on the program.

M/S Allen/Hetfeld for the Committee to sign the letter to the representatives Czaja & Senator Tiffany as presented. There was brief discussion. Motion carried all ayes. Committee members signed the letter. Wessel will take care of getting the letter to the representatives.

13. Discussion proposed sign ordinance text amendment language – Bowers explained that the draft text amendment is shown on their copies with the change noted. He reminded them that currently we don’t allow digital signs and he explained the changes that we are recommending after last month’s discussion. He found standard wording in numerous ordinances. Issues addressed are illumination & brightness; message duration & transition; location of signs (on premise in non-residential zoning districts); and; sign area.

M/S Plant/Baughan to approve the wording and to hold a public hearing for the text amendment. There was lengthy discussion on the changes, which zoning districts may be affected and the timeline for the changes. Bergstrom has questions about enforcing the brightness standards that we are proposing. Tim Cullen explained what other communities use to measure light. Motion carried all ayes.

Powell then discussed if they wanted to move forward at this time or to bundle it with other proposed changes. Bowers did say that this issue was raised because of a request for a digital sign. M/S Baughan/Allen to move forward on these specific changes now. Allen asked that it be an evening hearing (after 5:00 p.m.) for convenience of public to attend because it affects the entire county. There was discussion on the best time to hold the hearing. Motion carried all ayes. There will be a public hearing with this proposed text amendment on the May Committee meeting.

Moved to item #18 on the agenda

14. 2014 Budget Modifications – Wessel reviewed the modifications for the Committee. They are line item transfers to balance accounts within the department at the end of the year not changing the overall total budget. There was some discussion. M/S Baughan/Rusch to approve the Budget Modifications as proposed and forward to Finance. Motion carried all ayes. The Committee members signed the Budget Modifications page.
15. 2014 Budget Carryover Requests – Wessel reviewed the Carryover Requests for the Committee. Powell suggested they “bundle” the vote. M/S Rusch/Allen to approve all as proposed & forward to Finance. Motion carried all ayes.
16. Discuss the upcoming Wisconsin Lakes Conference – Wessel explained that previously some Committee members have attended this conference and wanted to know if there was any interest from the Committee to attend. Bowers explained which sessions may be beneficial to the Committee. Powell entertained a motion for paying per-diem & mileage for Committee members wishing to attend. M/S Plant/Baughan to allow for per-diem to attend the conference. Motion carried all ayes. Committee members to contact Land Services accordingly.

At 2:25 p.m. Powell called for a 5 minute break before they start the public hearing. At 2:30 p.m. the Committee returned to item #8 on the agenda.

17. Grazing Program – Powell offered his apologies to the Committee because he withdrawn the resolution for the Grazing program at County Board’s February meeting and asked that it be sent back to this Committee because of concerns that he had with inconsistencies & incomplete documentation of previous agreements. He also wondered if Lincoln County couldn’t offer similar services at less of a cost if done internally. He had asked Wessel to come up with some options that he wanted the Committee to consider and decide how they wanted to proceed.

- a) Marathon and Lincoln County Managed Grazing Agreement - M/S Baughan/Allen to discontinue the Managed Grazing Agreement between Lincoln & Marathon counties and move forward on our own, effective immediately.

Discussion followed. Baughan agreed with Powell's assessments that it may better serve our county to discontinue this agreement.

Paul Daigle, Land & Water Program Director with Marathon County, was present and wanted to explain that it was his understanding that there was an agreement in place. He was unaware of Powell's concerns. He feels that it would be a positive that the partnership be continued as it has for 17 years. He pointed out the benefits. There was discussion. Plant asked if we would still receive federal funds if we go on our own. *Wessel explained how the process works and ended up skipping to item b) in her discussion.*

Corporation Counsel said that she would need to review the agreement. Baughan expressed that we should consider this transition because she feels that the number of landowners that benefit in our county is so small that this money could be spent better elsewhere especially if it can be accomplished with other options. She complemented Wessel on defining the options clearly.

Powell called for a roll call vote. Plant-Nay, Hetfeld-Nay, Allen-Aye, Baughan-Aye, Powell-Aye, Rusch-Nay. Motion fails on a tie vote. There was discussion on the process to move forward. The contract will be reviewed by Corporation Counsel. The resolution to enter into an agreement with Marathon County & \$15,000 will return to the April Committee meeting then to County Board. Powell felt that this will create a better record for future agreements for accountability and to avoid confusion.

Wessel confirmed the steps to be taken and will have information on the next meeting agenda

- b) Future Grazing Programming in Lincoln County - Wessel explained the 4 different options she had provided. Two of them to end the partnership with Marathon County and work with other agencies at different levels of service. One was to continue with Marathon County but pay per service rather than lump sum. And, fourth to continue the current relationship with Marathon County. Plant had questions about what budget year this affects. Wessel said that it is in the 2015 budget. Plant felt that this was not something that should be disrupted mid-stream. *Discussion went back to pending motion on item a)*

The Committee returned to item #12 on the agenda.

18. Discuss Farmland Preservation – Wessel reviewed previous conversations regarding the Farmland Preservation Plan and reminded the Committee of previous recommendations of whether to do the plan “in house” or contract with North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. Wessel is concerned that if everything is done “in house” we will not be able to meet established deadlines. M/S Hetfeld/Rusch to allow the department head to contact NCWRPC for assistance in preparing the Farmland Preservation Plan. Motion carried 5-1 with Baughan voting nay.
19. Department Report - Wessel commented that she wanted to touch on budget bill issues that we have not yet taken formal action on. One of them being the Tax Bill change. Wessel said that the information available currently is too vague so it is not clear what the impact will be. Allen said that we may not know the impact on the counties but it would probably be significant. Consensus to hold off on a resolution & letter on this issue.

Wessel cited other areas of the proposed budget bill for concern including: Conservation staffing grants; Natural Resources Board; Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection board; State partnerships; and Community transportation planning.

Wessel updated the Committee on the Lidar Resolution that goes to County Board this month. The original proposal cited “not to exceed \$125,000”. Since the original proposal we have received more information that the plan for the county cost share based on the USGS cost determination is \$62,000 in CIP funds with the balance paid for by retained fees.

20. Confirm next meeting/public hearing date – April 12, 2015 - Date confirmed. Meeting tentatively to start at 1:00 p.m.
21. Adjourn – M/S Hetfeld/Allen to adjourn at 3:45 p.m. Motion carried all ayes.