

**Lincoln County Land Services Committee
Minutes of Wednesday, August 13, 2015, 2:00 pm
Lincoln County Service Center, Room #156**

Members Present: Julie Allen, Loretta Baughan, Hans Breitenmoser, R. Wayne Plant, Curtis Powell & Greta Rusch.

Visitors: Diane Wessel; Land Services Administrator, Sarah Koss; Register of Deeds, Matthew Bremer; Zoning Program Manager, Nancy Bergstrom; Corporation Counsel, June Winters; Zoning Program Assistant & 5 others. Supervisor Hetfeld was excused.

1. Call Meeting order - Meeting was called to order by Chairman Powell at 2:00 p.m.
2. Approval of the July 9, 2015* Land Services Committee Minutes – *Winters acknowledged that she had printed an incorrect date on the agenda only and it was in fact for the July 9, 2015 minutes. M/S Baughan/Allen to approve the minutes. Motion carried all ayes.
3. Public Comment – there was no public comment

REGISTER OF DEEDS -

4. Q&A on ROD Monthly Munis Reports – Sarah Koss asked the Committee if there were any questions and there were none.
5. Q&A on ROD Monthly Written Reports – Koss commented that the revenues were up for May & June of this year over last year. July was more than last year but not as much of an increase as May & June. There were no questions on the report.

LAND SERVICES DEPARTMENT

6. Agency Updates – Jeremy Irish, APHIS-WS, was present. He shared that about an hour before he came to the meeting he was given a document to have the Committee sign regarding the Venison Donation program. He thought the last one signed covered this year but apparently it did not. Wessel said that she believed that it could be signed by the County Conservationist OR the Land Services Committee Chairman. There was brief discussion and Chairman Powell signed the agreement.

Irish continued with his update. He said that the DNR is considering opening up the Venison Donation Program to the entire calendar year instead of how is it currently run depending on participation. He was just informing the Committee of this potential change. Irish touched on the annual fence inspections in the county and said that there had been only 2 left and those have both been completed. Pagoria's Apple Orchard contract runs out this year so this is their last inspection. There are currently 11 participants enrolled in the county. He shared that there has been no bear damage reported yet. There have been some changes with the Ag bear shooting permits. He reviewed those changes regarding type of permit required. Baughan asked some details on who would be issued those permits and whether it is limited to the property owner. Irish explained that the permits are in control of the participant (landowner) and the landowner decides who may use it. He shared a situation that they are currently dealing regarding a conflict between a participant & a neighbor regarding crop damage by animals.

At 2:12p.m Chairman Powell moved to item #9 on the agenda.

7. Farmland Preservation Plan
 - a. Process Update – Wessel explained that we have contracted with North-Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) to put the plan together. Coleman Peiffer from NCWRPC was present to explain that process & timeline. The Plan is due the end of 2016 so we are actually ahead of some other counties. The Farmland Preservation Plan is required by State Statue and will replace the Agriculture section in the comprehensive plan.

- b. Public Participation Plan – The Committee had been given a copy of the plan. He reviewed the public participation plan. He shared what they recommend counties do in the process. Baughan questioned the importance of creating a farmland preservation plan for a county like Lincoln that has so little farmland. Peiffer said that it is mandated by the state & can still financially benefit some landowners in the county. Having a plan may open the door to other programs. Baughan stated her understanding that the statute does not specifically state that we have a plan and does not believe that we should. She stated that she is not in favor of this.

Breitenmoser stated the importance of having a plan in place citing that there is a fair amount of agricultural land in Lincoln County which contributes economically and expressed the importance of preserving agricultural land for future generations. This planning makes that possible and reduces potential conflicts between farming & residential land use. He believes farmland is an important asset to Lincoln County.

M/S Allen/Plant to approve moving forward with the Public Participation Plan. Powell asked for discussion stating that he agreed with Breitenmoser that there needs to be a plan. Motion carried 5-1, with Baughan voting nay.

Peiffer explained that the process takes about 5 months & feels that the process brings attention to the issue. He said that people choose or not to participate & that participation goes with the land. Typically it is a 2-3 meeting process. 1st meeting is typically reviewing the issues & trends, statistics, long term goals, strategy, criteria & maps. 2nd meeting is for further review & finalizing the plan. Because we are already updating the Comprehensive Plan next year this will be an addendum or amendment to the Comp Plan Update. The Farmland Preservation Plan needs to be forwarded to DATCP for review, then back to this committee and then to County Board for approval. Meetings will probably start the end of this year or early next year. Baughan asked if Pine River, as a town not under county zoning, is required to be in the plan. Being un-zoned they are still included because the two issues are independent (zoning vs. farmland preservation). There was discussion on the difference. Powell suggested that Peiffer obtained clarification on this issue by NCWRPC legal counsel. Plant asked for clarification about it being in perpetuity and Peiffer said he believed it would be a 15 year contract that during the 15 years it is in effect it would go with the property. Powell asked Peiffer to get clarification on that point also.

8. Grant Requests –

- a. Lumberjack Resource Conservation & Development Council project grant requests - Plant recused himself from discussion and voting as he is affiliated with Lumberjack RC&D Council. Powell asked that be noted in the record. Wessel explained the grants available. She said that this needs Committee approval. These are matched grants. Wessel explained the process before talking about the specific projects.

- i. Tomahawk Fishing Unlimited & City of Tomahawk – Jed Buelow was present. He is with Tomahawk Fishing Unlimited. Their organization is hoping to replace a public fishing pier in the City of Tomahawk (in Veteran’s Memorial Park) that is in disrepair. They are working with the City of Tomahawk and the City would be doing the work. Powell commented on how much the existing pier is used by people.

M/S Powell/Allen that the grant application be submitted to Lumberjack RC&D. Motion carried 5-0.

- ii. Lincoln County Service Center Grounds Restoration – Wessel said she thought this came about from a conversation at a Public Property Committee meeting. Breitenmoser said that there had been a CIP request to redo the lawn and Baughan had made some suggestions. Baughan said what is being proposed here is not really what her idea was for the project and didn’t believe this is what Public Property had decided on. There may have been some miscommunication. Baughan also didn’t think this was going to be until the 2017 budget. Powell said that he would like to see this held over until the Public Property Committee has made decisions so this Committee can decide whether to move forward with the grant application. Wessel said that the grant application was due in October. The item was laid over at the discretion of the Chair.

- b. The Prairie Enthusiasts – Because this is tied to the Service Center Grounds Restoration project it is also laid over with above.

Chairman Powell moved to item #10 on the agenda

9. Request to fill authorized position – Land Services – Land Services Administrator - Nancy Bergstrom, Lincoln County Corporation Counsel, was present because the Administrative Coordinator could not attend. Diane Wessel will be leaving Lincoln County in September because she has accepted a position with the Village of Hortonville. There will be a special Personnel Committee meeting prior to the County Board meeting on August 18, 2015 for approval to refill this position. Bergstrom reviewed the application/screening process & the proposed timeline. They were planning on a September 8, 2015 deadline for applications; interviews hopefully taking place the week of September 14th. There was discussion by the Committee & schedules were reviewed & discussed. Proposing the Committee interviews are scheduled for Thursday Sept. 17th after 10:30 a.m. To be confirmed as soon as possible.

M/S Breitenmoser/Allen to refill the position. Motion carried all ayes.

Chairman Powell returned to item #7 on the agenda.

10. Shoreland Zoning Update – Wessel explained that with Act 55 there were many changes to Shoreland Zoning. Not only did they bring standard down to NR115 but they also changed NR115. Changes were in effect the day the state budget was signed in August.

She reviewed the changes regarding; lot sizes, lot width, setback & shoreland buffer requirements. She then reviewed the changes that are not so “cut & dried” and that are more confusing regarding Non-conforming structures (permits, mitigation, vertical expansion & completely rebuilding in same footprint) and explained the problems that would be generated with these changes. Allen commented that if no permit is required for different structures the assessors would not be made aware of new or changed structures.

Wessel said that we are waiting on clarification of many of the other changes, some of those being: **1)** “structure” as being newly defined with Act 55. **2)** Variances – that the DNR can no longer appeal a decision of a Board of Adjustment. **3)** Impervious Surfaces calculations. **4)** View Corridor width & allowances. **5)** Vegetative Buffers requirements. She discussed the Wisconsin Counties Association’s legal counsel’s opinion that it may ultimately affect Chapter 17 not just Chapter 21. Wessel said that staff is struggling with how to handle current permits that are coming in with so many unknowns. She explained how we are handling requests and that we are working with Corporation Counsel’s guidance. Baughan asked when this may be resolved. Wessel said that the DNR is working with legislators to determine the “intent” of many of the changes. We may get some clarification within the next month but the fix for clarifying things & rewriting laws may take better than a year. Breitenmoser said that it is unfortunate that the elected officials opted to take this route to make changes to shoreland zoning. It puts a burden on staff dealing with such gray areas & not being able to give exact answers. Powell agreed with Breitenmoser that it was a terrible waste that this much time & effort at the county level was put into creating the regulations and they were totally defeated by the legislature.

11. Department Reports – Wessel reviewed the Department Report. She said that the interviewing for the Land Information Manager went well and the new Manager will be starting August 31, 2015. She mentioned the “summer tour” with the North Central Land & Water Conservation Association that is scheduled for Thursday, August 20th. Lincoln County is the host county this year. There was discussion to see if any other Committee members wished to attend. The Committee had no questions about the Financial Report, Grazing/No-till Drill or Compliance issues.
12. Confirm next meeting/public hearing date – September 10, 2015 - Because there are no public hearing applications for next month the meeting may be moved to coincide with the date the interviews will be held for the Land Services Administrator’s position. Meeting date will be either September 17th or 18th to be determined shortly.
13. Adjourn – M/S Plant/Rusch to adjourn at 3:22 p.m. Motion carried all ayes.