

MINUTES
KENOSHA COUNTY LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Tuesday, July 18, 2011 at 1:00 p.m.
Kenosha County Center, **ROOM B**
19600 - 75th Street
Bristol, Wisconsin 53104

Members Present: Ron Johnson, Kim Breunig, Judy Jooss, Dave Daniels, and Marvin Drissel

Members Excused: Brandi Richter - NRCS and Kim Iczkowski - FSA

Staff Present: Dan Treloar, County Conservationist
Andy Buehler, Development Director

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairman Johnson.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

CITIZENS COMMENTS

None present

REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 8, 2010 LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Kim Breunig made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 8, 2010 Land and Water Conservation meeting. The motion was seconded by Marvin Drissel. The motion passed unanimously.

UPDATE ON DATCP SOIL AND WATER MANAGEMENT GRANTS

Dan Treloar spoke to the committee stating that there was \$49,768 available to cost-share for 2011 to be used for hard practice installation and \$8,330 available to cost-share nutrient management plans. We have quite a few projects lined up for 2011. Mr. Treloar mentioned one carry over project, the Ranieri waterway that will be started as soon as the wheat is harvested. We have a list of seven projects already, including two well decommissionings. Mr. Treloar mentioned that due to tremendous snowmelt the Krupinski/Epping waterway washed out and some funds would be offered to help repair it in combination with FSA/NRCS funding. The part of the waterway that washed was a CRP waterway so they will pay for 50 percent of the repairs.

The \$8,330 is soft practice funding such as Nutrient Management Planning. Some money was spent on the Reynolds NMP but there is still monies available. Mr. Treloar said he had mailed letters to the County Dairy operators letting them know about the program. No responses.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE *KENOSHA COUNTY FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN*

Mr. Treloar explained to the committee the planning process and public participation. The Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee representing all the townships had reviewed each chapter and at the last meeting approved it for consideration by the Land & Water Conservation Committee. Mr. Treloar explained the plan had been preliminarily reviewed by DATCP and all of their recommendations have had been incorporated in the draft the committee reviewed. Kim Breunig made a motion to approve the “Kenosha County Farmland Preservation Plan” and recommend that the Planning, Development & Extension Education Committee (PDEEC) approve the plan and send it to the Kenosha County Board of Supervisor for their consideration. The motion was seconded by Judy Jooss. The motion passed unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

- **WORKING LANDS INITIATIVE UPDATE**

Mr. Treloar explained to the committee the 2012-14 State budget amended Chapter 91 to do away with the rezoning fees, but it did leave the PACE program in place, but unfunded. The current State legislature did fund the existing approved PACE projects with Knowles/Nelson monies and mandated that the WDNR find a new funding source for PACE in the future. Everything else was left unchanged for now.

- **WLWCA/WALCE MERGER**

Mr. Treloar explained to the committee that the WLWCA and WALCE Boards have decided to merge the two organizations. The merger will require a 2/3 majority vote and will come before the general membership at the next two scheduled conferences (WLWCA in December and WALCE in March). If the merger wins favor the new organization will be called WLWCA and have a paid executive director and combined board of directors. The committee structure and bylaws have been drafted. No one has determined what effect this restructuring will have on our county dues. If the merger succeeds there will be one combined annual conference. It is foreseeable that our dues may be reduced or stay the same.

- **2011 TREE PROGRAM**

Mr. Treloar told the committee that the tree program for 2011 was a complete success. We used the HWY Dept. Cold Storage building for pick-up again this year. All the orders were pick-up by the end of the second day. About 150 orders plus cash sales. The tree program profited \$2,139.

- ***TIES TO THE LAND* NEWSLETTER CHANGES**

Mr. Treloar told the committee that a lack of Federal funding to FSA for outreach such as the *Ties to the Land Newsletter* resulted in no money available for postage. The partners

historically had taken turns covering the cost printing and FSA always covered the postage – the highest cost of distributing the newsletter. Therefore for the foreseeable future we will be providing a digital newsletter three times a year and do one fall mailing that will also include Racine and Kenosha tree order forms. Printing and postage will be shared by the partners for the one fall newsletter. We are in the process of preparing a listserv of our readership to email them the digital version. The formal announcement will be in the fall newsletter and a web site address for anyone who wants to receive the digital newsletter to add their contact information. Dave Daniels mentioned that the next newsletter could provide information about local internet providers. Judy Jooss noted that the libraries offer free internet access.

AGENCY REPORTS: NRCS AND FSA

Brandi Richter - NRCS and Kim Iczkowski - FSA were absent at this meeting so Mr. Treloar presented the information below;

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) report to the Kenosha County Land & Water Conservation Committee for July 18, 2011.

- As of June 6th I have been officially transferred to the District Conservationist position in Union Grove. I'm looking forward to continuing with the great partnership previously created between NRCS and Kenosha County.
- Compliance Reviews
Each year a sampling of randomly selected tracts must be reviewed for compliance with USDA program rules. NRCS has completed field visits for our annual compliance reviews. We will now begin the process of historical slide review and soil loss calculations. Then all data that is gathered will be loaded into the national system for processing.
- Program Payments / Contract Management / Field Visits
This is the time of year that we are busy finalizing program payments. If participants do not remain on schedule with their planned contract items contract management is completed at this time. We have also been busy in the field looking at potential projects for our next round of program funding.

Farm Services Agency (FSA) report to the Kenosha County Land & Water Conservation Committee for July 18, 2011.

- CRP Signup
We recently received results for the recent CRP general signup. There was only a 15% acceptance rate. This was surprising to us; the last general signup had a 100% success rate.
- Watch for increasing farmland
Because of the high crop prices, the FSA office has been seeing an increasing number of

pastures being worked up and fence rows being cleaned out. Farmers are reminded that they must always contact the FSA or NRCS office before doing any of this work. This will prevent producers from being out of compliance with Highly Erodible Land Conservation provisions or Wetland Compliance provisions. Farmers are strongly urged to stop into the office or even call if they plan on doing one of the above activities or anything like it.

- Email address collection

The FSA office has been very busy with acreage reports for the past 2 months. We have been trying to collect email addresses to be able to send the Ties to the Land newsletter via email, but the address collection was not overly successful. The rate was about 50% of farmers had emails and were willing to give them to us. We will continue to try to collect additional address and create a list serve for the newsletter.

OTHER BUSINESS ALLOWED BY LAW

Judy Jooss mentioned that the Powers Lake District has been purchasing wetland parcels at the source inlet to the lake. The district wants to protect that land. She asked if the committee thought that was a good idea - to purchase these lands. Most of the land is small parcels and unbuildable/farmable. Mr. Treloar feels that protecting the lake inlet from development would benefit the water quality of the lake. Wetlands and floodplains do have existing protection from the County and State. Ms. Jooss said there are some buildable areas on some of the parcels. There are several small parcels that they would like to purchase. Andy Buehler noted that individual private owners all manage their land differently, for better or worse. Ms. Jooss said the Lake District was working with the Kenosha/Racine Land Trust on future purchases. Mr. Treloar noted that the Land Trust would have available real estate attorneys and perpetual easement contracts pre-prepared.

Gift and Golf Galaxy has moved its operation to Bristol which has reduced truck traffic on the lake route. Nothing further has been done on the rezone or Comp Plan amendment in Walworth County. Mr. Buehler said they had made a significant investment in the Bristol facility. He also noted that that location was perfect in terms of shipping and receiving.

Dave Daniels asked about time frame for the FPP adoption. Mr. Treloar wants to get changes to DATCP and bring it before the PDEEC on September 14, 2011 and County Board in October or November.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME

The next meeting date was tentatively set for the first week of October after 2:00 p.m. Mr. Treloar will doodle the committee members to pin down a date and time. Notification and agendas will be out sent prior to that date.

ADJOURNMENT

Dave Daniels made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Kim Breunig. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by
Dan Treloar

DRAFT