

MINUTES
KENOSHA COUNTY LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday, September 17, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.
Kenosha County Center, **ROOM A**
19600 - 75th Street
Bristol, Wisconsin 53104

Members Present: Ron Johnson; Kim Breunig; Judy Jooss; Marvin Drissel, Dave Daniels, Kim Iczkowski - FSA

Members Excused: Brandi Richter - NRCS

Guests: Doug Hughes, Dennis Faber, Erin Decker, Kristin Look

Staff Present: Dan Treloar, County Conservationist
Andy Buehler, Planning Division - Director

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by Chairman Johnson.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

CITIZENS COMMENTS

None

REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 11, 2011 LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING (2:08)

- Kim Breunig made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 11, 2011 Land and Water Conservation meeting with corrections as noted. The motion was seconded by Judy Jooss. The motion passed unanimously.

UPDATE – LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE – DOUG HUGHES (3:40)

Doug Hughes, Camp and Center Lake District, informed the committee that the DNR has installed a new \$200,000 boat launch on south end of Camp Lake. He introduced the District's newsletter for their annual meeting. The Town of Salem purchased a 6-acre parcel (former Marchuk property) to be turned into a park area on southeast side of Camp Lake. The District has recently constructed a 5,000sf outbuilding to store their lake management weed control equipment. The District has taken control of the dam on CTH "SA" to rebuild the dam. There was an issue relative to the dam water level; however they worked it out with the DNR subject to the District taking some liability for the higher water level. The water level has been at the 741.5 for the last 20 years. The DNR has approved the higher water level with the District accepting the chance of some liability. It was noted that the DNR would take the dam out rather than repair it, so that is why the Lake District has taken on this project. Mr. Faber noted that the District conducts plant management surveys per NR 109. Surveys in 2004 noted frequency of Eurasian water milfoil was 95%. The 2012 survey indicates a much improved frequency of 6.58%. The assessed District value is \$241M+ with 80% of homes off the lake and 20% on, so the District has been careful

about their spending for projects on the lake since the majority of property owned in the district is not on the lake.

UPDATE ON DATCP SOIL AND WATER MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM (23:30)

Dan Treloar gave an update on the DATCP SWRM projects noting that the County had received a 2012 grant award of \$49,267 for cost share projects and \$25,000 in SEG monies. Four projects were carried over from last year. He continues to work with the Epping/Krupinski to finalize their project, which needs to be finalized before year end or the money will no longer be available. Two well abandonment projects have been completed. The Weidman farm waterway project has taken all summer to complete because they had equipment shipped to the U.S. from the Netherlands to do the tiling work. Once the equipment was delivered it needed to be outfitted with GIS - GPS equipment which further delayed the tiling. Tiling is being done today and he expects to complete and inspection shortly. Other waterway projects for Marvin Drissel, Schaefer and Al Fonk in Paris, are to be completed yet this year. The Trevor Grade School project has been completed.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE KENOSHA COUNTY LAND & WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT WORKPLAN (28:50)

Mr. Treloar explained the timeframe, workplan and goals in the plan and the certification process. Discussion ensued regarding drainage districts. It is proposed to request a five-year extension on the LWRMP revision. The goals and objectives have not really changed since the last plan, some of the plan actions have been revised to meet new performance standards and to reflect current projects we are doing here in Kenosha County. Discussion ensued regarding drainage districts in Kenosha County (Pike River and Bristol Drainage District/aka Dutch Gap); they are still in place, but have are not active. It takes a court order to dissolve a drainage district. The plan also includes information regarding recreational trail planning and possible park expansion.

- Kim Breunig made a motion to approve the “Kenosha County Land & Water Resource Management Plan” - 5-year revised workplan. The motion was seconded by Dave Daniels. Motion passed unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

- ***KENOSHA COUNTY FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN ADOPTION STATUS (42:28)***

The FPP has been completed and submitted to DATCP for certification review and approval; DATCP gave preliminary approval. There was an issue regarding designation of farmland preservation areas because DATCP had determined that a parcel had to be designated all farmland preservation area or no farmland preservation areas. Kenosha County has resource zoning (multiple designations) on a individual parcels. DATCP has finally revised their designation labeling and the FPP is now in compliance with submittal requirements. Staff has not received a reply at this time and will continue to follow up with DATCP. A two-year extension has been granted on this project.

- **WLWCA/WALCE MERGER (45:06)**

Mr. Treloar noted that the WLWCA/WALCE have merged as of the end of April. A new executive director has been hired - Jim Vandebrook who retired from DATCP as assistant land chief who will serve the organization. The organizations have been working toward convincing the State to dedicate a funding source for conservation staff in WI and Mr. Vandebrook should be a good fit to lobby on behalf of the organization toward that end.

- **FLOODPLAIN AMENDMENTS AND COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM APPLICATION (47:18)**

The FEMA floodplain maps were adopted in June. There were not a lot of changes. Some individuals that are now shown to be in the floodplain now have to submit proof of insurance to their lender. Staff offers a service for \$50 to help individuals prepare and submit a FEMA Letter of Map Amendment – Out as Shown (LOMA-OAS) to submit to FEMA to avoid the flood insurance requirement. This service can help property owners save money on their flood insurance.

- **TREE PROGRAM UPDATE (58:19)**

Mr. Treloar provided tree order forms to the committee. A new process for mailing the order forms is once a year with the *Ties to the Land* newsletter which goes to 5,100 recipients. The 2012 tree program was another success. The tree pick-up area was held at the Highway Department cold storage building again this year. The stock was good, no shortages. The tree program profited approximately \$2,900.

- **SUMMER TOUR (1:02:03)**

Mr. Treloar provided a brochure for the Oct. 17, 2012 summer tour and invited all to attend. Kenosha County LWCC and the SE Chapter of WLWCA are sponsoring the tour. The tour will showcase some of the County parks and new recreational trails. First stop on the tour will be Silver Lake Park. The trail that runs through Silver Lake Park runs along the old railroad spur that was there during the ice harvesting years where the footings from the old ice house building are still intact. The Fox River Buyout Program area will be visited which hasn't been visited in over 14 years. John Meland with the Housing Authority will talk about the program and purchases made over the years (over 100 homes to date). The tour will continue to KD Park and if time allows we may walk part of the trail around the lake and talk about the reclamation from Meyers Material quarry. A park plan has been prepared however it will require about \$3M to complete. A tour of the conservation area and lunch will take place at the World headquarters of Uline in Pleasant Prairie. Then the tour will continue to Petrifying Springs for a tour of the recreational trails, the newly reconstructed dam and road reconstruction, and the river restoration along the Pike River. The tour will close at Chiwaukee Prairie with commentary by Marty Johnson and the president of the Chiwaukee Prairie Foundation. A conscious effort has been made to keep

expenses for the tour at a minimum.

- **UPCOMING RURAL LANDOWNERS CONFERENCE (1:09:02)**

The Rural Landowners conference will be held Saturday, November 5 and will cover topics such as invasive species and three tracks concentrating on ducks, poultry, and goats (small animals). Information is available on the internet and the conference will be held at Kenosha County Center and will include a catered lunch. In the past there has been a good turnout for this event.

AGENCY REPORTS: NRCS AND FSA (1:10:37)

Kim Iczkowski stated that the FSA office is currently looking for a farmland loan position to work out of the Union Grove office to focus on urban agriculture small niche of farmers. This position will actively seek applicants for farmland loan programs. They are in the process of interviews at this time. The State has created a website for drought resources.

Kim Iczkowski reported for NRCS that the Environmental Quality Incentives Program cost shares waterways, erosion control, nutrient mgt. pest mgt. fiscal year basis 2012 funded \$52,883 Kenosha County. Total funding for all three counties (Racine, Kenosha and Walworth) was \$221,966 – 5 applicants four funded – two in Kenosha County. Taking applications for 2013 as it is a continuous process even though in flux at the moment waiting on farm bill finalization. The office conducts compliance reviews for conservation compliance for the federal farm bureau. They inspect crop in field, tillage or no till, any residue left in the field, any active erosion – in 2012 no issues were discovered on Kenosha tracts.

She also noted that the national office is mandating “separation of duties” which basically promotes no negative decisions on HEL (high erodible land) and wetland determinations, and compliance reviews. A negative review could potentially put them in a situation where they can’t work well with the producers/land owners because they are the ones that put that negative decision on that land. The HEL determinations and comprehensive reviews were separated in 2012 on a trial basis as they are smaller workloads of the three areas and so far it is going well - haven’t seen any slow down in workload or being able to deliver product back to land owners. However the workload is not a balanced switch so it is hard to determine how the process is going to continue to work. As of October 1st there is no backlog for all three counties so it is working for the moment.

Judy Jooss stated that Powers Lake is working on dredging project at Jefferson Island. There has been some controversy about the silt and debris blocking the channel, but we don’t know how it happened, but we are working on getting rid of beavers who have been adding to accrued debris. It’s a twofold job with the beavers and opening the water flow through channel. The project will be done this winter, we have the permits and someone has donated land. Future phases may have more to do with bank stabilization due to beaver damage. Haven’t seen any beavers lately trapped 4 or 5 last winter haven’t seen any over the summer.

Dennis Faber informed the committee that Doug Hughes has been a driving force for Salem’s new 106 acre park which received funding from a Nelson Noels grant in the amount of

\$546,049, as well as monies from impact fees from development, a total of \$1.3M for the whole park. Mr. Faber noted that the six acre Marchuk parcel on Camp Lake originally sold for \$1M - Salem bought it for \$374,000 and used impact fees to recently purchase the parcel for parkland. He also noted that about 50% of the Lake District equipment has been purchased about 50% through the WI Waterways program.

OTHER BUSINESS ALLOWED BY LAW (1:26:48)

Kim Breunig noted that a resolution was to be presented to the County Board relative to electronic packets for committees. The Executive Committee, Planning, Development & Extension Education Committee and Human Services Committee will begin distributing electronic packets January 1, 2013 if the resolution passes. Mr. Treloar noted that the LWCC has been progressive and already have gone paperless with their agenda packets.

Mr. Treloar commented that the Kenosha County website has been revised and Sept 29th went live with a whole new look with fly-outs, new content, notification sites, and news flash sites. Planning & Development took this time to reassess what areas were experiencing the most web inquiries and has revised their website accordingly so it works more effective and efficiently for the general public.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME

The next meeting date has been left open at this time pending any issues that may require immediate review.

ADJOURNMENT

Kim Breunig made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Judy Joos. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by
Dan Treloar / April Webb
Approved 09-16-2013