

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Conference Room 5, Courthouse Annex  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
January 6, 2009

Members present: Don Aanrud, Richard Barden, Robert Brilowski, Dale O'Brien, William Peterson, Mike Wiza

Others present: Ty Larson, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land Conservation Division.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Wiza.

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of December 2, 2008

Motion by Barden, second by O'Brien to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Correspondence

Bradley reported on the venison donation program for 2008. In 2007, 213 deer were donated, and in 2008, 88 deer were donated. Bradley also reported an amendment was made to the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), extending eligibility through 2013. Portage County has been participating with CREP since 2002.

4. Review/Approval – Vouchers, Purchases, and Reimbursements

After explanations regarding the CWWP office rent, the TRM grant program, and tree planter fund expenses, Barden moved and Peterson seconded the motion to approve voucher approval numbers 20080788, 20080816, 20090013, and 20090029. Motion carried by voice vote. Special meeting attendance approvals were given for: Wiza attending a meeting regarding logging at "The Pipe" at the Town of Hull Hall on December 10; and O'Brien attending the Little Plover River meeting at the County Annex on December 11.

Wiza read the **Public Notice** statement: Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order. No one registered to speak.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Larson reported he has been reviewing open contracts in preparation for a national audit. Signup is underway for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). Larson said there is a lot of interest.

6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No plans presented.

7. Committee Representative Reports

- a. Lakes Management District (Peterson)** – Due to the drawdown on McDill Pond, Peterson reported fishing will not be allowed until possibly May or June, after the water level is restored. Bradley reported the Tree Lake Association workgroup will hold their final lake planning meeting the end of January. Lake Helen is finishing their lake management plan.
- b. Resource Conservation & Development Area (Brilowski)** – No report.
- c. North Central Area Land Conservation Association (Peterson)** – No information has been received regarding the Annual Planning meeting yet. When information is available, Benedict will contact LCC members.
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Brilowski)** – Brilowski attended the December 15, 2008 meeting in Hancock. He reported 17.4 miles of windbreaks were installed in 2008, as well as 18,000 other trees planted. In 2009, a wildlife habitat planting and food plots will be planted in Adams County. An estimated 10-12 miles of windbreaks are being planned. The CWWP Board approved increasing the charge per tach hour on the Fee Schedule from \$50 to \$75 for prep, tractor use, and mowing services. The 2008 Plan of Work accomplishments were reviewed, and the 2009 Plan of Work was discussed. The next meeting is scheduled for February 23.
- e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien)** – No report.
- f. Mill Creek Watershed (Barden)** – No report.
- g. Little Plover River (Peterson)** - Bradley reported the flow report at Hoover Avenue as of December 1, 2008 was four cubic feet per second (cfs) and one cfs at County Road R. The readings are similar to the same time last year, a historic low. It was noted that rainfall in 2008 was well below average. Discussion took place on the possibility of rezoning some of the agricultural land to allow low density residential; however, because the towns have their Comprehensive Plans completed, they may not want to amend their Plans. The Town of Sharon Chair was in attendance and indicated the Town would consider rezoning requests on a case by case basis. The Villages of Plover and Whiting are investigating a new joint well outside of the Little Plover River Watershed. Bradley reported Del Monte had been using their non contact cooling water for field irrigation until it became too cold. O'Brien said millions of gallons were hauled to the south, and felt it should have been hauled to the north, to benefit the Little Plover River. However, some of the water contained potato waste, and farmers did not want it spread on next year's potato fields, fearing disease. O'Brien feels there are other options Del Monte could have used for applying the waste water. He also believes the farmers may be getting discouraged with the Little Plover River group as they are making the majority of the financial sacrifices and may have pumping reduction plans imposed upon them. O'Brien said the Village of Plover mentioned a plan to divert spring runoff from the Arnott bluff to a holding pond and create a ditch to feed the Little Plover River throughout the summer. Bradley said this is a good idea, but one of the limitations is finding a landowner willing to give up land. Bradley also reported the DNR plans to initiate the public hearing process in early 2009 to set the public rights stage at four cfs. However, because the Little Plover River is groundwater fed and withdrawals are through groundwater, the DNR is investigating to make certain they have legal authority to enforce a public rights stage. The next meeting is April 8, with a possible public hearing prior to the meeting.

Wiza gave an update on the logging operation at "The Pipe". A contract was drafted and reviewed. A \$10,000 cash bond is required, and all drivers must be insured. Wiza understood that all permits have been issued. The temporary bridge material is in place. An ordinance restricting parking in the area was passed at the Town of Hull Board meeting.

Wiza stated the permits are valid for 90 days from the date of issuance; however, the temporary bridge must be removed before spring thaw.

8. Report – Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) Annual Conference

Bradley reported he attended the WLWCA Conference on Friday, December 12 to vote on the resolutions. He said with minor changes and friendly amendments to some of the resolutions, all were approved. He added all were in favor of the resolution regarding allowing wildlife damage claims for sandhill cranes; however because they are not a hunted species, damages caused by sandhill cranes are not eligible for claims. The resolution was amended to state the WLWCA does not support an open season on sandhill cranes, but does support damage claim payments. In order for this resolution to be considered, the law must be changed to allow damage claims for non hunted species. Bradley said there was a lengthy discussion on the resolution regarding regulation of dry hydrants to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. Concerns were raised regarding limiting fire department access to dry hydrants. Language was included in the resolution exempting fire departments while actively engaged in fire suppression.

9. Watershed Projects

**a. Updates** – Bradley reported the Kevin Skinner manure storage project in the Town of Eau Pleine is complete.

**b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts** – No contracts presented.

10. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date is scheduled for February 3 at 5:00 p.m. in Conference Room 5, County Annex.

11. Adjournment

Wiza adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at \_\_\_\_\_ Land Conservation Committee meeting.

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Mike Wiza, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Brilowski, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Conference Room 5, Courthouse Annex  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
February 3, 2009

Members present: Richard Barden, Robert Brilowski, Dale O'Brien, William Peterson, Mike Wiza

Member absent: Don Aanrud

Others present: Ty Larson, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Barry Benson, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services; Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land Conservation Division.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Wiza.

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of January 6, 2009

Motion by O'Brien, second by Barden to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Correspondence

Wiza noted LCC members received the Thursday Note in their meeting packets. Bradley passed around a letter from U.S. Senator Russ Feingold, with an update on efforts to pass Federal legislation to keep waters clean for drinking, recreation, and the economy. Feingold is working with other representatives to strengthen the Clean Water Act. Bradley also distributed the 2007 Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Annual Progress report, compiled by DNR and DATCP, which highlights the work done by Land Conservation Committees and Departments in the State. Benedict passed around a text copy of the information to be put on a webpage for the Land Conservation Division on the County's website.

4. Review/Approval – Vouchers, Purchases, and Reimbursements

Motion by Barden, second by O'Brien to approve voucher approval numbers 20090092, 20090078, 20090055, and a purchase authorization. Motion carried by voice vote. Special meeting attendance approvals were given for: Brilowski attending the Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners Board meeting on December 15 in Hancock; and Brilowski and Barden attending the North Central Land and Water Conservation Association meeting on January 30 in Merrill.

Wiza read the **Public Notice** statement: Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Larson reported signups are underway for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP). There is a lot of interest in the

programs. Under the WHIP, Larson reported they are looking to do some trout stream habitat projects, mainly in the eastern part of the county, with the assistance of a DNR Fisheries Management Technician out of Wisconsin Rapids. Larson explained the types of structures and methods of creating habitat that are eligible. He also reported new Farm Bill rules no longer allow them to do habitat projects on DNR or State owned land.

#### 6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No conservation plans presented.

#### 7. Committee Representative Reports

**a. Lakes Management District (Peterson)** – Peterson reported the Izaak Walton Jamboree took place on McDill Pond on January 31. Wiza stated the fishing club he belongs to was approached to redo the boat landing at Heffron Street. The landing is City of Stevens Point property, and the club must get approval from the Department of Public Works, and ultimately the City Council. After approvals are granted, Wiza said it is possible the landing may be replaced in early spring, while the water level is still down. Bradley reported there was a good turnout for the initial meeting for Pickrell, Wolf, and Fountain Lakes, and he feels there will be a good group developing the lake plans.

**b. Resource Conservation & Development Area (Brilowski)** – Brilowski reported Amy Thorstenson gave an update on the weevil project. She is verifying samples taken during the summer 2008 and the results are of various propagation methods. Wiza asked about the success of the weevils. Bradley said it is too early to make a definite indication and more data must be studied, but it appears as though they are effective. Paul Skawinski has completed the McDill Pond aquatic plant management plan. Brilowski also reported a representative from Senator Kohl's office announced Kohl is the chair of the Senate agricultural committee, which will be considering funding soon. The next meeting is scheduled for March 13.

**c. North Central Area Land Conservation Association (Peterson)** – Bradley reported he, Brilowski, and Barden attended the January 30 meeting in Merrill. At the business meeting, the treasurer's report was given and the 2009 budget was approved. The Vice-President was elected, and is from Vilas County. The 2009 meeting schedule was approved. The WLWCA 2008 Annual Report was distributed, which Bradley passed around to the LCC. After the business meeting, Chris Borden, Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D Coordinator, gave a presentation on their soils web mapping project and NRCS programs. Representatives from DNR and DATCP talked about the nonpoint source water program. Julian Zelazny, WLWCA Executive Director, talked about the LCC handbook.

**d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Brilowski)** – The next meeting is February 23.

**e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien)** – No report.

**f. Mill Creek Watershed (Barden)** – No report.

**g. Little Plover River (Peterson)** – The next meeting is April 8.

#### 8. Discussion/Possible Action – 2008 Wildlife Damage Program Claims

Benson passed around and explained the 2008 wildlife damage summary. Of the group with shooting permits, Steve Kizewski and Tony Kruzicki did not meet their objectives. Benson will review their hunting logs and recommended revisiting their claims at the next LCC meeting. There were four participants with claims that were not issued shooting permits. One participant requested a shooting permit and shot nine deer, but did not submit a claim. A total of 92 deer were shot in Portage County on ag tags. Motion by Peterson, second by Brilowski to approve the wildlife damage claims, with the exception of Kizewski

and Kruzicki, postponing action on their claims until the next LCC meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.

9. Discussion/Possible Action – Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Grant Resolution(s)

Resolutions were presented for TRM grants for manure storage structures for Kyle Altmann - \$150,000, Borgen Brothers - \$150,000, and Nick Trestik - \$78,750. Bradley explained the TRM program, offered through the DNR. The resolutions were approved by the Finance Committee on February 2. After LCC approval, the resolutions will be forwarded to the County Board at their February 17 meeting. Bradley explained that the local share is the responsibility of the landowner, and no county funds are spent. Motion by Brilowski, second by Barden to approve the resolutions for Altmann, Borgen Brothers, and Trestik. Bradley noted that Trestik no longer owns the farm, however the DNR will allow transfer of the grant to the new landowner. Motion carried by voice vote. LCC members signed the resolutions.

10. Discussion/Possible Action – DATCP Staffing Grant Reimbursement

Bradley explained the annual grant from DATCP helps fund staff and support costs for land and water conservation programs. State Statutes call for funding 100% of the first position, 70% of the second position, and 50% of each position thereafter, but DATCP does not have adequate funds. Based on the formula, Portage County should receive \$238,473, but will get \$128,514. Motion by Barden, second by O'Brien to approve the staffing grant reimbursement request. Motion carried by voice vote. Wiza signed the reimbursement request, which must also be signed by the County Financial Officer.

11. Discussion/Possible Action – Little Plover River Appreciation Day Sponsorship

Bradley explained the Friends of the Little Plover River (FOLPR) hold an Appreciation Day in the spring for 4<sup>th</sup> grade students from Plover Whiting and Roosevelt Elementary Schools. Stations are set up along the Little Plover River with various activities. For this year's Appreciation Day, the FOLPR is seeking sponsors for the stations. Rates are \$25 for a half sponsorship and \$50 for a full sponsorship. The name of the sponsor will be displayed on a sign at the stations. The money raised will be used to pay for table rental for the event and newsletter costs. If the LCC approves, Bradley said the money could be taken from the Information & Education line item in the budget. Wiza suggested providing a brochure for students to take home with information on what Land Conservation does. Motion by Wiza, second by O'Brien to make a \$50 sponsorship donation to the Friends of the Little Plover River Appreciation Day, including an informational brochure regarding conservation in Portage County. Motion carried by voice vote.

12. Watershed Projects

a. **Updates** – Bradley gave an update on the Land and Water Resource Management Plan work plan revision. A copy of the work plan was sent via email or postal service to an advisory group to get feedback on the goals and objectives. Five or six responses were received. Those comments were incorporated into the work plan. Bradley said updates were also made to other information and statistics in the plan. He noted the entire plan can be accessed on the Portage County website, or a hard copy can be provided by request. A draft plan must be submitted to DATCP and DNR. After their review and changes and/or comments are incorporated, a public hearing will be held during a LCC meeting. After LCC approval, Bradley will present the LWRM Plan at the Land and Water Conservation Board meeting in June in Madison. After their approval, the LWRM Plan is presented to the County Board at their July meeting. Bradley will give updates at

each LCC meeting throughout the revision process. The plan will have a 10 year duration, with a review after five years.

**b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts – No cost share contracts presented.**

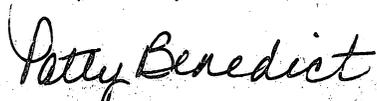
13. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for March 3 at 5:00 p.m. in Conference Room 5, County Annex.

14. Adjournment

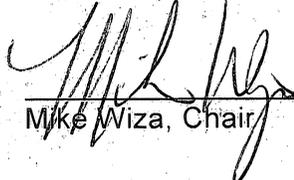
Chair Wiza adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at 3/3/09 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

  
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Mike Wiza, Chair  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Brilowski, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Conference Room 5, Courthouse Annex  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
March 3, 2009

Members present: Don Aanrud, Richard Barden, Robert Brilowski, Dale O'Brien, William Peterson, Mike Wiza

Others present: Ty Larson, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Barry Benson, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services; Pam Riggs, Lake Jacqueline District; Steve Bradley, Dan O'Connell, and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land Conservation Division.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Wiza.

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of February 3, 2009

Motion by O'Brien, second by Barden to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Correspondence

LCC members received notice in the mail of the Friends of Mill Creek Watershed Annual Meeting on March 23 at 7:00 p.m. at the Milladore Village Hall. The date for Creek Fest is May 9. Members were encouraged to read the Thursday Note included in their packets.

4. Review/Approval – Vouchers, Purchases, and Reimbursements

Motion by O'Brien, second by Barden to approve voucher approval numbers 20090092, 20090119, and 20090146. Motion carried by voice vote. Special meeting attendance was approved for Brilowski attending the Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners meeting on February 23 in Hancock.

Wiza read the **Public Notice** statement: Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Larson reported they continue to take applications for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP). Larson estimated between 40 and 50 applications for various EQIP practices and 6-8 WHIP applications have been received. The deadline for applications is April 17, after which applications will be selected for funding and contracts written. Larson stated they are receiving information on 10 year contracts or permanent easements for the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) and the Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP). O'Brien asked when farmers must comply with nutrient management standards. Bradley said as of 2007, DNR/DATCP performance standards require all cropland must have a nutrient management plan; however, he added the rule cannot be enforced unless cost sharing is made available to the landowner. Initially, Portage County applied for \$100,000 in cost sharing for nutrient management in 2009 and was approved for \$6,000, but because of the State budget situation, the nutrient management program was cut drastically and Portage County will not receive any cost share funds. Larson said there are Federal funds for nutrient management available through EQIP, but State enforcement is not possible unless the landowner voluntarily allows access to their records. According to the Farm Bill, information cannot be released to regulatory agencies without landowner permission.

## 6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No conservation plans presented.

## 7. Committee Representative Reports

**a. Lakes Management District (Peterson)** – Bradley reported Paul, from Golden Sands RC&D, is working with the Aquatic Invasive Species program. While the water has been drawn down on McDill Pond, he discovered Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) plants. He has arranged for volunteers to hand pull the EWM from the channel. When the water level is restored in May, chemical treatment may be done if needed. Wiza reported the City of Stevens Point has approved permits to replace the boat landings at Heffron Street and by the bridge on Business 51. The fishing club Wiza belongs to will provide labor and he said volunteers are welcome. The work will be done approximately mid April, before the water level is restored. Wiza added the fishing club is trying to get permits for a handicap access landing near the KASH playground.

**b. Resource Conservation & Development Area (Brilowski)** – The next meeting is Friday, March 13.

**c. North Central Area Land Conservation Association (Peterson)** – No meeting.

**d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Brilowski)** – Brilowski attended the meeting on February 23. Spring tree planting was discussed.

**e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien)** – No report.

**f. Mill Creek Watershed (Barden)** – As mentioned earlier in the meeting, the Annual Meeting is scheduled for March 23 at 7:00 at the Milladore Village Hall.

**g. Little Plover River (Peterson)** – Bradley reported the next meeting is April 8. A public hearing may be held to set the public rights stage at four cubic feet per second (cfs).

## 8. Steve Kizewski and Tony Kruzicki Wildlife Damage Claims

Benson stated he and Greg Dahl reviewed Kizewski's and Kruzicki's hunting logs and could not justify exemptions from their deer harvesting objectives. Benson recommended denial of payment of the claims. Motion by Brilowski, second by Peterson to deny Kizewski's and Kruzicki's claims. Motion carried by voice vote.

## 9. Discussion/Possible Action – Land and Water Resource Management Plan Accomplishments

Bradley distributed copies of the report summarizing 2008 Land Conservation staff activities. He noted over \$1 million were expended on Land Conservation programming. Approximately \$848,000 in revenue from sources other than county tax levy was collected, resulting in the use of approximately \$167,000 in county tax levy. This is an increase of approximately \$14,000 over 2007, and is due solely to salary and fringe increases. Bradley said employees paid through the Land Conservation budget include five full time staff, three part time staff for the Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners, one full time Nutrient Management planner, and one full time Aquatic Invasive Species position. Bradley noted Portage County received \$128,514 for staff from DATCP and support in 2008. In 2009, the County will receive approximately \$133,000. Bradley informed the LCC of an expected \$11,000 cut from the 2010 staffing grant allocation. At that time, decisions will have to be made whether the County will provide the difference in tax levy, or make staff cuts. Wiza suggested cutting hours to make up the difference. Bradley said that may cause issues with the unions. Wiza also mentioned the possibility of charging service fees to generate revenue. Bradley replied he will look to the LCC to make that decision. There was discussion on providing landowners with assistance with nutrient management plans. Bradley said many landowners are not comfortable with the computer program and appreciate receiving assistance. There was additional discussion regarding monitoring in the Tomorrow/Waupaca River Priority watershed (TWRP), and whether implementation of practices has improved water quality. Bradley explained baseline water quality monitoring was done from 1995 to 1998, taking samples from the stream during baseflow when the stream is fed by groundwater. He estimated it takes 10 years for the groundwater to travel to the stream and felt sampling in another five to 10 years should show if there is improvement. In the last 12-15 years, Aarud said the trend has moved from spreading solid waste to spreading liquid waste, with some

farmers incorporating the waste, and some spreading throughout the winter. Bradley said implementing manure storage was a major goal in the TWRP area. Farmers could spread in the spring and incorporate the liquid waste within a couple of days to take advantage of the nitrogen content. Bradley noted since 1994, just over \$1.8 million in cost share funding was spent in the TWRP area among 69 participants, boosting the local economy through agribusinesses, and concrete and earthwork contractors. The Buena Vista Graziers project, focusing on getting livestock out of the ditches, was completed in 2008. The Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners planted 17.4 miles of windbreaks and maintained 43.5 miles. Other programs/projects Land Conservation staff assisted with or completed in 2008 are: Portage County Lakes Study, Eurasian Water Milfoil, Mill Creek Watershed, the Little Plover River, providing a nutrient management educator, and review of nonmetallic mine reclamation and stormwater management plans. Bradley noted LCD staff continues to work on getting all projects on the County Geographical Information System (GIS) for public access and information.

10. Watershed Projects

**a. Updates** – O’Connell displayed a map of the Mill Creek watershed, which featured the locations of over 80 projects completed in conjunction with NRCS in the last 7-8 years. O’Connell noted manure pits, barnyard projects, and wetland restoration projects to slow the flow of Mill Creek have been installed to attempt to remove Mill Creek from the 303(d) list, one of the goals of the Land and Water Resource Management Plan.

**b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts** – No cost share contracts presented.

11. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in Conference Room 5, County Annex.

12. Adjournment

Motion by Barden, second by O’Brien to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Patty Benedict*  
Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at 4/7/09 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

*Mike Wiza*  
Mike Wiza, Chair

*Robert Brilowski*  
Robert Brilowski, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Conference Room 5, Courthouse Annex  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
April 7, 2009

Members present: Don Aanrud, Richard Barden, Robert Brilowski, Dale O'Brien, William Peterson, Mike Wiza

Others present: Ty Larson, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Pam Riggs, Lake Jacqueline District; Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land Conservation Division.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Wiza.

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of March 3, 2009

Motion by Barden, second by Peterson to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Correspondence

Members were encouraged to read The Thursday Note included in their meeting packets.

4. Review/Approval – Vouchers, Purchases, and Reimbursements

Wiza questioned the invoice for tree planter storage, asking if there is a County building that might have space to store the tree planters at no fee. Bradley will look into the matter. Motion by Brilowski second by Braden to approve voucher approval numbers 20090184, 20090203, and 20090218 as well as a purchase authorization in the amount of \$30.36. Motion carried by voice vote. Special meeting attendance approvals were given for Peterson attending the Plover River Alliance meeting at the City Parks meeting room on March 30 and the McDill Protection & Rehabilitation District meeting at Ben Franklin Junior High on March 31.

Wiza read the **Public Notice** statement: Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order. No one registered to speak.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Larson reported he spent two weeks filling in for a Statewide program manager. He stated the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) signup will end on April 17. He estimates between 40 and 50 applications have been submitted. There are also 5-6 applications for the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP). Signup for the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) will be announced soon. Larson expects to enroll approximately 2,000 acres in the Buena Vista area. Multi-year lease agreements can be set up for haying or grazing, or permanent easements to leave the land in grass. Larson said the GRP is unique in that it benefits wildlife as well as allowing production from the land, as long as the management plan is followed. Larson will provide further updates at the next meeting. Bradley asked how much EQIP funding Larson expects to get. Larson estimated receiving between \$80,000 and \$90,000, adding not all applicants will receive funding. There is a possibility of receiving additional funds from counties that do not spend their allocations.

Bradley asked if the 2009 windbreak projects will receive funding. Larson said that he will apply for a waiver so that the windbreak projects may begin on time. (If projects are selected for EQIP funding, he could pay out the EQIP funds for those projects. EQIP does not pay for projects that are completed prior to contracting and obligating funds, unless a waiver is in place prior to starting the project.)

#### 6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No plans presented.

#### 7. Committee Representative Reports

- a. Lakes Management District (Peterson)** – Peterson attended the McDill Pond meeting at Ben Franklin Junior High. He reported Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) has been found and is being pulled and disposed of on shore. Peterson reported the City of Stevens Point is no longer providing a place to dump harvested weeds. Wiza reported the City and the fishing club he belongs to are making improvements to the landings on Heffron Street, and on Business 51 with the possible addition of a handicap accessible dock. Peterson said weed harvesting will not take place in 2009, and future years will be determined as needed. (O'Brien entered the meeting.) Bradley noted if EWM is present, weed harvesters spread it. Larson asked if there is parking allowed at the Heffron Street landing. Wiza said street parking is legal, but limited and maneuvering a vehicle and trailer to the landing can be difficult. Peterson also attended a County Parks Department meeting where there was discussion regarding attempting to get an easement on the Plover River near Marathon County. A timber cruise was done, but results are not available yet.
- b. Resource Conservation & Development Area (Brilowski)** – Bradley reported on the March 13 meeting. A UWSP student has visited ten 4th grade classrooms presenting RC&D's project, "Groundwater Infiltrates Portage County", and has more classroom visits scheduled in April. Paul, from the RC&D office, continues to work on Aquatic Invasive Species, and coordinated volunteers to pull EWM from the channel in McDill Pond. Grants are being submitted for the following projects: Obtain stimulus money to revive the Conservation Corps Work Program in Portage County; Jordan Park alternative energy project; dam projects in Adams County; urban food process in Marathon County; and growing urban neighborhood gardens in Central Wisconsin. Wiza said the City of Stevens Point has two gardens, which may expand in 2009.
- c. North Central Area Land Conservation Association (Peterson)** – No report.
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Brilowski)** – The next meeting is April 20.
- e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien)** – O'Brien reported the Drainage District is working on a 10 year maintenance plan with the DNR, which allows the District authority to dredge ditches or maintain dams without having to go through the permit process each time. O'Brien also reported maintenance is being done on Isherwood lateral.
- f. Mill Creek Watershed (Barden)** – No report.
- g. Little Plover River (Peterson)** - The next meeting is April 8. The DNR determined there is no need to hold a public hearing. Discussion will take place regarding setting a public rights flow order at four cubic feet per second (cfs) at Eisenhower, with other flow rates set at Kennedy and Hoover Avenues. If the flow drops below the cfs rates, the stream is considered impaired.

#### 8. Discussion/Possible Action – Westra Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Grant Resolution (Transfer from Nick Trestik)

Bradley explained Gerban Westra now owns the farm, and the grant must be transferred from Nick Trestik to Westra. Motion by Barden, second by O'Brien to approve the grant transfer. Motion carried by voice vote. Members signed the resolution.

#### 9. Discussion/Possible Action – Portage County Lake Management Planning Grant Phases 3 and 4 Resolution

Bradley explained the grants are a continuation of the process to develop lake management plans for the 29 lakes included in the Lake Study. In May 2008, the County Board approved \$75,000 in contingency funds to be used as the County's matching funds for the Lake Planning project. The DNR has committed \$200,000 to the project, divided into four grants of \$50,000 each. Phases 1 and 2 are currently underway. After LCC approval, the resolution must be approved by the Finance Committee, and finally the County Board. Bradley will attend the meetings. He noted after the lake plans are completed, grant funding for implementation is the next step. Motion by Brilowski, second by Barden to approve the Lake Management Planning Grant Phases 3 and 4 Resolution. Motion carried by voice vote. Members signed the resolution.

#### 10. Discussion/Possible Action – Conservation Camp Scholarship(s)

Benedict stated the LCC has approved \$100 in scholarships in past years. The camp in Marinette County costs \$50 per camper, and the camp in Rusk County is \$100 per camper. In 2008, one \$50 scholarship was used. Benedict mentioned the budget line item for information and education may be tight if the scholarships are granted, however she noted the Trees for Tomorrow (TFT) scholarship previously approved for \$200 generally goes unused. She added there are only two workshops available for teachers through TFT. The LCC will consider withdrawing the TFT scholarship at the next meeting. Motion by Peterson, second by Barden to offer \$100 for conservation camp scholarship(s). Motion carried by voice vote.

#### 11. Discussion/Possible Action – 2009 Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) Cost Share Projects

Bradley explained the cost share funding comes from DATCP each year to implement conservation practices identified in the Land and Water Resource Management Plan. In 2009, \$61,394 is allocated, plus \$10,000 was transferred to Waushara County in 2008, which will be transferred back to Portage County in 2009, for a total of \$71,394. Bradley listed six windbreak sites and approximate cost share amounts: Blue Top Farms - \$6,764; Lonnie Firkus - \$4,598; Len Cychosz (2) = \$1,135 and \$3,274; Okray Family Farms - \$2,737; Duane Kruzitski - \$5,441; for a total of up to \$23,951. Bradley noted some EQIP funding may be available for windbreaks, which could decrease the amount of SWRM cost share funds needed. If needed, the remaining \$47,443 (or greater) funds are reserved for the Dambroski Brothers barnyard project. Dambroski's qualify for economic hardship, so the cost share rate increases to 90%. Some EQIP funds may also apply. Bradley anticipates Dambroski's may not use the entire amount. In the event there are funds remaining, Bradley said there are wetland restoration projects in the Mill Creek watershed, which will be presented to the LCC for approval. Motion by Wiza, second by O'Brien to accept the transfer of \$10,000 in cost share funds from Waushara County, and approve cost sharing for windbreaks not to exceed \$23,951, with the remainder of the funds to be allocated to the Dambroski project, if needed. Total cost share funds cannot exceed \$71,394. Any unspent funds will be allocated to projects approved by the LCC. Motion carried by voice vote.

#### 12. Discussion/Possible Action – DNR/DATCP Grant Application

Bradley explained State administrative code directs the State to provide staff funding at 100% for the first position, 70% for the second position, and 50% for each position thereafter, however they do not have adequate funds to do so. The amounts requested in the grant application for 2010 represent full funding: Staff/support - \$284,090; Cost sharing - \$100,000; Nutrient management - \$100,000; Targeted Runoff Management funds for Christine Ostrowski manure storage - \$150,000. Motion by O'Brien, second by Peterson to submit the grant application as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

### 13. Watershed Project Reports

**a. Updates** – No report.

**b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts** – Bradley presented figures for a Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) grant cost share contract for a manure storage project for Kyle Altmann, grant recipient, and Dale Altmann, landowner. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$250,000. The TRM grant will cover \$150,000 and Altmann must pay the remaining costs. There is no cost to the County. Motion by O'Brien, second by Barden to approve the cost share contract for Altmann. Motion carried by voice vote.

Brilowski reported the Plover Town Chair attended the Town of Hull Board meeting, and indicated that Del Monte is taking steps toward increasing flows in the Little Plover River, proposing to pump clean water back into the stream.

### 14. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in Conference Room 5, County Annex.

### 15. Adjournment

Chair Wiza declared the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Patty Benedict*

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at 5/5/09 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

*Mike Wiza*  
Mike Wiza, Chair

*Robert Brilowski*  
Robert Brilowski, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Conference Room 5, Courthouse Annex  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
May 5, 2009

Members present: Don Aanrud, Richard Barden (arrived at 5:15 p.m.), Robert Brilowski, Dale O'Brien, William Peterson, Mike Wiza

Others present: Ty Larson, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Anne & Larry Graham; Ray Biadasz; Cara Spoto, Stevens Point Journal; Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land Conservation Division.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Wiza.

Wiza read the **Public Notice** statement: Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order.

2. PUBLIC HEARING – Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plan

Wiza opened the public hearing and read the notice published in the Stevens Point Journal. Anne Graham registered to speak. Bradley gave background information, which is outlined in the executive summary. The LWRM Plan was originally developed in 1999, with an update in 2004. The Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) required another update in 2009, to be effective for 10 years with optional review after five years. Bradley referred to Appendix A, the Advisory Group names and affiliation. The list was revised in early 2009 and the individuals and organizations were given an opportunity to comment and make suggestions for revisions to the Plan's goals, objectives, and action items. Bradley stated there were a few responses. Anne Graham asked to have an action item for terrestrial invasive species added to the Plan, which has been included as a priority action item under Goal #4, Action Item #5. Bradley noted at this point, the LCD does not have adequate staff to provide treatment, but will assume a role to coordinate workshops, demonstrations, and provide information and education so landowners can treat invasives on their own. Another request was made to insert specific language addressing protection of the Plover River watershed, which was included as a priority item under Goal #4, Action Item #7. Bradley stated the current LWRM Plan is posted on the Portage County website. Bradley said a survey mailed to residents during the Comprehensive Plan development process returned similar environmental concerns as those in the LWRM Plan.

For the next step in the process, Bradley will present the LWRM Plan to the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) in Madison on June 2. The LWCB will make suggestions for edits if necessary, and will forward a recommendation to DATCP for approval or denial of the Plan. A resolution will then be presented to the LCC at their June 2 meeting. Finally, the LWRM Plan is to be presented to the County Board for consideration at their June 16 meeting.

Wiza asked for other comments. Anne Graham is a member of the Friends of the Mill Creek Watershed. In reviewing the current LWRM Plan, she did not see an emphasis on terrestrial species. She asked that to have issues regarding terrestrial invasive species

included in the updated Plan. She added terrestrial invasive species have economic and recreational impact. She suggested educating the public as well as road crews. Bradley expressed appreciation for Graham's input. He added the challenge is that currently, DNR does not provide funding to address terrestrial invasive species. Graham distributed materials on various terrestrial species to the LCC.

(Barden entered the meeting.)

O'Brien suggested updating Appendix A, adding Jennifer Stewart as the Community Resource Economic Development Educator, and attempting to get contact names for the Green Circle Trail and Community Foundation organizations.

Benedict mentioned when the LWRM Plan is presented to the County Board, a complete copy of the Plan will be provided to the County Clerk. An Executive Summary and the goals, objectives, and action items will be provided to County Board Supervisors. Supervisors will be informed they can access the entire draft Plan on the Planning and Zoning Department webpage ([www.co.portage.wi.us](http://www.co.portage.wi.us)), or they can view a hard copy of the document in the Land Conservation office. Bradley will attend the County Board meeting to answer any questions.

Hearing no other comments on the LWRM Plan, Wiza closed the public hearing at 5:20 p.m.

### 3. Review/Approval – Minutes of April 7, 2009

Motion by Peterson, second by Barden to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

### 4. Correspondence

A copy of an article appearing in the Stevens Point Journal was passed around regarding students' experiences viewing prairie chickens. Dan O'Connell, LCD, served as a guide for the students, and spoke in their classrooms. Bradley noted an article also appeared in the Stevens Point Journal regarding the Plover River Appreciation Day, which took place on May 1. The LCC sponsored a table, and a brochure was included in the students' bags featuring what the LCC/LCD does.

### 5. Review/Approval – Vouchers, Purchases, and Reimbursements

Motion by O'Brien, second by Barden to approve voucher approval number 20090258 as well as approval for a procurement card purchase. Motion carried by voice vote. A special meeting attendance approval was given for Peterson attending the McDill P&R District meeting on April 28 at Ben Franklin Junior High School.

Ray Biadasz requested to speak regarding possible Wildlife Damage Program violations. It was suggested he contact Barry Benson, Wildlife Damage Technician, to investigate.

### 6. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Larson reported 47 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), and four Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) applications have been submitted. Larson said he has not received any more information on signup for the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP). There are several interested landowners. Larson has also been busy with paperwork in the office.

## 7. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No plans presented.

## 8. Committee Representative Reports

**a. Lakes Management District (Peterson)** – Peterson attended the McDill P&R District meeting on April 28. The boat landing on Business 51 is complete. Filling of the pond started on May 1. It will take approximately a month to fill at a rate of about 6 inches per day. It was felt the drawdown will help in the control of invasive species. There was discussion regarding aerating.

Bradley was contacted by a Lake Jacqueline District representative regarding concerns relating to the Town of Sharon discussing enlarging the boat landing and the possibility of large boat traffic on the lake. One of the recommendations from the Portage County Lake Study was to limit boats to electric motor or carry on only on the shallow lakes. The Lake District would like to have input. Wiza offered to contact the Town of Sharon Chair and update the LCC. Bradley referenced language in the Town of Sharon Comprehensive Plan which states shallow lakes are not appropriate for high speed recreation or large boat motors even at no wake speed. The issue will be included on the June LCC agenda.

**b. Resource Conservation & Development Area (Brilowski)** – No report.

**c. North Central Area Land Conservation Association (Peterson)** – Bradley reported the Spring meeting will take place on June 12. Bradley plans to attend. If anyone wants to attend, they should contact Benedict.

**d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Brilowski)** – Brilowski attended the meeting on April 20. Sales of windbreaks fell just short of the 15.5 mile goal, with just under 15 miles sold. Bradley commended Larson for getting waivers to allow the use of EQIP cost share funding for windbreaks in time for this year's planting season.

**e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien)** – No report.

**f. Mill Creek Watershed (Barden)** – Barden reported Creek Fest will be held Saturday, May 9 at Rusty's Backwater Saloon. A bus tour of projects in the watershed is scheduled for Wednesday, May 27 from 10:00 to 12:30. If interested in attending, contact Dan O'Connell (346-1334) by May 20. A group from Petenwell and Castle Rock has been invited to the tour. Lunch will be held at Rusty's.

**g. Little Plover River (Peterson)** – Bradley reported a meeting was held on April 8. The DNR initiated a public rights flow at four cubic feet per second (cfs) on County Road R. O'Brien commended Curt Soik for his conservation efforts and actions to help restore flow in the Little Plover River.

## 9. Discussion/Possible Action – Conservation Camp Scholarship Award

Benedict reported there were no responses. No scholarships were awarded.

## 10. Discussion/Possible Action – Rescind Trees for Tomorrow Scholarship

Because no conservation camp scholarships were awarded, there will be sufficient funds in the budget for a \$200 Trees for Tomorrow scholarship. Benedict stated there are two workshops offered for teachers. Wiza felt as long as the money is budgeted, an opportunity should be offered to teachers. Benedict said the scholarships have gone unused the last several years. Due to possible budget cuts, O'Brien felt the money should be left in the budget. Motion by O'Brien, second by Barden to rescind the Trees for Tomorrow scholarship. Motion carried, with Wiza opposing.

## 11. Discussion/Possible Action – Resolution Authorizing Representative for Grant Submittals

Bradley stated the DNR requires a resolution naming an authorized representative to sign grant submittals, reports, and reimbursement requests. Motion by Brilowski, second by O'Brien to approve the authorizing resolution. Motion carried by voice vote.

12. Discussion/Possible Action – 2009 Soil & Water Resource Management (SWRM) Grant

Bradley reported the following are the allocations for the 2009 allocations for the SWRM grant: Staff and support - \$131,310; cost sharing for conservation practices - \$61,394; carryover funds from 2008 - \$8,480.87. Motion by O'Brien, second by Wiza to approve the SWRM Grant contract. Motion carried by voice vote.

13. Stewardship Week Report

Benedict reported Stewardship Week was observed April 26 through May 3. Materials were provided to churches in the county for use in worship services. Education guides were mailed to every elementary school in the County. Six teachers requested activity booklets for their students. The theme for 2009 was "Dig It – Secrets of Soil".

14. Watershed Projects

- a. **Updates** – Bradley reported work on the Dambroski barnyard project should be completed soon. The contractor had to wait for road limits to be lifted.
- b. **Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts** – No cost share contracts presented.

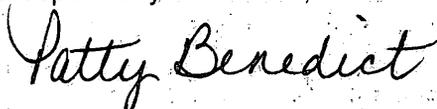
15. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 2 at 5:00 p.m., Conference Room 5, County Annex.

16. Adjournment

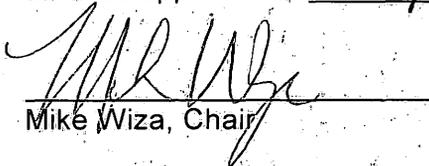
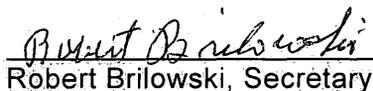
Wiza adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at 6/2/09 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

  
Mike Wiza, Chair  
Robert Brilowski, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Conference Room 5, Courthouse Annex  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
June 2, 2009

Members present: Richard Barden, Robert Brilowski, Dale O'Brien, William Peterson, Mike Wiza

Members excused: Don Aanrud

Others present: Ty Larson, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Pam Riggs, Lake Jacqueline P&R District; Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land Conservation Division.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Wiza.

Wiza read the **Public Notice** statement: Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order. Pam Riggs requested to speak regarding Agenda Item #9 – Lake Jacqueline Boat Landing

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of May 5, 2009

Motion by Barden, second by O'Brien to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Correspondence

Wiza received a notice from the DNR regarding a Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System for the Village of Amherst and passed the notice on to Bradley. Wiza also received information from the North Central Land and Water Conservation Association regarding the schedule of 2009 activities, the Spring Conference meeting on June 12, and minutes from the previous meeting. Wiza received a phone call from Bob Janowski, Conservation Congress, who said he spoke with Mark Maslowski, County Executive, relating to providing \$500 in sponsorship money for training. Wiza said if Maslowski is in favor of providing funds, the request may have to go through a committee for approval. Wiza is unsure whose budget the money would be taken from, and did not know the purpose of the training. An agenda item may be included for the next LCC meeting. Wiza encouraged members to read the Thursday Note included in the meeting packets.

Bradley reported construction of the new DNR building will not begin this year. He spoke with the Parks and Highway Departments, and they do not have indoor storage space for the tree planters. It was decided the tree planters can be stored once again at Graetz's and the LCC will revisit the issue in the spring.

4. Review/Approval – Vouchers, Purchases, and Reimbursements

Motion by Barden, second by Brilowski to approve voucher approval number 20090305. Motion carried by voice vote. Wiza stated the County Executive is responsible for voucher approval as of June 1, 2009. Benedict will continue to provide a voucher summary in the meeting packets for LCC review. Special meeting attendance approvals were given for Brilowski attending the Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners meeting on April 20 in Hancock; Wiza attending a meeting at the Town of Hull Hall regarding the logging operation at "The Pipe"; and Barden attending the Mill Creek tour on May 27.

### 5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Larson reported the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) signup is complete. There were over 40 applications requesting approximately \$380,000. Larson stated their budget is \$75,000, however it may be possible to secure additional funds. One waste storage application was submitted for \$300,000. Larson is waiting for word on the status of the application. Four applications were submitted for the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), of which three will be funded – one trout stream habitat project on the Tomorrow/Waupaca River, and two wildlife planting projects. Larson stated another EQIP signup is underway through June 12 for producers either certified as organic or willing to transition to organic production. Nationally, \$52 million has been allocated, with \$1.2 million available in Wisconsin.

### 6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No plans presented.

### 7. Committee Representative Reports

- a. Lakes Management District (Peterson)** – Peterson reported 3,000 perch have been stocked in McDill Pond. It is uncertain how much Eurasian milfoil remains in McDill Pond. There is an ongoing discussion regarding installing aerators. The water level is back to normal.
- b. Resource Conservation & Development Area (Brilowski)** – Bradley reported Adams County lake levels are going up. He has not heard reports on Portage County lakes. Riggs noted the level on Lake Jacqueline is down.
- c. North Central Area Land Conservation Association (Peterson)** – The Spring meeting is scheduled for June 12.
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Brilowski)** – No report.
- e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien)** – O'Brien reported a meeting is to be held in Wausau on June 3 involving the Drainage District Commissioners, the DNR, DATCP, and a landowner regarding issues with dredging on Isherwood lateral. O'Brien will report results of the meeting at the next LCC meeting. Bradley noted he attended a meeting of the Buena Vista Partners, who are taking an interest in this issue. Bradley said the issue has the potential to be controversial, and he prefers to remain in an advisory role. The LCC agreed.
- f. Mill Creek Watershed (Barden)** – Barden attended the Mill Creek Watershed tour on May 27, which featured areas where ditches have been plugged and tiling has been busted to allow water to infiltrate into the groundwater and restore base flow to Mill Creek.
- g. Little Plover River (Peterson)** - No report.

### 8. Discussion/Possible Action – Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plan Resolution

Bradley reported he presented the LWRM Plan at the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board meeting in Madison earlier in the day, which was approved. The resolution will be presented at the June County Board meeting. Motion by Peterson, second by Brilowski to approve the resolution. Motion carried by voice vote. Bradley will attend the County Board meeting. A letter will accompany the resolution and summary provided to County Board Supervisors. Benedict noted a complete copy of the LWRM Plan is posted on the Portage County website, and hard copies are available in the Land Conservation and County Clerk offices.

### 9. Discussion/Possible Action – Lake Jacqueline Boat Loading

Riggs stated the DNR proposed putting in cement planking to the water, which is now about three feet below the high water mark. The boat landing is across from a critical habitat area, which was designated by the Lake Study. The lot was to be clear cut, which concerned members of the Lake District. Riggs said the Lake District contacted the Town of Sharon Chair, Pat Wanserski, and questioned why the Lake District was not involved in the original discussion. Wanserski said because of a complaint regarding the boat landing, the DNR offered to improve the landing. At the Lake

District's last meeting, consensus was reached to allow cement planking within the original footprint width of the landing to the edge of the water. A berm is needed to allow water to flow into the vegetation. Wiza said he understands there will be no improvements to the current turn around/parking area and the launch will be replaced at the same width. Wanserski suggested the DNR use some of the funds for lake improvements. Discussion took place regarding dredging the lake, however, Bradley noted due to chemicals introduced in the lake in the 1960s, it would be expensive to dispose of the dredged material. Riggs pointed out that it was a struggle for the Lake District to have Lake Jacqueline restricted to electric motors only. The DNR refused to allow the lake to be carry on only. The LCC decided no action is needed at this time. Riggs said three Lake District people have volunteered to be present while the DNR is working on the boat landing.

10. Discussion/Possible Action – Letter Regarding State Budget Relating to Land and Water Conservation Programs

Bradley said State budget cuts of almost \$1 million are proposed, affecting county conservation staffing grants. The WLWCA negotiated with the Conservation Coalition and, with the support of Senator Julie Lassa, are proposing to take the amount of shortfall for staffing grants from nutrient management cost share funds. The Joint Finance Committee approved the proposal, and will be forwarded to the governor. Wiza suggested Bradley draft a letter supporting the proposal including tangible benefits to the State. Motion by Barden, second by O'Brien to direct Bradley to draft a letter to the Governor in support of the Joint Finance Committee's recommendation to reallocate funds for conservation staff, listing tangible benefits to Portage and surrounding counties, and authorize Wiza to sign the letter on behalf of the LCC. Copies of the letter will be sent to area Senators and State Representatives. Motion carried by voice vote.

11. Watershed Projects

- a. **Updates** – Bradley reported the Dambroski project should be complete by the next LCC meeting.
- b. **Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts** – No contracts presented.

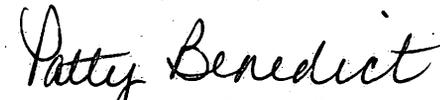
12. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 7 at 5:00 p.m., Conference Room 5, County Annex.

13. Adjournment

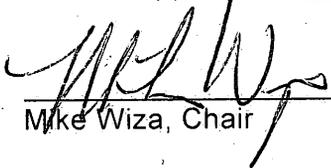
Wiza adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at 7/7/09 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

  
Mike Wiza, Chair

  
Robert Brilowski, Secretary

## LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Conference Room 5, County Annex

Stevens Point, WI 54481

July 7, 2009

Members present: Don Aanrud, Richard Barden, Robert Brilowski, Dale O'Brien, William Peterson, Mike Wiza

Others present: Ty Larson, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Bob Chojnowski, Portage County Conservation Congress delegate; Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land Conservation Division.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Wiza.

Wiza read the **Public Notice** statement: Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order. Bob Chojnowski requested to speak regarding agenda item #9.

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of June 2, 2009

Motion by Peterson, second by Barden to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Correspondence

Members were encouraged to read the Thursday Note distributed prior to the meeting. Bradley received a letter from the DNR regarding State budget changes for the Wildlife Damage claims program. The deductible increased from \$250 to \$500 and the maximum claim payment decreased from \$15,000 to \$10,000. LCC members raised questions and it was suggested Barry Benson appear at the next meeting to explain. Minutes from Lake Jacqueline's Lake District meeting in May were passed around. A compromise was reached between the Lake District, the DNR, and the Town of Sharon, agreeing that the boat landing will be replaced, but not enlarged. No trees will be cleared.

4. Review/Approval – Vouchers, Purchases, and Procurement Card

Motion by Barden, second by O'Brien to approve purchases in the amount of \$28.29. Motion carried by voice vote. Voucher approval numbers 20090448, 20090441, 20090402, and 20090372 were reviewed.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Larson reported he is working on 15-16 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) contracts and three contracts for the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP). There are six applications for the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), covering approximately 5,000 acres in the Buena Vista area. Larson explained perpetual easements are purchased from private landowners to maintain grassland for pasture or hay. The land may be grazed, mowed, and/or hayed within limits, but woody vegetation and noxious weeds must be controlled. He noted approximately \$300,000 has been allocated in the State budget for GRP. A one time payment of \$2,000 per acre is paid to landowners, preserving the land from development. Enforcement is achieved by yearly checks. Currently, Larson estimated 2,000 acres are enrolled in GRP in Portage County.

## 6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

Larson presented a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) modification for Byron Shaw, Town of New Hope. Motion by Brilowski, second by Barden to approve the conservation plan modification. Motion carried by voice vote.

## 7. Committee Representative Reports

**a. Lakes Management District (Peterson)** – Peterson reported the McDill Lake District is meeting tonight (July 7) at the County Annex. According to Scott Provost, DNR, and Paul Skawinski, RC&D, Bradley relayed that it appears the drawdown on McDill Pond was successful in diminishing the Eurasian Water Milfoil. Wiza questioned whether the fishing moratorium is still in effect. O'Brien noted the lack of weeds on McDill Pond.

**b. Resource Conservation & Development Area (Brilowski)** – The next meeting is July 16.

**c. North Central Area Land Conservation Association (Peterson)** – Bradley, Brilowski, and Barden attended the Spring Meeting on June 12 in Antigo. The morning portion of the meeting consisted of the Business Meeting. The Summer Tour will be held in Florence County on Wednesday, August 19. In the afternoon, a groundwater specialist from the UWSP gave a presentation on groundwater issues in Central Wisconsin, and two DNR representatives talked about forest health, highlighting invasive plants, pests, and oak wilt control.

**d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Brilowski)** – The next meeting is scheduled for July 20.

**e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien)** – O'Brien reported Don Hamerski was reappointed to a three year term as a commissioner. The issue reported at the June LCC meeting regarding the Isherwood lateral has been resolved, and the ditch will be dredged. The trees on the south side of the ditch will remain for shade to keep the water cool for trout.

**f. Mill Creek Watershed (Barden)** – No report.

**g. Little Plover River (Peterson)** – Bradley reported the flow on the Little Plover River is approaching .5 cubic feet per second (cfs), and is at risk to dry up. Efforts are being made to recruit a local irrigator to augment the flow; however, the cost of electricity to do so can be significant. Bradley added Del Monte has received permission from DNR to discharge their cooling water to the ditch along County Road R, which will hopefully provide some recharge.

## 8. Information Item – Appointment of Lake Districts' Representative by County

### Executive

Bradley explained State Statutes require each county to provide a representative to Lake Districts. An opinion by the State Attorney General states that in counties with County Executives, the County Executive has the power to appoint a representative. In the past, the LCC made the appointment in Portage County. County Executive Maslowski announced through the media he will appoint Bill Peterson. The appointment will be considered by the County Board in July.

## 9. Discussion/Possible Action – Funds for Conservation Congress Training

Wiza said this item was discussed at the May LCC meeting. He has not had the opportunity to discuss the matter with County Executive Maslowski, but understands he is in favor of providing funds and needs a committee to forward the request to the County Board. Wiza stated he assumes the money will come out of the County Executive's budget. Wiza introduced Bob Chojnowski, a Portage County Conservation Congress delegate.

Chojnowski distributed information relating to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC). He explained the WCC is made up of five delegates from each county in the State and provides advice to the DNR Board. The second Monday of April, a joint hearing of the WCC and DNR is held at Ben Franklin Junior High School regarding changes to fish, wildlife, and trapping rules. Currently, Portage County delegates do not receive reimbursement from the County. Chojnowski noted it has become a financial burden for some delegates and requested funds to cover expenses for items such as the annual meeting, which is held in various locations throughout the State. In 2008, the cost per delegate was approximately \$307, and the cost increased to approximately \$330 in 2009. Additional expenses are incurred for committee and district meetings. Thirty one other counties provide either partial or full reimbursement to delegates for their expenses. Chojnowski suggested funding at a level of \$200 per delegate. Wiza asked Chojnowski to explain the election process for delegates. Chojnowski stated each county has a joint hearing in April at which delegates are elected by County citizens. There are two year and three year terms to ensure carryover of delegates. Wiza recommended taking no action on the request at this time. He will provide County Executive Maslowski with the information presented by Chojnowski and discuss where the funds would come from. Wiza felt Maslowski should either attend the next LCC meeting, or provide a written report for the August meeting. Chojnowski noted he would not accept any funds, but allow other delegates access to the funds. Wiza asked Chojnowski to provide him with a copy of expenses for their Annual Meeting, and thanked him for addressing the LCC.

10. Watershed Projects

a. **Updates** – No update.

b. **Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts** – Bradley explained there were amendments made to the contracts for windbreaks installed, some under and some over the original contract amount. The actual cost for all six contracts is \$548.72 less than the approved contracts, with the amount of cost sharing \$290.97 less. Motion by Barden, second by O'Brien to approve the cost share amendments. Motion carried by voice vote.

11. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for August 4 at 5:00 p.m. in Conference Room 5, County Annex.

12. Adjournment

Motion by Barden, second by O'Brien to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Patty Benedict*

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at 8/4/09 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

*Mike Wiza*  
Mike Wiza, Chair

*Robert Brilowski*  
Robert Brilowski, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Conference Room 5, County Annex  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
August 4, 2009

Members present: Don Aanrud, Richard Barden, Robert Brilowski, Dale O'Brien, William Peterson, Mike Wiza

Others present: Ty Larson, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Bob Chojnowski, Wisconsin Conservation Congress; Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land Conservation Division.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Wiza.

Wiza read the **Public Notice** statement: Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order. Bob Chojnowski requested to speak regarding Agenda Item #8.

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of July 7, 2009

Motion by Peterson, second by Barden to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Correspondence

Wiza received information and questions from Chojnowski, which will be covered under Agenda Item #8. Wiza and Bradley received letters from DATCP regarding their approval of Portage County's Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plan. Benedict distributed copies of the LWRM Plan to LCC members prior to the meeting. Peterson received notice that the Lake Helen Protection and Rehabilitation District will hold their annual meeting on August 22.

4. Review Vouchers; Review/Approval – Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20090509 and 20090523 were reviewed. Motion by Brilowski, second by Barden to approve a purchase in the amount of \$16.50. Motion carried by voice vote.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Larsen reported he is working on about 40 new contracts totaling just under \$1.3 million. Approximately \$650,000 is allocated for the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) in the Buena Vista area. The remaining \$650,000 will be used to cost share various practices. Larson also stated training will take place for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), formerly known as the Conservation Security Program. Under the CSP, the USDA pays farmers for good conservation efforts. Signup will begin in August and run through September or October. Applicants will be screened and contracts will be awarded in November. Larson is unsure what the eligibility requirements are, what the screening process involves, or how much money is allocated for Portage County, and will report more at the next LCC meeting.

## 6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No plans presented.

## 7. Committee Representative Reports

- a. **Lakes Management District (Peterson)** – Peterson reported Gollon's planted fish in McDill Pond.
- b. **Resource Conservation & Development Area (Brilowski)** – No report.
- c. **North Central Area Land Conservation Association (Peterson)** – Bradley reported the Summer Tour will take place on August 20 in Florence County. An Aquatic Invasive Species grant program demonstration and a shoreline protection site visit will be featured as well as lunch, a speaker, and the business meeting. Due to the distance, Bradley does not plan to attend.
- d. **Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Brilowski)** – The next meeting is August 24.
- e. **Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien)** – O'Brien reported a \$24 million cranberry bog is being planned in the area of the intersection of County Roads WW and F.
- f. **Mill Creek Watershed (Barden)** – No meeting.
- g. **Little Plover River (Peterson)** – The next meeting is August 20.

(Peterson left the meeting.)

## 8. Discussion/Possible Action – Conservation Congress Funding

Wiza said this item was discussed at the July LCC meeting. No action was taken. Wiza spoke with Mark Maslowski, County Executive, and was given a copy of a 1972 opinion from the State Attorney General, which indicates that funding Conservation Congress expenses of this type is in violation of State Statutes. Based on this information, Wiza noted Portage County Corporation Counsel, Mike McKenna, advised against providing funding for the Conservation Congress. Bradley pointed out a State legislative change could allow counties the authority to provide funding. Bob Chojnowski, Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) delegate, said he believes there have been changes since 1972 and the WCC meets statutory criteria required by the State with the exception of an oath of office. Wiza suggested having McKenna attend the next LCC meeting for further explanation and to answer questions. Bradley suggested the WCC contact Senator Lassa and Representative Molepske regarding a legislative change giving counties the authority to choose whether to provide funding. Chojnowski said he understood that has already taken place. No action taken.

## 9. Discussion/Possible Action – Letter of Support: Conservation Easement Incentive Act

Wiza referred to the explanation regarding tax incentives for conservation easements, included in the LCC packets. Bradley explained the North Central Conservancy Trust (NCCT) works with landowners on a voluntary basis in an eight or nine county area. Landowners interested in preserving their property can permanently donate development rights and receive tax benefits. The incentive will expire at the end of 2009. Bradley feels letters should be addressed to Kohl, Feingold, and Obey as they are not listed as sponsors of the legislation. Bradley said, in the last six to eight years, the NCCT has had eight or nine Portage County landowners donate easements, estimating the total acreage from 450 to 500 acres. Motion by Wiza, second by Brilowski to authorize Bradley and Benedict to draft a letter supporting the program, including the number of acres impacted in Portage County, to be sent to Federal and State Representatives and Senators. Aanrud pointed out landowners most likely to take advantage of the program are those with substantial incomes and tax liabilities. The draft letter will be presented at the September LCC meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.

10. Report – Wildlife Damage Program Changes

Barry Benson, USDA-APHIS, was unable to attend, but will report at the September LCC meeting.

11. Watershed Projects

**a. Updates – No report.**

**b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts – No contracts presented.**

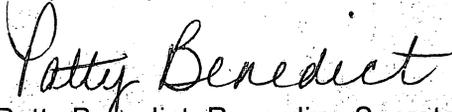
12. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for September 1 at 5:00 p.m. in Conference Room 5, County Annex.

13. Adjournment

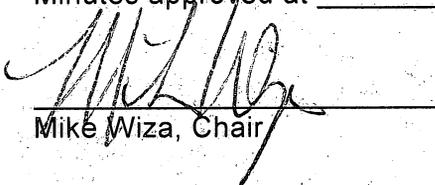
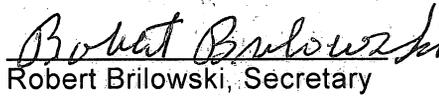
There being no further business, Chair Wiza adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at 9/1/09 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

  
Mike Wiza, Chair  
Robert Brilowski, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Conference Room 5, County Annex  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
September 1, 2009

Members present: Don Aanrud, Richard Barden, Robert Brilowski, William Peterson, Mike Wiza

Member excused: Dale O'Brien

Others present: Ty Larson, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Barry Benson, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services; Mike McKenna, Corporation Counsel, Pam Riggs, Lake Jacqueline District; Bob Chojnowski, Conservation Congress; Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land Conservation Division.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Wiza.

Wiza read the **Public Notice** statement: Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order. Bob Chojnowski registered to speak regarding Agenda Item #8.

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of August 4, 2009

Motion by Barden, second by Peterson to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Correspondence

Wiza referred to meeting packets, containing a draft letter for Agenda Item #9, and the Thursday Note. Wiza also noted he has correspondence relating to Agenda Item #8.

4. Review Vouchers, Review/Approval – Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20090560 and 20090591 were reviewed. Wiza questioned the membership fee for Northern Tool on the procurement card for the CWWP. Benedict said the membership allows the CWWP to receive discounted prices. Motion by Barden, second by Brilowski to approve the procurement card purchases. Motion carried by voice vote.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Larson reported the Federal government fiscal year ends September 30. He has been reporting progress and accomplishments for projects in the county. A number of waivers were granted for contracts which were not officially approved prior to installation of practices.

He is working on paying those contracts. Larson stated signup has started for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). It is open to all producers with Farm Service Agency records as well as nonindustrial private forest landowners. The CSP pays landowners for conservation implemented on their property to date. The national average payment is \$18 per acre per year for five years. Larson submitted an article to the Portage County Gazette to promote the CSP.

6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No conservation plans presented.

Chair Wiza suggested moving Agenda Item #8 before Agenda Item #7. There were no objections.

### 8. Discussion/Possible Action – Wisconsin Conservation Congress Funding

Wiza stated Chojnowski researched and supplied updated information regarding the State Attorney General's outdated opinion from 1972 that providing funding to the Conservation Congress was not legal. McKenna verified there is a current State Statute that permits, but does not mandate, funding expenses for the Conservation Congress. Wiza spoke with Mark Maslowski, County Executive, who is willing to fund \$500 out of his budget in 2009, and asked the LCC to review and make a recommendation. Wiza added Maslowski will not provide funding in 2010 and suggested requesting funding in subsequent years through the Finance Committee. Motion by Barden, second by Wiza to make a recommendation to the County Executive to grant \$500 out of the County Executive's budget to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress for 2009 to offset expenses. Motion carried, 5 ayes, 0 nays, 1 excused. Wiza asked Benedict to draft a letter addressed to the County Executive regarding the recommendation. Motion by Barden, second by Brilowski to make a recommendation to the Finance Committee to fund \$500 out of the 2010 budget for the Conservation Congress. Motion carried, 5 ayes, 0 nays, 1 excused. Wiza informed Chojnowski the LCC is making the recommendations, but the funding is not guaranteed. Wiza asked Benedict to draft a letter addressed to the Finance Committee regarding the recommendation. Wiza noted documentation will be required for reimbursement of expenses, and informed Chojnowski he should plan to appear at the Finance Committee meeting.

### 7. Committee Representative Reports

- a. Lakes Management District (Peterson)** – Peterson stated McDill Pond is having issues with Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). He also reported a drawdown will take place to make repairs to the dam at Jordan Park. Work will begin the week of September 7. Wiza added dredging will be done to create a silt trap. Riggs reported the Lake Jacqueline District received a letter from the DNR accepting the changes to the boat landing. A compromise was reached with the Town of Sharon. The Town is considering assessing a boat launch fee at their next meeting, with the proceeds going toward stocking fish and lake maintenance. Collection and distribution of the fees is yet to be determined. Riggs said the DNR has not indicated when the construction will begin on the boat launch. She added a representative from the Lake Jacqueline District will be present during construction.
- b. Resource Conservation & Development Area (Brilowski)** – No meeting.
- c. North Central Area Land Conservation Association (Peterson)** – No one was able to attend the Summer Tour in Florence County.
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Brilowski)** – Brilowski attended the meeting on August 24. For 2009, 14.8 miles of windbreaks were estimated, 15.2 were planted. An additional 8,700 trees and shrubs were machine planted and 325 were hand planted. The majority of the windbreak installations were done by Rohde and Ewan. LTEs were hired to assist with the fabric installation.
- e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien)** – No report.
- f. Mill Creek Watershed (Barden)** – No meeting.
- g. Little Plover River (Peterson)** – Bradley reported the flow is still low. A couple of growers used their irrigation wells, pumping 40 million gallons this summer to feed the river so it wouldn't dry up. The public rights stage was set at 4 cubic feet per second (cfs); however, even with spring flow it did not reach 3 cfs. Wiza asked if public recognition was given to the growers that voluntarily used their irrigation wells. Bradley replied the work group gave recognition, which will be reflected in the meeting notes. He added that Del Monte and the Village of Plover each contributed \$2,500 toward the cost of augmentation. This summer, Del Monte pumped 12 million gallons of clean cooling water into the road ditch which flows north toward the river, and will continue to do so through the processing season. Bradley said the UWSP plans to do a model to determine how much flow is reaching the river, along with a cost/benefit analysis.

9. Discussion/Possible Action – Letter of Support: Tax Incentives for Conservation Easements

A draft letter addressed to Senators Kohl and Feingold, and Representative Obey was included in the LCC packets. Bradley pointed out there are currently 538 acres in easements with the North Central Conservancy Trust in Portage County. Motion by Brilowski, second by Barden to authorize sending the letters. Motion carried by voice vote. Wiza signed the letters.

10. Discussion/Possible Action – Venison Donation Program

Benson reported \$17,400 was included for the venison donation program when the 2010 budget was approved. The DNR didn't think they had adequate funding and cut the line item. The funding has been restored and Benson requested approval from the LCC. The processors, R&R Meats and People' Meat Market, will be reimbursed \$50 per deer. Motion by Wiza, second by Barden to accept \$17,400 to participate in the venison donation program. Motion carried by voice vote.

11. Report – Wildlife Damage Program Changes

When the Governor signed the budget, Benson explained changes were made to the Wildlife Damage Program. The deductible for wildlife damage claims was increased from \$250 to \$500, and the maximum claim was decreased from \$15,000 to \$10,000. Participants received a letter from the DNR explaining the changes. Bradley noted a one time transfer of \$350,000 from the recycling/energy fund to the wildlife damage program was included in the 2011 State budget.

12. Watershed Projects

**a. Updates** – No report.

**b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts** – Bradley presented a cost share contract for Kyle Altmann for a DNR Targeted Runoff Management grant. The total manure storage project cost is estimated at \$260,000, with the cost share grant covering \$150,000. Motion by Brilowski, second by Peterson to approve the cost share contract. Motion carried by voice vote.

13. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 6 at 5:00 p.m. in Conference Room 5, County Annex.

14. Adjournment

Wiza adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at \_\_\_\_\_ Land Conservation Committee meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Wiza, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Brilowski, Secretary

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## LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Conference Room 5, County Annex

Stevens Point, WI 54481

October 6, 2009

Members present: Don Aanrud, Richard Barden, Robert Brilowski, Dale O'Brien, William Peterson, Mike Wiza

Others present: Ty Larson, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Barry Benson, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services; Bob Chojnowski, Wisconsin Conservation Congress; Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land Conservation Division.

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Wiza.

Wiza read the **Public Notice** statement: Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order.

### 2. Review/Approval – Minutes of September 1, 2009

Motion by Barden, second by Peterson to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

### 3. Correspondence

Wiza passed around a letter from Senator Herb Kohl responding to the letter sent by the LCC regarding conservation easements. Wiza also received notice of the North Central Land and Water Conservation Association Fall Conference. Bradley received a letter from Senator Feingold regarding an update on a bipartisan resolution he and Senator McCain sponsored recognizing the importance of the Wilderness Act of 1964. Feingold also provided updates on the Clean Water Restoration Act, the Crane Conservation Act, and noted he will be providing support for energy legislation this fall. Wiza also made mention of the article in LCC members' meeting packets regarding the 10 year anniversary for the venison donation program.

### 4. Review Vouchers, Review/Approval – Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20090630 and 20090688 were reviewed. Motion by Brilowski, second by Barden to approve purchases and procurement card charges. Motion carried by voice vote.

### 5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Larson reported on the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), which rewards landowners for conservation performed in the past and agreeing to continue conservation measures. The first signup ended September 30, with 17 applications submitted in Portage County. The next signup deadline is January 14, 2010. Statewide, there were between 500 and 600 applications submitted. Larson explained the Portage County applicants will work with him and provide information which is input into an online questionnaire, resulting in a score ranking their operation Statewide based on various environmental factors. The top scoring applications are eligible to receive funding until approximately 160,000 acres are enrolled. Larson said the national average payment is \$18 per acre per year for a five year

contract. Those receiving funding must agree to add at least one more conservation activity, i.e. – wildlife habitat, split nitrogen applications, recycle on farm lubricants, etc. Larson feels there will be more applications and competition for funding for the January 14, 2010 deadline.

#### 6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

Larson presented three Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) plans for John Jazdzewski, Town of Carson, for buffer strips. Motion by Barden, second by Peterson to approve the conservation plans. Motion carried by voice vote.

#### 7. Committee Representative Reports

a. **Lakes Management District (Peterson)** – Bradley distributed an update on the Portage County Lake Study, and summarized activities for the Amherst Millpond, Spring, Onland, Rinehart, Sunset, Severson, Ebert and Lime Lakes.

b. **Resource Conservation & Development Area (Brilowski)** – Bradley reported the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) project continues. Bradley also reported the Agricultural Appropriations bill has restored federal funding for fiscal year 2010 for RC&D Councils as a stand alone program at nearly \$51 million nationwide.

c. **North Central Area Land Conservation Association (Peterson)** – The Fall Conference/Poster and Speaking Contest will be held on Thursday, October 29 at the Wausau School Forest. LCC members interested in attending should contact Benedict. Bradley plans to attend. Bradley also informed the LCC he will not be able to attend the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) Annual Conference in LaCrosse December 9 and 10 and asked if anyone could attend. Review of resolutions and a possible voting proxy approval will be included on the November LCC agenda.

d. **Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Brilowski)** – Bradley reported Rohde is organizing a windbreak tour for Friday, October 23 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Hancock Ag Research Station. Rohde is inviting legislators and town elected officials. The tour will include viewing existing windbreaks and a planting and fabric laying demonstration. Bradley will attend and invited LCC members.

e. **Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien)** – No report.

f. **Mill Creek Watershed (Barden)** – No report.

g. **Little Plover River (Peterson)** – The next meeting is Wednesday, October 14 at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room 5 of the County Annex.

#### 8. Discussion/Possible Action – 2010 Wildlife Services Budget

Benson presented the 2010 preliminary budget for the wildlife damage program. The total requested is \$33,537.24. Funding for the venison donation program is not included at this time. A budget amendment will be requested when the program is approved. Motion by Brilowski, second by O'Brien to approve the 2010 Wildlife Services budget. Motion carried by voice vote.

#### 9. Budget Reports – 2009 Projections and 2010 Proposed

Bradley pointed out the 2009 Land Conservation budget is projected to come in under budget. All expense line items for the 2010 budget are the same as 2009, other than salary and fringe benefits, as was directed by the County Executive.

#### 10. Watershed Projects

a. **Updates** – Bradley explained a situation in the Tomorrow/Waupaca River Watershed area. A permit was issued for a manure storage project in 2000. A portion of the project was not completed at that time due to new technology being developed, which may have

made it unnecessary to construct a pit. The technology was successful in a lab, but not on a farm scale, and now the DNR is forcing the landowner to complete the pit for storage to eliminate the need for winter spreading. Bradley explained permits issued under the Animal Manure Storage Ordinance are valid for one year, with the possibility of the LCD granting a one year extension. Bradley said there is no policy regarding a situation like this, and proposed issuing a new permit and waiving the fee since it was paid when the original permit was issued. The LCC agreed, noting it was through no fault of the farmer, and suggested drafting a policy for the November LCC meeting.

**b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts – No cost share contracts presented.**

11. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3 at 5:00 p.m. in Conference Room 5, County Annex.

12. Adjournment

Motion by Barden, second by O'Brien to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Patty Benedict*

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at 11/3/09 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

*Mike Wiza*  
Mike Wiza, Chair

*Robert Brilowski*  
Robert Brilowski, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Conference Room 5, County Annex  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
November 3, 2009

Members present: Richard Barden, Robert Brilowski, Dale O'Brien, William Peterson, Mike Wiza

Excused: Don Aanrud

Others present: Ty Larson, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Barry Benson, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services; Pam Riggs, Lake Jacqueline District; Bob Chojnowski, Wisconsin Conservation Congress; Steve Brazzale, Planning and Zoning Department Director; Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land Conservation Division.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Wiza.

2. At Approximately 5:00 p.m. Adjourn into Executive Session as Specified in Section 19.85(1)(c) of the Wisconsin Statutes to Discuss Performance Evaluation of the County Conservationist

Motion by O'Brien, second by Barden to adjourn into Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Adjourned into Executive Session at 5:00 p.m.

3. At Approximately 5:15 p.m. Return to Open Session for Action on Above Performance Evaluation

Motion by Peterson, second by Brilowski to return to Open Session. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Motion by Wiza, second by Barden to direct Steve Brazzale to add, under supervisor's comments on the evaluation form, that the LCC is very satisfied with Bradley's work. Motion carried by voice vote.

Wiza read the **Public Notice** statement: Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order. No one registered.

4. Review/Approval – Minutes of October 6, 2009

Motion by O'Brien, second by Barden to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

5. Correspondence

Wiza received a letter from the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) with general information about the WLWCA and a request to have dues paid by May 31, 2010. Wiza also reminded members the DNR is holding a public hearing regarding deer hunting at 7:00 p.m. tonight in Conference Rooms 1 and 2. He also stated Senator Feingold will hold a public listening session in Stevens Point on November 12. Members were encouraged to read the Thursday Note included in their meeting packets.

6. Review Vouchers, Review/Approval – Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20090715, 20090734, and 20090767 were reviewed as well as

a procurement card purchase in the amount of \$10.34. Special meeting attendance requests were approved for Peterson attending the Little Plover River meeting on October 14 at the County Annex; the McDill Pond Rehabilitation District meeting on October 27 at Ben Franklin School; and Peterson, Brilowski, and Barden attending the North Central Land and Water Conservation Association Poster and Speaking Contest on October 29 at the Wausau School Forest.

#### 7. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Larson announced he has accepted a position in Appleton as Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations. He will supervise 30 employees covering approximately 20 counties. He has started in the new position, but will continue to work in the Stevens Point NRCS office on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Larson reported 17 applications were received for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and are being processed. He hopes to know which are approved for contracts by the end of November. In December, staff will go to applicants' properties to verify the answers they provided for the questionnaire. Any discrepancies or withheld information may cause the applicant to be ineligible for the program. The CSP has a continuous signup, with the next deadline on January 14, 2010 for the next round of funding. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) will be coming out soon.

#### 8. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No plans presented.

#### 9. Conservation Congress Report

Chojnowski distributed copies of On Wisconsin Outdoors and various news articles to LCC members. He also reported the whooping cranes left Necedah for Florida last week. The DNR is netting sturgeons near the island off Bukolt Park. Approximately 27 feet of net is out, and about 40 fish have been caught, the largest ranging from 37 to 40 inches. Chojnowski also reported a 39 point, 320 pound deer was reportedly shot in Polk County. Bradley asked Chojnowski to report on the Asian carp issue on the Des Plaines River. Chojnowski stated millions of dollars were spent to install an electric dam on the river, which runs parallel to the ship canal, approximately 30 yards apart. In spring, when the river overflows its banks, the fish get into the ship canal and the Great Lakes system. The Army Corps of Engineers is considering installing a berm or barrier, however this could cause flooding to areas of the town.

#### 10. Committee Representative Reports

**a. Lakes Management District (Peterson)** – Peterson attended the McDill Pond Rehabilitation District annual meeting. There was discussion regarding the work that was done on Jordan Pond.

Riggs stated the Town of Sharon Board will consider assessing boat landing fees at their meeting on Tuesday, November 10. The Lake Jacqueline District has provided their input to the Town Chair.

**b. Resource Conservation & Development Area (Brilowski)** – No report.

**c. North Central Area Land and Water Conservation Association (Peterson)** – Barden, Brilowski and Peterson attended the Fall Conference Poster and Speaking Contest at the Wausau School Forest. The Conservation Farmer of the Year award was presented.

**d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Brilowski)** – No meeting.

**e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien)** – O'Brien reported the annual tour took place earlier in the day. He was unable to attend, but was told the DNR was satisfied with

the work of the Drainage District. The District is looking into funding for the removal of some box dams that have deteriorated. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 17, which is the same date as the County Board meeting.

**f. Mill Creek Watershed (Barden) – No meeting.**

**g. Little Plover River (Peterson) –** Bradley reported the Village of Plover gave a presentation regarding possibly locating a new well approximately 2.5 miles south of the Little Plover River, 2.5 miles north of the Isherwood Lateral, and about 2 miles east of Interstate 39. There are concerns about drawing down the water table in that area and impacting the Isherwood Lateral, a natural trout reproductive waterway. The discussion turned to the Village of Plover investigating sharing the Village of Whiting's water supply, drawing groundwater from the Wisconsin River rather than the Little Plover River. There was also discussion regarding a legislative work group, of which Representatives Louis Molepske, Spencer Black, and Mark Miller are members. The legislators are proposing stricter groundwater withdrawal legislation, and may look to the Little Plover River work group for guidance. Bradley said the legislative work group held a tour in Central Wisconsin on Friday, October 30. Portage County tour stops included the Del Monte plant, the UWSP Wetlands Lab, and the Rural Water Association. The work group learned about Del Monte's water reduction efforts and conservation projects within the plant and the cooling water which is pumped into the ditch to feed the Little Plover River. The visit to the UWSP Wetlands Lab, located on the north side of the river and east of Eisenhower Avenue, was brief due to heavy rain at that time. The Rural Water Association provided information on the services they offer to municipalities for water supplies. Bradley said there were approximately 30 attendees, consisting of legislators and their staff, and citizens.

#### 11. Discussion/Possible Action – Wildlife Damage Program Crop Prices

Benson distributed proposed 2009 crop prices, highlighting alfalfa, field and sweet corn, and soybeans, which are the crops affected by damage in Portage County. Benson explained the sources he uses for the prices. The LCC felt the prices were acceptable. Motion by O'Brien, second by Barden to approve the wildlife damage crop prices. Motion carried by voice vote.

#### 12. Discussion/Possible Action – Manure Storage Permit Policy

Bradley distributed copies of the Portage County Application for a Permit to Construct an Animal Manure Storage Facility. He proposed adding the following language: "The permit fee shall be \$1 per \$1,000 of estimated construction cost. Construction activities authorized by this permit must be completed within one year of the date of issuance. The Land Conservation Division (LCD) may grant a one year extension. After two years from issuance, expired permits may be reissued without a fee if the LCD determines the applicant was not responsible for project delays." Motion by Brilowski, second by O'Brien to approve adding the language to the permit application. Motion carried by voice vote.

#### 13. Discussion/Possible Action – Voting Proxy for Resolutions – Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association Annual Conference and Review of Resolutions

Benedict reported there is one resolution at this time; however, other area meetings may have produced resolutions which have not been posted yet on the WLWCA website. Bradley noted he is unable to attend the WLWCA Conference in LaCrosse and asked if any LCC member would be willing to attend the business meeting on December 10 to vote on behalf of Portage County. After discussion, Wiza suggested delaying action on this item until the December LCC meeting. If there are additional resolutions, the LCC can decide whether to send a representative. LCC members agreed.

14. Discussion/Possible Action – Trees for Tomorrow Scholarship

Benedict stated there is money in the budget for the scholarship. In the past, the scholarship has gone unused. She also noted that in 2009, there were only two conservation related courses available. Wiza mentioned the possibility of diverting the scholarship funds to supplement the Conservation Congress. Motion by Wiza, second by Barden to approve \$200 for a 2010 Trees for Tomorrow scholarship. If the scholarship is unused by June 2010, the LCC may consider reallocation of the funds. Motion carried by voice vote. An agenda item will be included for the June 2010 LCC meeting.

15. Watershed Projects

**a. Updates** – No update.

**b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts** – A Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) cost share contract was presented for manure storage for Kyle Altmann. Altmann was previously approved to receive \$150,000 in cost share funds through the DNR Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) program. The total estimated cost of his project is \$250,000. SWRM cost share funds in the amount of \$25,000 will bring the total amount of cost share funds to 70%. Motion by Barden, second by Brilowski to approve \$25,000 in cost share funding for Kyle Altmann. Motion carried by voice vote.

16. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for December 1, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in Conference Room 5, County Annex.

17. Adjournment

Motion by Barden, second by O'Brien to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at \_\_\_\_\_ Land Conservation Committee meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Wiza, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Brilowski, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Conference Room 5, County Annex  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
December 1, 2009

Members present: Don Aanrud, Richard Barden, Robert Brilowski, Dale O'Brien, William Peterson, Mike Wiza

Others present: Kevin Halvorson, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Jo Ellen Seiser and Alan Haney, North Central Conservancy Trust; Bob Chojnowski, Wisconsin Conservation Congress; Pam Riggs, Lake Jacqueline District; Shannon Rohde, Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners; Jamie Phillis, Planning & Zoning Department; Steve Bradley, Planning and Zoning Department, Land Conservation Division.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Wiza.

Wiza read the **Public Notice** statement: Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order. Bob Chojnowski requested to speak regarding Agenda Items #7 and 10, Jo Ellen Seiser requested to speak regarding Agenda Item #9.

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of November 3, 2009

Motion by O'Brien, second by Barden to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Correspondence

The North Central Conservancy Trust newsletter and the Thursday Note were included with the meeting packets. Wiza passed around a response letter he received from Representative Dave Obey.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20090794 and 20090839 were reviewed. Special meeting attendance approval was given for O'Brien attending the Drainage District Annual Meeting on November 17 at the Buena Vista Town Hall.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Kevin Halvorson, NRCS Soil Conservation Technician, introduced himself. He reported Roy Diver, Wood County District Conservationist (DC), will be the acting DC until Larson's position is filled. Halvorson will provide reports to the LCC until that time. Halvorson stated a nearly 350 acre Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) easement should be completed mid January in the Town of Pine Grove. Work will begin December 12 on a Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) project on Bob Lea's property, Amherst Junction, in cooperation with the DNR and the Frank Hornberg Trout Unlimited Chapter. The project may take four years to complete. Halvorson said if funding can be secured through WHIP, the State Drainage Board and local Drainage District may allow some trout stream improvement in the Buena Vista area. Stabilization work and increased flows may decrease the need for periodic dredging. Halvorson reported an Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) signup will begin in January for manure pits, windbreaks, waterways, etc. O'Brien asked Halvorson to bring lunger structure plans/pictures to the next meeting.

## 6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No conservation plans were presented.

## 7. Conservation Congress Report

Chojnowski distributed copies of various newspaper articles. He reported a local man shot a bear in the Wausau area. A possible world record deer was shot in Sheboygan County. Twenty five elk were killed by wolves. A buck attacked a statue in the Madison area. The musky season south of Highway 10 has been extended for a month. Wiza questioned whether they are referring to the new or old Highway 10 (HH). Chojnowski will verify with the warden. He also reported there was a cougar sitting in Spooner in the spring, and referred to newspaper articles regarding issues with various carp species. Chojnowski stated he will be unable to attend the next few meetings.

## 8. Committee Representative Reports

**a. Lakes Management District (Peterson)** – Peterson attended a meeting for the McDill Pond Rehabilitation District.

**b. Resource Conservation & Development Area (Brilowski)** – Brilowski attended the RC&D meeting on November 19, which included discussion regarding forest management.

**c. North Central Area Land Conservation Association (Peterson)** – Refer to Agenda Item #11.

**d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Brilowski)** – Rohde gave an update on CWWP activities in 2009. There were 15.2 miles of windbreaks planted, just short of the goal of 15.5 miles. Rohde was pleased considering budgets were tight and available cost share amounts were uncertain. Some field tree plantings were also done, as well as hand plantings and food plots. Approximate lengths of windbreaks planted by county were: Portage County – six miles, Adams County – four miles, Juneau and Wood Counties – two miles each. Small windbreaks were also installed in Marquette and Waupaca Counties. A fall tour was held at the Hancock Ag Research Station on October 23. State legislators, local elected officials, County Conservationists, NRCS and agency representatives were invited. Due to bad weather conditions, only about 12 people attended. The tour included a presentation on the history of the CWWP, viewing various types of windbreaks planted at the Research Station, and a machine planting and fabric laying demonstration. Rohde said he will consider holding future tours earlier in the fall. Rohde has been attending and giving reports at partner county LCCs and other industry meetings. He is also lining up windbreak and planting projects for 2010, and believes they will be close to the goal of 15.5 miles. Rohde also stated brochures advertising CWWP's planting services are provided to counties that hold tree sales.

**e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien)** – O'Brien attended the Drainage District Annual Meeting. The account balance is between \$61,000 and \$62,000. Ditch #6 has been cleaned out. The ditch inspection went well. The assessment fee remains at \$1.25 per acre. They hope to have work done along the Green Lateral, Coddington Road, and Isherwood Road in 2010. A \$23 million cranberry bog is being built on the corner of County Roads F and W. Due to erosion under some of the dams, they must be removed. Grant money is available for dam removal. Don Isherwood has applied for a \$50,000 grant to make improvements to the Isherwood Lateral.

**f. Mill Creek Watershed (Barden)** – No meeting.

**g. Little Plover River (Peterson)** – The next meeting will be held in January.

## 9. North Central Conservation Trust (NCCT) Activity Report

Jo Seiser introduced Alan Haney, NCCT Board President. Seiser reviewed the status of the land trust, conservation easements, and provided an update on activities in Portage County. The NCCT has been in existence for over 10 years, working with landowners and obtaining 28 voluntary conservation easements, covering approximately 2,500 acres in Portage, Marathon,

Taylor, Lincoln, Waushara, and Adams Counties. There are approximately 50 land trusts throughout Wisconsin, mainly in areas with development pressure, i.e. southeast Wisconsin, Dane County, northwest Wisconsin, and Door County. Seiser pointed out that conservation easements are a main tool of the NCCT. There are government programs that purchase conservation easements from landowners as a way to protect land; but so far, NCCT has not participated in any purchase program. Seiser expressed gratitude to the DNR for land purchases for public benefit but the DNR can only do so much. Legislation has been passed to allow for voluntary agreements, between landowners and land trusts. Seiser pointed out that none of the NCCT voluntary agreements have used State or Federal government funding; however, Portage County has provided some financial assistance to NCCT. Seiser stated a voluntary agreement does not mean the landowner has donated the land. The landowner retains ownership; it is the development rights that are donated. A legal agreement is recorded with the Register of Deeds restricting development. Seiser explained that the appraised value of land that can be developed is significantly higher than the assessed value of land with a conservation easement. When the value difference is reported to the IRS, the landowner can get an income tax deduction. She added assessed values of land with conservation easements vary. Some have decreased as much as half, and some don't change much. Seiser said participating landowners are also asked for cash donations for between \$6,000 and \$10,000. The NCCT is a non profit, non government organization and depends on the support of solicited donations. The money goes into an endowment fund, and is used to annually monitor and maintain compliance with the easements.

Seiser gave an update on Portage County easements. There are currently eight landowners with conservation easements totaling 700 acres. Seiser credited the Portage County Land Preservation Fund Committee (LPFC) as one reason the NCCT is doing so well in Portage County. In 2006, the LPFC approved a grant to the NCCT to assist a landowner with their donation. Since then, six additional grants have been approved by the LPFC. Seiser said there are two agreements pending that they hope to sign before the end of the year. She expressed appreciation to the LPFC for the work they do in preserving land from development in a cost effective way. Bradley noted the LPFC will typically grant \$3,000 per landowner, one half the requested donation. Seiser stated under most State or Federal programs, public access is a requirement. Under NCCT agreements, the landowner retains ownership and control over access.

Bradley stated the LCC sent letters to Federal representatives in support of the continuation of tax credits for conservation easements, and asked if there has been any action. Seiser replied not yet, but there is strong support in the legislature.

Seiser passed around previous NCCT newsletters with information on the Mason easement, located on a bog on the north side of Lake Jacqueline, as well a booklet containing information on how stewardship funds are used.

Seiser thanked the LCC for their time, and the LCC thanked Seiser for the report.

#### 10. Discussion/Possible Action – Transfer of Unused LCD/LCC Funding to Portage County Conservation Congress Elected Delegates to Defray Expenses from 2009

At the last LCC meeting, it was mentioned there may be unused funds in the 2009 Land Conservation budget. Chojnowski stated the five Portage County Conservation Congress delegates are well represented in fishing, hunting and trapping. Because these are volunteer positions and expenses come out of their own pockets, Chojnowski said it is difficult to recruit and keep good delegates. He said any additional funding would be appreciated. Wiza said the County Executive approved \$500 from his budget for the Conservation Congress for 2009. In 2010, \$500 is in the LCD budget. Wiza said there was mention at the last LCC meeting to consider additional Conservation Congress funding in

2010 if scholarships funds are not used; however, he feels unused funds should go toward needed LCD expenses first. Chojnowski said the 2010 Conservation Congress annual convention is in Stevens Point, and he doesn't believe additional funding will be needed. It would be more beneficial to receive extra funds in 2009. There was discussion regarding oversight and how the funds are distributed. Chojnowski said the chair of the County Conservation Congress distributes the funds. The State Conservation Congress provides a list of conferences dates and expenses incurred. Motion by Wiza, second by Aanrud to direct Benedict, at the earliest date after January 1, 2010, to submit a voucher in the amount of \$500 to the Conservation Congress to offset expenses. Motion carried by voice vote.

11. Discussion/Possible Action – Voting Proxy for Resolutions – Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) Annual Conference and Review of Resolutions

There was discussion on the two resolutions; however, since none of the LCC members are able to attend the WLWCA conference, the voting proxy is irrelevant. No action taken.

12. Watershed Projects

**a. Updates** – No update.

**b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts** – Bradley explained the pit location was moved for the Dambroski Brothers/Robert and Judy Dambroski barnyard project, increasing fill and concrete costs. An amendment increases the Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) cost share funds an additional \$27,900. From a water quality standpoint, Bradley feels this is the most critical site in the county. All manure will now be contained on site and in the pit. Motion by O'Brien, second by Barden to approve \$27,900 in additional cost share funds for the Dambroski project. Motion carried by voice vote.

13. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be January 5, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. in Conference Room 5, County Annex.

Aanrud announced this may be his last meeting. He will no longer be serving on the Farm Service Agency Committee. Aanrud was thanked for his service on the LCC.

14. Adjournment

Motion by Barden, second by O'Brien to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Phillis, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at \_\_\_\_\_ Land Conservation Committee meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Wiza, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Brilowski, Secretary