

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Conference Room 5, County Annex
Stevens Point, WI 54481
January 5, 2010

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

Member excused: Robert Brilowski

Others present: Kevin Halvorson, 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.

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.

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of December 1, 2009

Motion by Barden, second by O'Brien to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote. (Vice-Chair Barden co-signed the minutes in Secretary Brilowski's absence.)

3. Correspondence

Wiza mentioned the Thursday Note included in members' meeting packets. In relation to the motion passed at the December LCC meeting in regard to paying \$500 to the Conservation Congress at the earliest date after January 1 2010, Bradley reported expenses can only be paid in the year they are incurred and must be on a reimbursement basis. Bradley explained the situation to Bob Chojnowski, who indicated Conservation Congress members should not have a problem showing expenses of \$500 in 2010. According to Assistant Corporation Counsel, Blair Ward, it is not necessary to rescind the motion.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20100003, 20090932, 20090906, and 20090905 were reviewed. Wiza questioned the special assessment for the WLWCA in the amount of \$800. Bradley referred to an article in the Thursday Note which explains the need for the special assessment from every county in order to balance WLWCA's budget. Motion by Peterson, second by Barden to accept the voucher, purchases, and procurement card reports and place them on file. Motion carried by voice vote.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Halvorson provided pictures and plan drawings of lunker structures as requested by the LCC at their December 2009 meeting. Halvorson explained the structures provide an artificial cover for fish. Water and sediment can flow through the structures, which can last 10 to 20 years, depending on the type of wood used. Halvorson also reported the next Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) signup is scheduled for January 18 through February 19. "Hoop houses" are an additional practice allowed, which are used to

extend the growing season. Halvorson stated there are a number of organic farmers showing interest in the practice. Halvorson said EQIP funds will be handled differently than in the past, but there is still some local control. He added the State has limited funding for the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), which could allow the purchase of an easement of approximately 300-400 acres. He noted there is a backlog of people interested in the GRP. Halvorson stated applications have been received and are being scored for the vacant District Conservationist (DC) position. He estimates the position may be filled near the middle of March. Roy Diver, Wood County DC, continues to help with field checks, etc. Halvorson also reported a landowner interested in planting trees under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) said he was encouraged by a DNR Forester not to enroll. An agenda item will be included for the February LCC meeting regarding the DNR Foresters' policy regarding tree plantings.

6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No plans presented.

7. Committee Representative Reports

a. Lakes Management District (Peterson) – Peterson reported he is active with the McDill Pond Rehabilitation District. There are issues which are being worked out.

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

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

d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Brilowski) – Bradley reported on the December 14, 2009 meeting, which included discussion whether to continue with the voucher incentive program. The CWWP Board decided to discontinue vouchers (after 2010), and instead investigate a pilot project to purchase 20 easements from landowners for living snow fences. There is interest in Adams County. O'Brien noted the vision triangle needs to be taken into consideration when planting windbreaks. Bradley will remind the CWWP staff. Bradley also reported the 2010 CWWP Plan of Work was amended to reflect the pilot project.

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 January 13.

8. Wisconsin Conservation Congress Update

Chojnowski was not in attendance. No update given.

9. Discussion/Possible Action – Letter of Support for Veto Override of AB 138

Wiza referred to the information included in the LCC packets. (The Governor vetoed a bill which restores the appointment authority of the DNR Secretary back to the Natural Resources Board.) Bradley said he understands the vote is close, and suggested sending a letter if the LCC feels this is an important issue. Wiza questioned how Portage County's Representatives and Senators feel and offered to contact Molepske, Lassa, and Vruwink. Motion by Wiza, second by Barden to direct Bradley to draft a letter to all of Portage County's State Representatives and Senators in support of the override vote for Assembly Bill 138. O'Brien noted sportsmen and women support the override to take politics out of DNR decision making. Motion carried by voice vote.

10. Discussion/Possible Action – Participation in Conservation Lobby Day

For the last couple of years, Bradley said the League of Conservation Voters has sponsored a Conservation Lobby Day in January. Attendance has been growing each year, with between 500 and 600 attending last year. Four conservation issues are chosen and

presented to legislators for their support. Bradley noted one of the issues last year was increased funding for Land Conservation Departments, and the effort was successful. Bradley listed and elaborated on the four issues chosen this year: Preserving Groundwater, Stop Global Warming in Wisconsin, Restore Conservation Integrity, and Protect Wisconsin's Drinking Water. Bradley asked whether the LCC would like him to represent the LCC/LCD on any or all of the issues at the Conservation Lobby Day. The LCC felt the issues are important, but actions/solutions suggested may be aggressive and unattainable, and didn't feel it necessary for Bradley to attend. Bradley noted if specific legislation is brought up, he will bring it to the attention of the LCC. No action taken.

11. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – Bradley gave an update on the Lake Management Planning project. Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) was found in Sunset and Lime Lakes. Attempts were made to hand pull the EWM, but it has been determined the infestation is beyond hand pulling. The Regional Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Specialist has recommended chemical treatment with 2-4-D. Informational meetings for both lakes were held to get feedback from the public. Unanimous decisions were made at both meetings to proceed with chemical treatment in early May and follow up with hand pulling where needed. Gary Speckmann, Park Director, is aware of the situation.

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

10. Next Meeting Date

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

11. Adjournment

Motion by Wiza, second by Peterson 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
February 2, 2010

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

Others present: Lyle Eiden and Kent Glazer, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; 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. Wiza welcomed Guth as a new LCC member (replacing Don Aanrud, FSA Representative) and introductions were made.

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 January 5, 2010

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

3. Correspondence

The notice for the annual meeting for the Lake Jacqueline District was passed around. The minutes included discussion on stocking, weed control, and the improvements to the public landing, which are on hold for the time being. Wiza received and passed around a letter from Representative Marlin Schneider stating he will consider the LCCs position regarding the governor's veto of AB 138. Wiza has heard the veto override will not happen as there is not enough support. Wiza also passed around information on the January 29 meeting for the North Central Land and Water Conservation Association (NCLWCA). Wiza mentioned the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative News, included in members' packets.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20100036, 20100074, and 20100094 were reviewed, as well as a procurement card credit of \$2.25.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Bradley reported Peggy Lane, Dodge County, has been hired to replace Ty Larson. It is expected Lane should start in March. Lane will be invited to the March LCC meeting.

6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No conservation plans presented.

7. Committee Representative Reports

a. Lakes Management District (Peterson) – Peterson reported the Izaak Walton Jamboree will be held Saturday, February 6 on McDill Pond from noon until 4:00 p.m.

b. Resource Conservation & Development Area (Brilowski) – Bradley attended the meeting on January 21. He reported on Water Resources Committee activities. Waushara County initiated their Lakes Classification Grant activities. Amy Thorstenson, RC&D, has developed an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) poster, which is available to anyone for posting in businesses, etc. The Tri Lakes District in Adams County reported they are holding a training session to identify AIS on the third Saturday in May. Paul Skawinski, RC&D, will be presenting a session at the Wisconsin Lakes Conference regarding volunteer coordinating efforts for hand pulling Eurasian Water Milfoil and shoreline improvement on McDill Pond. A report on the rain barrel project was given by Bill Ebert, RC&D. Rain barrels are available through the RC&D office.

c. North Central Area Land Conservation Association (Peterson) – Bradley noted no one attended the January 29 meeting; however, he received a copy of the activity schedule developed. The reorganization meeting will take place in Antigo on June 18. The summer tour will be held in Marathon County in August. The Fall Conference/Poster and Speaking Contest at the Wausau School Forest will be held October 28, and the State contest will be held in Stevens Point on November 6. The WLWCA Conference will be held December 8-9 in Wisconsin Dells. The 2011 planning meeting will be January 28, 2011 in Merrill. Bradley noted Portage County has not held poster and speaking contests in the past, but some UWSP staff have volunteered to help generate interest and possible funding for a contest to be held in the fall.

d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Brilowski) – Bradley reported a meeting was held January 21. There was discussion regarding using funds from the equipment replacement account for cost sharing projects which are not funded through Federal or State cost share programs. It was decided to allow up to \$20,000 for cost sharing projects in 2010.

e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien) – O'Brien reported he has been working with Judge Flugaur regarding appointing a commissioner. Flugaur recommends publishing a notice in the newspaper for applicants, conducting interviews, and submitting a list of candidates to him in the order of preference. Judge Flugaur would like to swear in the new commissioner by April 27. The Agriculture and Extension Education Committee is involved in the process.

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

g. Little Plover River (Peterson) – A meeting was held on January 13. Bradley reported Del Monte has purchased 152 acres of irrigated cropland north of their plant. Bradley stated water will no longer be pumped from the high capacity wells for that land, and Del Monte proposes to irrigate with processing water to provide more flow to the Little Plover River. O'Brien added Del Monte's non contact cooling water will be directed through the pipeline along County Road R which is to be extended one half mile closer to the Little Plover River. Bradley gave credit to Del Monte for their efforts.

Brilowski mentioned a meeting he attended at the Town of Hull regarding a new well proposed by the City of Stevens Point on what is known as the Boy Scout land, off of Highway 66 and north of the Izaak Walton land. Brilowski noted the meeting room was full and the majority opposed the well. Wiza, also a City Alderman, stated he received one call from a resident, but they were not opposed. He added the funding has been approved and construction will begin soon. Wiza said concerns can be directed to the City Clerk's office.

8. Wisconsin Conservation Congress Update

Chojnowski was not in attendance. Bradley distributed copies of the December 2009 issue of Wisconservation.

9. Tree Planter Report

Lyle Eiden, DNR Forester, distributed copies and explained a summary of tree planter activity for the last five years, including the number of trees ordered broken down into conifer and hardwoods, the number of landowners that used the tree planters, the number of trees planted, the rate charged, and the account gain. Eiden noted an average of 49% of landowners use the county tree planters. Also included on the summary was the sprayer use for 2008 and 2009. Eiden said the planters are in good shape. The sprayer needs some minor repairs. Benedict provided account figures: 2009 beginning balance - \$11,272.37; deposits - \$3,558.25; interest earned - \$58.83; expenses \$1,880.12; projected 2009 ending balance - \$13,009.33. Eiden said the State nursery sent approximately 200 letters to landowners with fallow fields, offering forester assistance and informing them of the availability of trees and planters. The response was very low.

10. Discussion – DNR Forester Policy Regarding Tree Plantings

At the January LCC meeting, Kevin Halvorson, NRCS, mentioned an issue with a landowner involving a DNR Forester regarding planting certain species of trees under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Eiden and Glazer explained the situation, stating the landowner called Eiden asking for general advice and described what he wanted to do. After Eiden made his recommendation, the landowner mentioned he was considering enrolling in CRP. After considering the options, the landowner decided not to enroll in CRP. Glazer noted the CRP requires planting 50% hardwoods, which are difficult to establish in the sandy soils in Portage County.

11. Discussion/Possible Action – 2009 Wildlife Damage Claims

Benson distributed the 2009 Wildlife Damage Summary. He explained the categories and harvest objective requirements. All 2009 claims were deer damage for a total of slightly over \$15,500, up from approximately \$13,000 in 2008. The names in red indicate they did not achieve their harvest objective. Benson said exemptions can be granted if they have informed Benson or Greg Dahl they were having difficulties, or if they kept a log documenting hunting efforts. Benson suggested granting an exception to Albert Kaminski, whose log showed sufficient hunting activity. Benson recommended delaying a decision on Tony Kruzicki, Leonard Wiza, Gerald Basinski, and J and J Potatoes until the March LCC meeting, and approving the remaining claims. Motion by Wiza, second by Brilowski to approve the wildlife damage claims with the exception of Tony Kruzicki, Leonard Wiza, Gerald Basinski, and J and J Potatoes, which will be reviewed at the March LCC meeting. Motion carried by voice vote. Wiza signed the approved claims.

Benson noted the total deer killed on ag tag shooting permits in 2009 was 128, up from 92 in 2008. He also reported the bear population in Portage County is increasing. There is no funding for trapping nuisance bears, however bears causing crop or bee hive damage is covered by the wildlife damage program.

12. Discussion/Possible Action – Eurasian Water Milfoil Treatment Grant Resolution

Bradley stated the Finance Committee approved the grant in the amount of \$1,600. County Board approval is not necessary. The county's required 25% match is provided by in-kind staff time. Motion by Brilowski, second by Barden to approve the grant resolution. Motion carried by voice vote.

13. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – No report.

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

14. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for March 2 at 5:00 p.m. in Conference Room 5 of the County Annex.

15. Adjournment

Motion by Barden, second by Brilowski 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

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LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Conference Room 5, County Annex
Stevens Point, WI 54481
March 2, 2010

Members present: Richard Barden, Robert Brilowski, Cathy Guth, Dale O'Brien, William Peterson

Member excused: Mike Wiza

Others present: Kevin Halvorson, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Barry Benson, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services; Pam Riggs, Lake Jacqueline District; Joe Firkus, Town of Plover Board Supervisor; 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 Vice Chair Barden.

Barden 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 February 2, 2010

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

3. Correspondence

Bradley read from an email received from Peggy Lane, Ty Larson's replacement as the NRCS District Conservationist. She was invited to the LCC meeting, but was unable to attend. Her start date is March 15. She plans to attend the April LCC meeting.

Bradley reported the DATCP grant funding allocations have been received for 2010. The amounts are as follows: Staff/support - \$134,406; SWRM cost share – just under \$63,000; Nutrient Management cost share – just over \$3,000.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20100120 and 2010158 were reviewed along with a procurement card purchase.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Halvorson reported March 3 is the deadline for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) signup. So far, 18 applications have been received. Halvorson stated there are more requests than cost share funds available in the funding pool for grazing practices, irrigation water management, and irrigation system testing. There were no applications for manure pits, waste storage structures, or barnyards. There are two applications for the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) for streambank work. They should find out within the next week or so which projects will be funded. Regarding the WHIP projects, Halvorson plans to set up a tour for LCC and Drainage District representatives of the sites on the Tomorrow River to give a better idea what is going to be done. Halvorson will inform

Bradley of the date and time for the tour and the information will be passed on to LCC members.

6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No plans presented.

7. Committee Representative Reports

- a. **Lakes Management District (Peterson)** – No report.
- b. **Resource Conservation & Development Area (Brilowski)** – No report.
- c. **North Central Area Land Conservation Association (Peterson)** – No report.
- d. **Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Brilowski)** – Next meeting is April 12.
- e. **Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien)** – No report.
- f. **Mill Creek Watershed (Barden)** – No report.
- g. **Little Plover River (Peterson)** – Next meeting is April 14.

8. Wisconsin Conservation Congress Update

No update.

9. Discussion/Possible Action – Kruzicki, Wiza, Basinski, J&J Potatoes Wildlife Damage Claims

Benson reported these claims were delayed because they did not meet their shooting permit quotas. After investigating, Benson said they did not keep hunting logs to show sufficient effort and recommended denying the claims. Motion by Guth, second by O'Brien to deny the wildlife damage claims for Kruzicki, Wiza, Basinski, and J&J Potatoes. Motion carried by voice vote.

10. Discussion/Possible Action – Karner Blue Butterfly Habitat Protection Resolution

Bradley explained the Karner Blue Butterfly (KBB) is an endangered species native to the area. KBBs require wild lupine in their habitat, which grows well in sandy soils. He referred to the parcel on the map, owned by Portage County, which will be established with wild lupine. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide most of the funding. The Friends of the Tomorrow/Waupaca River have made a verbal commitment to mow and hand weed. There will be no cost to Portage County. The Highway Committee approved the resolution. Motion by O'Brien, second by Peterson to approve the resolution. Motion carried by voice vote. LCC members signed the resolution, which will be presented at the March 16 County Board meeting.

11. LWRM Plan Accomplishments

Bradley distributed copies of the 2009 Land and Water Resource Management Plan Report and provided a review. Of approximately \$861,000 in expenditures, approximately \$176,000 of county tax levy was utilized, with the difference made up of grant funding. DATCP provided \$131,000 for staff/support costs and \$84,000 for cost sharing practices. Activities included in the report: Providing staff support to the Friends of the Tomorrow/Waupaca River; providing administration for the Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (CWWP); development of lake management plans as a result of the Portage County Lake Study; assisting with implementation of an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) control program; work on removing Mill Creek from the 303(d) list of Impaired Waters; documenting compliance with the State Agricultural Performance Standards; the Farmland Preservation Program, which is transitioning to the Working Lands Initiative; contracting with RC&D to provide a Nutrient Management educator; participation in the Wildlife Damage Program; assisting the Planning and Zoning Department with stormwater plan review,

subdivision plans, and nonmetallic mine reclamation plans; assisting the Parks Department with surveys; involvement with the Little Plover River workgroup and Friends of the Little Plover River; provide staff assistance to the Land Preservation Fund Committee; working to put LCD information on the County GIS for public access.

12. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – No report.

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

13. Next Meeting Date

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

14. Adjournment

Motion by Brilowski, second by Guth 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 the April 6, 2010 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

/Mike Wiza/
Mike Wiza, Chair

/Richard Barden/
Richard Barden, Vice Chair

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Conference Room 5, County Annex
Stevens Point, WI 54481
April 6, 2010

Members present: Richard Barden, Cathy Guth, Dale O'Brien, William Peterson, Mike Wiza

Member excused: Robert Brilowski

Others present: Peggy Lane and Kevin Halvorson, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Pam Riggs, Lake Jacqueline District; Bob Chojnowski, Wisconsin Conservation Congress; Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land Conservation Division; Lori O'Brien.

1. Call to Order

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

Wiza announced Agenda Item #8 will be moved after Agenda Item #4. Wiza also announced this is Bill Peterson's last LCC meeting and thanked Bill for his service. Wiza introduced Peggy Lane, Ty Larson's replacement. Lane gave some of her background information.

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.

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of March 2, 2010

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

3. Correspondence

The Thursday Note was included in the LCC meeting packets. Benedict noted Wiza signed letters regarding Stewardship Week, which will be sent to the Stevens Point Journal and Portage County Gazette for publication.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20100207, 20100230, and 20100256 were reviewed as well as purchases and the procurement card charges. Wiza noted he continues to look for County owned storage for the tree planters.

8. Wisconsin Conservation Congress Update

Chojnowski distributed information for the DNR Annual Spring Fish & Wildlife Rule Hearings to be held Monday, April 12 at Ben Franklin Junior High School at 7:00 p.m. He reported the deer culling program in the Village of Plover is to be terminated. He also distributed information on SB 222 which would allow uncased firearms and bows in vehicles, and passed around flyers from the Wildlife Federation.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Lane reported she started in the Stevens Point office on March 15. By April 1, three programs' applications had to be signed into contracts. There were 17 contracts for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) covering 4,788 acres and obligating \$120,963, 13 contracts for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), and 2 contracts for the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP). EQIP funding pools have been separated into pastureland, cropland, forest land, and farmstead. Lane stated all contracts are being funded with the exception of two in the farmstead pool, with \$77,000 being obligated. The next deadline is for the EQIP organic signup. One application was submitted by the March 12 due date. Funds must be obligated by April 30.

6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No plans presented.

7. Committee Representative Reports

- a. **Lakes Management District (Peterson)** – Peterson reported the McDill Pond organization will be holding a meeting within a couple of weeks.
- b. **Resource Conservation & Development Area (Brilowski)** – Bradley attended the March 18 meeting. The Water Resources Committee included a power point presentation by Paul Skawinski, RC&D, which focused on the McDill Pond drawdown and volunteers efforts to pull Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). The EWM has reappeared. Bradley will invite Skawinski to an LCC meeting to give an update on Portage County's Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) control program. Adams County has received a DNR grant to continue their AIS program. Most of the surrounding counties have programs to monitor and control AIS, as well as educating boaters that AIS can be transferred from lake to lake. The Prairie Chicken Festival will take place April 16-18, with various events planned.
- c. **North Central Area Land Conservation Association (Peterson)** – No report.
- d. **Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Brilowski)** – The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 12.
- e. **Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien)** – O'Brien reported he joined Kevin Halvorson, NRCS, Stu Grimstad, Trout Unlimited, and Tom Meronek, DNR, and members of the Drainage District Board for viewing sites with lunger cribs on the Tomorrow River to better understand the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) project proposed in the Drainage District. O'Brien also reported the Ag and Extension Committee held interviews and submitted three names to Judge Fleischauer for appointment/reappointment of Drainage District Commissioners.
- f. **Mill Creek Watershed (Barden)** – No report.
- g. **Little Plover River (Peterson)** – The next meeting is April 14 at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room 5.

9. Discussion/Possible Action – River Protection Grant Resolution – Little Plover River

A draft copy of the resolution was included in LCC packets. Bradley explained the amount requested is \$10,000 on behalf of the Friends of the Little Plover River. They plan to use the funds mainly to set up a website with information on their organization, and to continue holding the annual appreciation day for 4th grade classes featuring various learning stations, and partner with the Villages of Plover and Whiting to develop water conservation informational materials to send out with water bills. Bradley stated the required 25% match will be provided as in-kind services by the Friends of the Little Plover River. The grant application must be approved by the Finance Committee, but does not go to County Board. In the section "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED", Wiza suggested changing the word "including" to "with" as follows: "... and meet the financial obligations under this grant **with** the 25% in-kind

commitment to project costs.” Bradley noted river grants are more competitive than the lake management and aquatic invasive species grants, which Portage County has had good success receiving. Motion by Barden, second by Peterson to approve the resolution with the wording change suggested by Wiza. Motion carried by voice vote. Wiza called a short recess in order to allow Benedict to print an amended copy of the resolution, which LCC members signed. The meeting resumed upon Benedict’s return.

10. Discussion/Possible Action – Conservation Camp Scholarships

Benedict explained there are two conservation camps. The Rusk County camp scholarship fee is \$100 per camper and the Marinette County camp scholarship is \$50 per camper. In the past, the LCC has approved \$100. Scholarship recipients are drawn by lottery at the May LCC meeting. Motion by Wiza, second by Guth to approve \$100 for conservation camp scholarships with a random drawing to be held in the event there are more applicants than scholarship money. Motion carried by voice vote.

11. Discussion/Possible Action – Poster and Speaking Contest

Benedict explained poster and speaking contests have not been held in Portage County for at least the last 12 years. There are some staff members at the UWSP who are interested in generating interest among Portage County schools, as well as raising funds for contest expenses. Benedict and Bradley estimate using approximately \$200 from the information and education budget line item. The contests would take place in the fall, likely mid October. Motion by O’Brien, second by Barden to approve holding a poster and speaking contest, with funding from the LCD budget not to exceed \$200. Wiza noted the approval is for this year only. A review will be done by the LCC for future years. Motion carried by voice vote.

12. Discussion/Possible Action – 2010 Soil & Water Resource Management (SWRM) Cost Share Projects

Bradley explained just under \$63,000 is allocated for cost sharing conservation practices in 2010. It appears all interested landowners’ projects can be funded. Bradley listed the projects and estimated costs: Altmann manure pit - \$17,000 (addition to TRM grant received, but did not cover 70%); Isherwood windbreak - \$3,600; Dave Stuczynski streambank fencing - \$10,000; Vitort, Simkowski, and Graham wetland restorations - \$6,000-8,000 each. If any funds remain, Bradley stated he will bring projects before the LCC at a later date. Motion by Barden, second by Guth to approve the cost share projects. Motion carried by voice vote.

13. Discussion/Possible Action – DNR/DATCP 2011 Grant Application

Bradley distributed copies of the 2011 grant application to be submitted to DATCP/DNR for staff and cost share funding. He explained the tier funding method for staff. Bradley stated he requests the maximum amount to fund all LCD positions (\$232,042 for 2011), but noted in 2010, the LCD received approximately \$133,000 for staff. He requested \$100,000 for cost sharing for 2011, but anticipates receiving approximately \$63,000, the same as 2010. Bradley is requesting \$100,000 for nutrient management cost sharing, but received \$3,000 in 2010. For DNR’s Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) projects, Bradley is requesting \$300,000 - \$150,000 for Ed Lein and \$150,000 for Zoromski Farms. Bradley also reviewed the 2009 financial report of LCD expenditures required by DATCP and DNR. Expenditures were just under \$861,000, with non county expenditure sources of just over \$684,000, the difference is county tax levy, paying for salary and fringe for two LCD employees. Two other LCD positions are paid through the grant and one position, CWWP Project Manager,

is funded by windbreak sales. Motion by Guth, second by O'Brien to approve the 2011 grant application. Motion carried by voice vote.

14. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – No report.

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

15. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 4 at 5:00 p.m.

16. Adjournment

Motion by O'Brien, second by Peterson to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at the May 4, 2010 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

/Mike Wiza/
Mike Wiza, Chair

/Dale O'Brien
Dale O'Brien, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Conference Room 5, County Annex
Stevens Point, WI 54481
May 4, 2010

Members present: Richard Barden, Cathy Guth, Barry Jacowski, Dale O'Brien, Jeff Presley, Mike Wiza

Others present: Peggy Lane, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Bob Chojnowski, Wisconsin Conservation Congress; Pam Riggs, Lake Jacqueline District; Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land Conservation Division (LCD).

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Steve Bradley.

2. Election of Officers: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary

Bradley called for nominations for the office of Chair. O'Brien nominated Wiza. Bradley called three times for other nominations. Hearing none, Barden moved to close nominations and cast a unanimous vote for Wiza. The motion was seconded by Presley, which passed by a voice vote. Wiza accepted the office of Chair.

Wiza called for nominations for the office of Vice Chair. O'Brien nominated Barden. Wiza called three times for other nominations. Hearing none, Guth moved to close nominations and cast a unanimous vote for Barden. The motion was seconded by Presley, which passed by a voice vote. Barden accepted the office of Vice Chair.

Wiza called for nominations for the office of Secretary. Barden nominated O'Brien. Wiza called three times for other nominations. Hearing none, Barden moved to close nominations and cast a unanimous vote for O'Brien. The motion was seconded by Guth, which passed by a voice vote. O'Brien accepted the office of Secretary.

Introductions took place.

3. Appointment of Committee Representatives:

The following appointments were made by Chair Wiza except as otherwise noted:

- a. Lakes Management District (appointed by the County Executive) – Barden. Presley will serve as alternate to the McDill District, and Riggs agreed to continue serving as liaison to the Lake Jacqueline District.
- b. Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) – Guth
- c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (NCLWCA) – Presley, primary; Jacowski, alternate.
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (CWWP) – Guth, primary; Presley, alternate.
- e. Portage County Drainage District – O'Brien
- f. Mill Creek Watershed – Barden
- g. Little Plover River Group – O'Brien, primary; Guth, alternate.

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.

4. Review/Approval – Minutes of April 6, 2010

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

5. Correspondence

Members were encouraged to read the Thursday Note included in their packets. Copies of the 2008 State Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) overview, the 2009 Portage County LCD activity report, the LCC Handbook, and the Portage County Land & Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plan were provided to new LCC members Presley and Jacowski. Bradley distributed the 2010 Prairie Chicken Festival booklet and the Central Wisconsin Grassland Conservation Area Partnership newsletter to all members.

6. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20100279, 20100307, 20100332, 20100333 were reviewed as well as a procurement card purchase.

(5:25 p.m. – Jacowski arrived, introductions took place.)

7. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report

Lane reported program sign ups are complete, with the exception of the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP, formerly known as the Conservation Security Program) which has a target deadline of May 14. Applications were supposed to begin in October 2009 for the CSP; however, no policies, manuals, or application materials were available, delaying the signup and resulting in two signups in 2010. States are requesting an extension of the May 14 deadline from the Federal government. Lane sent press releases to local media regarding CSP. She stated the program is very comprehensive and applications can take an average of six hours to complete. She currently has three applications on file. Lane added they are processing payments for existing Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) contracts.

8. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No conservation plans presented.

9. Committee Representative Reports

- a. **Lakes Management District** – No report.
- b. **Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Area** –The next meeting is Thursday, May 20 from 10:30 to noon.
- c. **North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (NCLWCA)** – The next meeting is June 18 in Antigo.
- d. **Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (CWWP)** – The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 21 at the Hancock Ag Research Station.
- e. **Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien)** – O'Brien reported Jim Isherwood was sworn in to serve as a Drainage District Commissioner.
- f. **Mill Creek Watershed (Barden)** – The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 24.
- g. **Little Plover River** – The next meeting is July 15.

10. Wisconsin Conservation Congress Update

Chojnowski distributed and discussed copies of a newspaper article regarding DNR's proposed phosphorus rule and an article regarding the Asian carp threat in the Great Lakes.

11. Discussion/Possible Action – Lake Management Grant Resolution – Plan Implementation

Bradley referred to the draft resolution included in members' packets. For the benefit of the new members, he gave a history on the Lakes Study project, being conducted in cooperation with the UWSP. In the initial phase of the project, beginning in 2003, data was collected on Portage County lakes with public access. The next phase, which is currently underway, uses the data collected to develop lake management plans. About one half of the plans have been completed by individual lake groups. The proposed grant will be used to implement the plans. Bradley noted the data collection phase was paid for in full by DNR grants (75%) and in-kind services (25%); no County funds were used. The County Board authorized \$75,000 to pay for the County's share of the current phase; however, so far, only approximately \$6,000 has been used. The proposed grant will not require any County funds. Wiza asked for a fiscal note to be added to the resolution stating no County funds are required. Bradley noted the County website has a link to all the current Lake Study information. When the DNR presented plans to redo the Lake Jacqueline boat landing, Riggs stated the Lake Study information was a useful tool to make sure no critical habitat was harmed. Bradley said another positive outcome is lake residents are realizing the importance of maintaining aquatic vegetation for aquatic life and shoreline vegetation as a buffer above the water line. Motion by Wiza, second by Presley to approve the Lake Management Grant Resolution – Plan Implementation grant application. Motion carried by voice vote. Members signed the resolution.

12. Discussion/Possible Action – 2010 Soil & Water Resource Management (SWRM) Grant Contract

Bradley explained the SWRM Grant provides funding from the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) for LCD staff and cost sharing for conservation practices. The amount allocated for staff is \$134,406. The cost share allocations are as follows: \$62,926 for conservation practices, \$3,117.45 carried over from 2009 for the Altmann project, and \$3,078 for nutrient management. The contract had been signed by the County Finance Director. Motion by Jacowski, second by Guth to approve the 2010 Soil & Water Resource Management Grant contract. Motion carried by voice vote. Bradley explained the LCD staff structure to new members.

13. Selection of Conservation Camp/Trees for Tomorrow Scholarship Recipients

Benedict stated there are four recommendations for the conservation camp scholarships. The LCC approved \$100, which would allow for two scholarships to Camp Bird in Marinette County. Two names were drawn to receive the scholarships: Samantha Van Patten, Plover Whiting Elementary, and Amanda Moran, Amherst Elementary. Motion by Jacowski, second by Presley to draw alternates in the event the recipients are unable to attend the camp. Motion carried by voice vote. The first alternate is Shaleah Baewer and the second alternate is Dylan Woods. Benedict will contact the recipients and provide the registration information. Benedict reported there were no applicants for the Trees For Tomorrow Scholarship.

14. 2009 Budget Review

Bradley reported a meeting with the Finance Department has not taken place due to the audit in progress; however, by all indications the LCD was within budget.

15. Stewardship Week Report

Benedict reported open letters were sent to the Stevens Point Journal and Portage County Gazette for publishing. Copies of the Church Leader Guide were sent to all churches in the County for use in their worship services. Copies of the Educators' Guide were sent to all schools in Portage County. Activity booklets were ordered by one teacher from Bannach Elementary and two teachers from Kennedy Elementary. The coordinator at the Boston School Forest ordered activity booklets for every 2nd grade student in the Stevens Point District. The total spent was \$371.69, out of \$400 budgeted.

16. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – Bradley reported the owners that purchased the former Jim Tryba farm in the Mill Creek watershed will be expanding their herd and asked for assistance in designing additional manure storage.

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

17. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 1 at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room 5, County Annex.

18. Adjournment

Motion by Jacowski, second by Barden to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at the June 1, 2010 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

/Richard Barden/
Richard Barden, Vice Chair

/Dale O'Brien/
Dale O'Brien, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Conference Room 5, County Annex
Stevens Point, WI 54481
June 1, 2010

Members present: Richard Barden, Cathy Guth, Barry Jacowski, Dale O'Brien, Jeff Presley

Member excused: Mike Wiza

Others present: Bob Chojnowski, Wisconsin Conservation Congress; Patty Dreier, County Executive; Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land Conservation Division.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Vice Chair Barden.

Barden 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.

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of May 4, 2010

Motion by Guth, second by Jacowski to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Correspondence

Bradley noted the North Central Conservancy Trust newsletter and Thursday Note were included in members' packets. Bradley distributed copies of a letter he received from Senator Feingold regarding his Earth Day speech. Bradley reported there will be a Central Wisconsin bus tour of the Tomorrow/Waupaca River, Bear Lake, and the Little Plover River featuring archaeological history and groundwater information. If interested, reservations must be made by June 2.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20100354 and 20100387 were reviewed.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Bradley read a written report from Peggy Lane. She is unable to attend LCC meetings held at 6:00 p.m. from Memorial Day through Labor Day and will provide written reports. If there are critical issues or information to be presented, Kevin Halvorson, NRCS Technician, will attend meetings. The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) signup ends June 11. Applications will be ranked in July and contracted by early September 2010. Gordondale's manure storage has been fully installed. The pit measures 430' x 215' by 18' deep, about 7 million gallons. A Farm Energy Conservation Initiative sign up will close June 18. There is \$60,000 in funding available for agricultural producers to transition to more energy efficient operations. Applicants are to complete Ag Energy Management Plans which will focus on the farm's primary energy uses such as milk cooling, ventilation of livestock production facilities, manure collection and transfer, grain drying, and similar common farm activities. O'Brien questioned whether vegetable farming operations are eligible. Bradley offered to check with Lane. Lane's report was placed on file.

6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No plans presented.

7. Committee Representative Reports

a. Lakes Management District (Barden) – Bradley asked LCC members if they are interested in a presentation by Paul Skawinski, RC&D Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program Manager, regarding the project on McDill Pond pulling Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). The presentation will be put on the agenda for the July meeting.

b. Resource Conservation & Development (Guth) – Guth reported Sharon Schwab received an award (DNR's West Central Region's Natural Resources Award). Guth was elected treasurer for Golden Sands RC&D. Bradley reported rain barrels are being sold through the RC&D office. Volume 3 of the Central Wisconsin Farm Fresh Atlas, a publication featuring sustainably produced crops, is available. Copies will be made available at the next LCC meeting. Skawinski worked on a project to remove invasive honeysuckle and buckthorn from Bukolt Park in Stevens Point. He and some volunteers also hand pulled EWM at Lime Lake. One new AIS was found in Portage County in 2010. Skawinski has been speaking at various Portage County lake meetings. He mapped curly leaf pond weed in McDill Pond for harvesting in 2010. Jodi Hermsen (RC&D Environmental Educator and Administrative Coordinator) reported on the 4th Annual Little Plover River Appreciation Day, held May 14 at Little Plover River Park. There were 160 4th grade students in attendance. A new project was approved for a summer intern to assist the McDill Lake District with their AIS management activities. Duties include hand pulling EWM, mapping AIS, post treatment EWM monitoring, and educating lake residents about AIS.

c. North Central Area Land Conservation Association (Presley) – The reorganization meeting will be held June 18 in Antigo. Bradley, Barden, and Presley plan to attend.

d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Guth) – The next meeting is Monday, June 21 at the Hancock Ag Research Station.

e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien) – O'Brien reported the Drainage District Commissioners will attend the Ag & Extension Committee meeting on June 2 to discuss procedures and policies. Bradley received a letter from Linda Hyatt, DNR State Dam Safety Engineer, regarding conducting an inspection of #35 dam within the next 18 months. Bradley emailed Hyatt and gave her Paul Cieslewicz' (Drainage District Chair) contact information. Bradley gave Hyatt's letter to O'Brien.

f. Mill Creek Watershed (Barden) – Bradley reported Dan O'Connell (LCD Senior Conservation Technician) attended the Annual Meeting on May 24. Leif Erickson, Mark Totten, and Larry and Anne Graham were re-elected as officers. Invasive species, creek clean up, and a proposed new County park where County Road O and Mill Creek meet were discussed.

g. Little Plover River (O'Brien) – The next meeting is Wednesday, July 14 in Conference Room 5, County Annex.

8. Conservation Congress Report

Chojnowski distributed copies of Wisconsin conservation and various news articles regarding a "green" fish farm in Milwaukee, and cougars in Wisconsin. Chojnowski reported the elk population is declining. The Conservation Congress held their annual convention May 6-8. Chojnowski turned in expenses for reimbursement.

9. Discussion/Possible Action – Reallocation of Trees for Tomorrow Scholarship Funds

At the November 2009 LCC meeting, a \$200 scholarship was approved for a teacher to attend a course at Trees for Tomorrow. In the event no one applied for the scholarship,

which was the case, Chair Wiza requested an agenda item on the June 2010 LCC meeting for possible reallocation of those funds. Bradley and Benedict requested the LCC consider allowing the funds to remain in the account to be used in addition to the amount approved for the poster and speaking contests. Motion by Jacowski, second by O'Brien to allow the funds to be used for the poster and speaking contests. Motion carried by voice vote.

10. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – No report.

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

11. Next Meeting Date

Jacowski asked to have an agenda item included for the next LCC meeting regarding having zoning ordinance text amendments that have to do with soils come before the LCC prior to the Planning and Zoning Committee.

Benedict asked for clarification on which months the LCC prefers to meet at 6:00. The LCC replied April through October.

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

12. Adjournment

Motion by Guth, second by Jacowski to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at _____ Land Conservation Committee meeting.

/Mike Wiza/
Mike Wiza, Chair

/Dale O'Brien/
Dale O'Brien, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Conference Room 5, County Annex
Stevens Point, WI 54481
July 6, 2010

Members present: Richard Barden, Cathy Guth, Barry Jacowski, Dale O'Brien, Jeff Presley, Mike Wiza

Others present: Bob Chojnowski, Wisconsin Conservation Congress; Jeff Schuler, Planning & 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 6:00 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. No one registered to speak.

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of June 1, 2010

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

3. Correspondence

Wiza received correspondence from the North Central Land & Water Conservation Association regarding the meeting on June 18. He also received copies of Public Notice of Intent to Reissue a Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) Permits for Del Monte and the Village of Junction City. Bradley announced Rusk County's invitation to a Dairyland Flowage Boat Tour and a tour of the Reclaimed Flambeau Mine on July 12-13, 2010. Benedict read a thank you letter/report from Amanda Moran, a recipient of a scholarship for Camp Bird in Marinette County.

(Presley arrived at 6:05 p.m.)

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20100437, 20100475, and 20100518 and procurement card purchases in the amount of \$97.28 were reviewed. Motion by O'Brien, second by Guth to place the vouchers on file. Special meeting attendance approvals were given for Barden and Presley attending the North Central Land and Water Conservation Association reorganization meeting on June 18 in Antigo; and Guth attending the Golden Sands RC&D Council meeting on May 20 at the County Annex, and the Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners meeting on June 21 in Hancock.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Bradley read the report provided by Lane. The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) signup closed June 25. Applications will be ranked by July 16. Field verifications are being done on the seven applications for Portage County. Emily, the NRCS summer intern, is assisting with Food Security Act Compliance reviews. The reviews are completed annually on random tracts of land in the county. Tracts are evaluated for highly erodible land (HEL)

and wetland compliance in relation to the 1985 Farm Bill. NRCS staffed a booth in the education tent at the Peterson Dairy, Amherst, for the dairy breakfast in June. Kids could learn about and make soil profiles. The LCC requested to have copies of Lane's report included with their meeting packets.

6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

Three plans were presented to reflect Nancy Lila as the sole participant on the plans. Motion by Jacowski, second by Barden to approve the conservation plans. Motion carried by voice vote.

7. Committee Representative Reports

a. Lakes Management District (Barden) – No report.

b. Resource Conservation & Development (Guth) – The next meeting is July 15.

c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (Presley) – Presley, Barden, and Bradley attended the reorganization meeting on June 18 in Antigo. Presley reported Amy Thorstenson, Golden Sands RC&D, did a presentation regarding her graduate project using weevils as biological control of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). Bradley offered to invite Thorstenson to do a presentation at a future LCC meeting. Bradley reported the treasurer's report, approval of the 2010 budget, and election of officers took place at the business meeting. The annual tour will take place on August 19 in Marathon County. Ty Larson, NRCS, gave a Farm Bill update and Julian Zelazny gave an update on the WLWCA.

d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Guth) – Guth reported on the meeting held on June 21 at the Hancock Ag Research Station. Officers were elected. Project Manager Rohde noted survival rates are good due to adequate moisture. Over 10 miles were planted. Fabric was laid at the request of landowners in Marquette County as an additional project. A couple of customers tilled their newly planted windbreaks, which were replanted. Bradley noted customers receiving State or Federal cost sharing must maintain their windbreak for 10 years. The CWWP provides three years of maintenance to obtain 95% survival for all windbreaks using fabric mulch. A few customers are interested in planting windbreaks in 2011. A portion of the amount due was dismissed from a 2009 customer with financial issues. The bylaws were amended to decrease the amount of Board members required for a quorum from five to three. A suggestion was made to map areas where windbreaks are needed. There is a vacancy for one farmer representative on the Board.

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

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

g. Little Plover River (O'Brien) – The next meeting is July 14 at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room 5.

8. Wisconsin Conservation Congress Update

Chojnowski distributed copies of newspaper articles. He reported 10% of the elk herd has been lost to predators. There are over 700 grey wolves in Wisconsin. Six whooping cranes were hatched in 2010. A cougar killed a cow and attacked several sheep and a horse recently in Juneau County. Chojnowski also distributed the DNR's April 2010 Wildlife Management Report, the June edition of Wisconsin Conservation, and copies of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel featuring barns in Portage County. He reported Asian carp are within six miles of Lake Michigan and the locks won't be closed for political reasons.

9. Discussion/Possible Action – LCC Review of Zoning Ordinance Text Amendments

At the June LCC meeting, Jacowski requested the LCC have an opportunity to review any Zoning Ordinance text amendments pertaining to soil disturbances. Excerpts of proposed text amendments were included in LCC packets. Jacowski said the amendments meet

expectations. Motion by Jacowski, second by Guth to support the changes. Motion carried by voice vote.

10. Aquatic Invasive Species Presentation – Paul Skawinski, Golden Sands RC&D

Skawinski, Regional Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Education Specialist, gave a presentation regarding efforts to control AIS in Portage, Waushara, Wood, and Marathon Counties. He explained how various AIS, such as rusty crayfish, purple loosestrife, Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM), curly leaf pondweed, Chinese mystery snails, Japanese knotweed, zebra mussels, etc., were introduced to the area. One of the main ways AIS are spread is by watercraft and trailers. Inspections are done at boat landings. It is illegal to transport AIS on public roads. He noted fines range from \$263.50 for a first occurrence and up to \$2,700 for subsequent violations within three years. AIS have an impact on recreational activities, fishing, tourism, property values, and the ecosystem of the water body. Skawinski detailed how fragments of EWM plants chopped up by boat motors can regenerate and root. Treatment methods being used are: Chemical, hand pulling, and weevils (biological control). Skawinski stated the drawdown and hand pulling of EWM on McDill Pond decreased coverage from 71% to 0% initially; however, in August 2009, approximately 5% coverage returned and more areas were found in the spring of 2010, to which chemical treatments have been applied. Skawinski said hand pulling is the preferred method for small populations. He said they work with the DNR when chemical control is used, generally for large scale infestations. When applied at the proper time and dosage, the chemicals used do not harm native plants. Weevils may be used in shallower areas close to shorelines. Skawinski will also provide technical services to anyone interested in raising weevils. A training was held on how to survey for weevils June 29. A number of county AIS Coordinators and DNR water resource staff attended. Skawinski talked about curly leaf pondweed, which grows in the fall and through the winter. It reproduces and spreads quickly. When it dies off in the summer, it releases nutrients from the plant tissue into the water, which promotes algae growth. Another AIS, Japanese knotweed, also known as Mexican or Japanese bamboo, resembles bamboo and grows about 12 feet tall, bending under its own weight. It grows on shorelines and shades out other submerged and shoreline plants. Japanese knotweed is an erosion hazard. It does not have a fibrous root system to hold back soil and it shades out ground cover. Attempts have been made to control the plants by cutting off the stalk and treating with Roundup or other herbicides. To combat purple loosestrife, beetles are being used as biocontrol. Skawinski explained how the beetles are collected and released to feed on purple loosestrife plants. They offer the beetles and materials at no charge to lake groups, residents, schools, etc. Skawinski stated he offers training workshops for the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network to anyone that wants to learn how to monitor for AIS. He added his interns assist with the Clean Boats/Clean Waters program. They will work with lake groups to train them on effective water craft inspection programs. Skawinski also provides training and assistance with aquatic plant identification. He made a reference handout for the McDill District featuring the 10 most common plant species, invasive and beneficial, present in McDill Pond. Bradley noted Skawinski's position is paid through a DNR grant, which is funded by the motor boat gas tax. The LCC thanked Skawinski for his presentation.

11. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – No report.

b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts – Bradley presented a cost share contract for Norman and Marvin Worzalla, owners, and Justin and Lynn Isherwood, grant recipients, for 2,520 feet of windbreak in the Town of Plover. The total cost is \$4,910.70. The cost share grant pays for 70%, with the grant recipient paying 30%. Motion by Jacowski, second by Guth to approve the cost share contract. Motion carried by voice vote.

12. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is Tuesday, August 3 at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room 5, County Annex.

Bradley distributed copies of the Farm Fresh Atlas to LCC members.

13. Adjournment

Wiza adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at August 3, 2010 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

/Mike Wiza/
Mike Wiza, Chair

/Dale O'Brien/
Dale O'Brien, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Conference Room 5, County Annex
Stevens Point, WI 54481
August 3, 2010

Members present: Richard Barden, Cathy Guth, Barry Jacowski, Dale O'Brien, Jeff Presley, Mike Wiza

Others present: Bob Chojnowski, Wisconsin Conservation Congress; 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 6:00 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. No one registered to speak.

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of July 6, 2010

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

3. Correspondence

Bradley passed around a copy of an email from Marinette County, organizers of the Sand Lake Conservation Camp, thanking the LCC for sponsoring campers. Also included were pictures and camper evaluations. Eighty seven campers attended.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20100554 and 20100592 were reviewed as well as procurement card purchases in the amount of \$62.78. Special meeting attendance approvals were given for O'Brien attending the Little Plover River Workgroup meeting on July 14 at the County Annex and a Drainage District meeting at Hamerski Farms Inc. on July 26; Guth attended the Golden Sands RC&D meeting on July 15 at the County Annex.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Lane's report was included in LCC packets. Motion by Guth, second by Jacowski to accept the report and place on file. Motion carried by voice vote.

6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No plans were presented.

7. Committee Representative Reports

a. Lakes Management District (Barden) – No report.

b. Resource Conservation & Development (Guth) – Guth reported on the July 15 RC&D Council meeting. The charitable organization status has been renewed. Rain barrels are available for sale. Seven of the nine counties have paid their dues. The Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) grant has been extended through December 31, 2010. Bradley added Portage County LCD received a River Planning Grant on behalf of The Friends of

the Little Plover River. The LCD will contract with RC&D to set up a website and develop water conservation materials to be sent to Village of Plover and Village of Whiting residents in their newsletters. The total amount of the grant is \$8,420.25. Guth reported the tree shelter sale is coming to a close, and sales have been good. Requests for advertisers for placemats will be sent. There was discussion on Bloody Run Creek, which dried up despite the wet year. Bradley said Wisconsin Rapids has municipal wells located close to the creek. New RC&D projects include: assist Bloody Run Creek; assist the Friends of the Little Plover River with website development, water education and organizational assessment; purchase of 22.5 acres on Lake Jacqueline through a DNR stewardship grant and the Portage County Land Preservation Fund; intern to research herbarium for endangered/threatened/special concern grassland plants; continuation of Central Wisconsin Grasslands Conservation Association (CWGCA) coordinator through DNR grant; and placemats. RC&D staff updates were given. Guth mentioned the Stevens Point community gardens and issues with blight, mildew, and plant diseases. She offered to provide Bradley with information from a study to give to Ebert, who can pass the information on to gardeners. Regarding the purchase of 22.5 acres on the north side of Lake Jacqueline, Bradley noted that according to Bob Freckmann, UWSP Plant Biologist, there are rare bog species present. A DNR Stewardship grant and the Portage County Land Preservation Fund will provide funds for RC&D to purchase the property and turn it over to the Parks Department. Wiza noted the Parks Commission approved a request for appraisal, which is to be complete by August 20. Bradley stated the asking price is \$59,500; however, the most the DNR and Land Preservation Fund will pay is the appraised value. He also mentioned the 40 acre parcel to the west is under a permanent conservation easement.

- c. **North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (Presley)** – Presley reported the next meeting is August 13. Bradley will attend.
- d. **Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Guth)** – No meeting.
- e. **Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien)** – O'Brien reported the Drainage District held an emergency meeting on July 26. Canary grass was plugging Ditch #5. Backhoes were used to remove 13 dump truck loads.
- f. **Mill Creek Watershed (Barden)** – No meeting, but Barden reported the creek is flowing good.
- g. **Little Plover River (O'Brien)** – O'Brien attended the July 14 meeting. There was discussion regarding discrepancies in flow rates. The DNR is going to do a measurement. Leaks in the Village of Plover pipes are being repaired, saving millions of gallons of water. The DNR may be getting grant money to be used to lease land within two miles of the Little Plover River and have crops planted that do not need irrigation. The DNR feels replacing the dam that was removed will not be useful. Bradley noted the flow reading taken by the UWSP is low compared to historic low readings, which is confusing due to the amount of rainfall received this year. O'Brien added farmers are only pumping 25% of normal rates. Bradley said according to George Kraft, UWSP, it will take years to recharge the overall groundwater. There was discussion as to how the DNR came to set the public rights stage at four cubic feet per second (cfs).

8. Wisconsin Conservation Congress Update

Chojnowski distributed the July and August editions of Wisconservation as well as articles regarding planting wolves around the country, and moving elk herds due to the wolf population. Referring to July's LCC meeting presentation regarding Aquatic Invasive Species, Chojnowski said he believes there is purple loosestrife in Mead and Bukolt Parks and informed Bradley and Skawinski. Bradley said Skawinski is aware of the population at

Mead Park and beetles have been released on those plants. Wiza asked to be informed of the results. Chojnowski reported seven whooping crane chicks were hatched at Necedah; five are missing and presumed dead, and two are surviving. He also reported Tom Meronek, DNR, said buoys can be placed in Springville Pond to keep boats away from areas of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM).

Addendum: Discussion/Possible Action – Resolution to Accept Grant Funding from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Lake Protection Grant Program

The Finance Committee previously approved the resolution. Motion by Barden, second by Jacowski to approve the resolution. Motion carried by voice vote. Members signed the resolution. The resolution will be presented to the County Board at their August meeting.

9. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – No report.

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

10. Next Meeting Date

Most LCC members are not available on September 7, the normal meeting date. It was decided to set the next meeting date according to when budget review must take place.

11. Adjournment

Motion by Jacowski, second by Guth to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at the August 31, 2010 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

/Mike Wiza/

/Dale O'Brien/

Mike Wiza, Chair

Dale O'Brien, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Conference Room 5, County Annex
Stevens Point, WI 54481
August 31, 2010

Members present: Richard Barden, Cathy Guth, Barry Jacowski, Dale O'Brien, Jeff Presley, Mike Wiza

Others present: Barry Benson, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services; Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land Conservation Division; Chris Wiza

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 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. No one registered to speak.

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of August 3, 2010

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

3. Correspondence

The Thursday Note was included in members' packets. Wiza provided an update on Bill Peterson, former LCC member. Peterson was diagnosed with dementia and is residing in the Harmony House Assisted Living facility. Benedict distributed flyers regarding the Poster and Speaking Contests to be held in October. The posters are due the week before the meeting and will be pre-judged. Speakers will perform their speeches the night of the LCC meeting.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20100628 and 20100662 were reviewed. Motion by O'Brien, second by Jacowski to place the vouchers on file. Motion carried by voice vote. Special meeting attendance was approved for Barden attending the North Central Land and Water Conservation Association Summer Tour on August 13 in Marathon County.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Benedict distributed Lane's written report. Motion by Jacowski, second by Guth to place Lane's report on file. Motion carried by voice vote.

6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

A contract revision due to a tract split was presented for Joseph & Renee Tushinski, Town of Sharon. Motion by Jacowski, second by Presley to approve the conservation plan. Motion carried by voice vote.

7. Committee Representative Reports

a. Lakes Management District (Barden) – Barden reported from the minutes of the May 29 Lake Jacqueline District meeting. The proposed budget is \$7,650. Each of the 51 lots is

assessed \$150. Expenses are for weed control, aeration, electric costs for aeration, insurance, fish stocking, administrative, and miscellaneous.

b. Resource Conservation & Development (Guth) – The next meeting is September 16.

c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (Presley) – Bradley and Barden attended the Summer Tour. The business meeting was held at the Mead Wildlife Center and a tour was given. Other tour stops were the new Marshfield Ag Research facility and a farm featuring managed intensive grazing and a robotic milking operation.

d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Guth) – Bradley reported on the August 17 meeting. The CWWP budget was approved.

e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien) – O'Brien reported he observed backhoes in some fields attempting to drain low spots.

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

g. Little Plover River (O'Brien) – The next meeting is in October.

8. Wisconsin Conservation Congress Update

Chojnowski distributed copies of the 2009 Wisconsin Big Game Hunting Summary, as well as articles regarding diseased cormorants, and possible removal of the spillway, which would limit shore fishing on the Wisconsin River below Stevens Point. Chojnowski also distributed copies of a letter he wrote addressed to Dan Mahoney, Village of Plover Administrator, regarding the termination of the winter nuisance deer control program.

9. Discussion/Possible Action – Wildlife Damage Program Venison Donation

Benson distributed copies of the proposed budget amendment in the amount of \$17,400 if the LCC chooses to participate in the venison donation program in 2010. He explained deer can be dropped off at either R&R Meats or People's Meat Market for processing and the meat will be donated to food pantries. Of the amendment amount, \$17,000 is allocated to pay the processors \$55 per deer. The remaining \$400 is administrative costs for the county. Motion by Jacowski, second by Presley to approve participating in the venison donation program. Motion carried by voice vote. Wiza signed the budget amendment.

10. Discussion/Possible Action – Wildlife Damage Program 2011 Budget

Benson stated the budget is not complete. Motion by Jacowski, second by Barden to postpone to the October LCC meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.

11. Discussion/Possible Action – 2010 Budget Projections/2011 Proposed Budget

Copies of the LCD budget were distributed and explained by Bradley. He noted Land Conservation is a division of the Planning and Zoning Department, which absorbed the required decrease. For 2011, the LCD total budget is just over \$1,000,000, with tax levy of just under \$187,000. A majority of LCD's funding comes from State grants. Bradley pointed out just under \$400,000 in cost share grants will go to three landowners for manure storage. The budget was reviewed by the LCC.

12. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – No update.

b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts – Bradley presented estimated cost share agreement amounts for windbreaks for John Jazdzewski, Town of Carson, \$4,025.11, and Ralph Loeffler/Gail Janz, Town of Lanark, \$2,525.64. Motion by Presley, second by Guth to approve the cost share contracts. Motion carried by voice vote.

13. Next Meeting Date

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

14. Adjournment

Motion by Barden, second by O'Brien to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at October 5, 2010 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

/Mike Wiza/
Mike Wiza, Chair

/Dale O'Brien/
Dale O'Brien, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Conference Room 5, County Annex
Stevens Point, WI 54481
October 5, 2010

Members present: Richard Barden, Cathy Guth, Barry Jacowski, Dale O'Brien, Jeff Presley, Mike Wiza

Others present: Peggy Lane, 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; James Cook, Nancy Turyk, Alma Stuebs, Suzanne Stuebs, Rebekah Stuebs, Erik Schyvinck, Lelu Schyvinck-Valadez, Ginny Carlton.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Chair Wiza.

2. Poster and Speaking Contest Recognition

The speaking contest took place prior to the LCC meeting at 6:00 p.m. with two contestants participating. Judges were Peggy Lane, NRCS, and James Cook, UWSP. Posters were judged by Steve Bradley, LCD, and Jodi Hermsen, RC&D, on Monday, October 4. Wiza suggested moving Agenda Item 2 to later in the meeting when the speaking contest judges return with a decision. There were no objections from the LCC. (See after Agenda Item 8g below.)

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.

3. Review/Approval – Minutes of August 31, 2010

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

4. Correspondence

Wiza received the meeting notice for the North Central Land and Water Conservation Association Fall Conference and minutes from the August 13 meeting.

5. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20100710 and 20100756 were reviewed.

Wiza suggested moving Agenda Items 6 and 7 to later in the meeting upon Lane's return after judging the speaking contest. There were no objections from the LCC. (See after Agenda Item 2 below.)

8. Committee Representative Reports

a. Lakes Management District (Barden) – No report.

b. Resource Conservation & Development (Guth) – Guth reported on the September 16 meeting. The 2009 accountant review was given. Oak wilt has been reported in Oneida and Vilas Counties. The Water Committee report was given. A cougar attack took place in Juneau County. A dog park and walking/therapy trail will be constructed on 35-40 acres in Grand Rapids. An additional 32 acres of cranberry land may be donated. A presentation was given on Heartland Farms, who propose to buy some land in Adams County. Heartland Farms have donated

\$600,000 over the last five years to various community efforts. It was suggested Golden Sands RC&D approach Heartland Farms to become a member of the RC&D Council and possibly contribute toward the Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners living snow fence project.

c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (Presley) – The Fall Conference Poster and Speaking Contest will be held at the Wausau School Forest on October 28. Benedict and Barden will attend. Other LCC members wishing to attend should contact Benedict before October 21. Bradley reported the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) sent an invitation for County Board supervisors interested in serving on the Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB). Jacowski expressed interest. Nominations will be taken at the NCLWCA Fall Conference meeting. Elections take place at the WLWCA Annual Conference in December in Wisconsin Dells.

d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Guth) – Bradley reported on the September 20 meeting. The Board approved five cent per foot increases to both the machine planting and the maintenance fees to increase revenues.

e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien) – O'Brien reported Ditch 8 eroded a portion of Interstate 39 due to the recent heavy rains. County workers reinforced the area with sand to stop further erosion.

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

g. Little Plover River (O'Brien) – The next meeting is October 27.

Wiza announced the delayed agenda items will be taken at this time.

2. Poster and Speaking Contest Recognition

Wiza commended the speakers and thanked the judges. Wiza presented awards to the speaking contestants: First place – Suzanne Stuebs, Grade 6, Amherst-Tomorrow River Schools; second place – Lelu Schyvinck-Valadez, Grade 5, Jefferson School for the Arts. The LCC wished Suzanne good luck as she advances to the NCLWCA contest at the Wausau School Forest on October 28. First place posters also advance to the NCLWCA contest. Benedict will present awards to the first, second and third place poster contestants in the near future.

6. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report

Lane reported soil scientists nationwide are working on a study evaluating soil organic matter to tie into conservation practices and programs. Points were randomly selected. Within the vicinity of the point, five soil samples are taken. There are three points in Portage County. When the study is complete, information will be passed on. Lane reported Kevin Halvorson (NRCS Soil Conservation Tech) has been working on a Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) stream habitat improvement project installing wing dams, lunger structures, and boulder deflectors on the Tomorrow River to improve flow and flush sediment. The project is in cooperation with the DNR fisheries. Additional assistance was provided by the Frank Hornberg Chapter-Trout Unlimited. A second project will take place in summer 2011 downstream from Highway 10, and a third project on a lateral ditch in the Buena Vista Marsh. After the recent heavy rains, Halvorson and NRCS Area Engineer, Dean Sylla, drove around the county checking for possible damage to major structures such as levys and dams. The Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program can provide stimulus money to make repairs and clear debris from the main channels of streams, rivers, ditches, etc. Halvorson has also been working on catch can tests, which resulted in several contracts to improve irrigation efficiency. Lane stated the local workgroup will meet on October 7 to evaluate the ranking process for programs, such as the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), and WHIP. Lane stated she has accepted the District Conservationist position in Merrill, covering Lincoln and Langlade Counties, starting on October 25. The deadline for applications for her vacated position is November 1. A replacement may start between mid December and the first part of January. In the meantime, Halvorson will provide reports at LCC meetings. Lane also reported NRCS will undergo a workload analysis in October, which evaluates staffing needs, and whether staff time and funds for programs and projects are spent

efficiently. Lane also reported official program signup dates should be announced in November and December for 2011 funding.

7. Review/Approval – Conservation Plans

No conservation plans presented.

9. Wisconsin Conservation Congress Update

Chojnowski distributed various publications and articles. He handed out a booklet targeted toward children regarding elk habitat and an article regarding a 15-20 year old, 711 pound bear killed in Rusk County, which is a probable State record and close to the world record. He handed out an article regarding spearing panfish. Chojnowski said some smaller lakes are losing panfish populations. He drafted a resolution opposing panfish spearing to the DNR legislative committee, which will be voted on at the Conservation Congress Spring Meeting. He also handed out the most recent copy of Wisconservation.

10. Discussion/Possible Action – 2011 Wildlife Damage Program Budget

Benson distributed copies and explained the 2011 Wildlife Damage Program budget, totaling \$35,827.61. There was discussion whether money collected from the surcharge on deer and bonus tags to fund the Wildlife Damage Program is used only for the program. Benson said the fund has been raided in the past for other purposes. Bradley stated a few years ago, a resolution was approved through the WLWCA stating opposition to raiding those funds. Wiza suggested the LCC draft a resolution to be submitted to the County Board, and finally to the State legislature. Bradley will provide a copy of the previous resolution to Jacowski for his input and an agenda item will be included for a future LCC meeting. Motion by Guth, second by Jacowski to approve the 2011 Wildlife Damage Program budget. Motion carried by voice vote.

11. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – Bradley reported the million gallon manure pit at the former Tryba farm, south of Junction City, is complete.

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

12. Next Meeting Date

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

13. Adjournment

Wiza adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at November 2, 2010 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

/Mike Wiza/
Mike Wiza, Chair

/Dale O'Brien/
Dale O'Brien, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Conference Room 5, County Annex
Stevens Point, WI 54481
November 2, 2010

Members present: Richard Barden, Cathy Guth, Barry Jacowski, Dale O'Brien, Jeff Presley, Mike Wiza

Others present: Kevin Halvorson and Rhia Buth, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Barry Benson, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services; Shannon Rohde, Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners; 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. No one registered to speak.

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of October 5, 2010

Motion by Jacowski, second by Guth to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Correspondence

Benedict provided a report on expenses for the Conservation Poster and Speaking Contest. Other than the expenses for refreshments, provided by the UWSP Center for Watershed Science and Education, Benedict noted expenses in the amount of \$240.71 were within the amount in the Land Conservation budget, and it was not necessary to use funds offered by outside organizations. Jacowski felt the funds from outside organizations should have been used first.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20100795 and 20100836 were reviewed. Special meeting attendance approvals were given for: Guth attending the Golden Sands RC&D meeting on September 16 at the County Annex; Dale O'Brien attending the Little Plover River Work Group on October 27 at the County Annex; and Barden attending the North Central Land and Water Conservation Association Fall Conference on October 28 at the Wausau School Forest.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Kevin Halvorson, NRCS Soil Conservation Technician, stated he will provide reports at LCC meetings until a District Conservationist (DC) is hired to replace Peggy Lane. Roy Diver, Wood County DC, and Lisa Neuenfeldt, Waupaca County DC will fill in until a replacement is hired, hopefully by January 1. Halvorson introduced Rhia Buth, contracted for clerical work 32 hours per week. Halvorson reported a news release should be appearing soon in the Portage County Gazette for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) sign up, which ends January 7. The CSP rewards landowners for implementing, and continuing to use positive practices. Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Wildlife

Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) sign up dates have not been announced yet. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) just finished a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) signup. Participation was poor, with one new applicant and two re-enrollments. A couple of permanent easements have been approved for land owned by Mel Potter through the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP). Halvorson reported they are working on a project in Portage County, which has the potential to bring in \$7 million for the coming fiscal year. A number of landowners are interested. Most of the land targeted for easements is already in grassland, so land will not be taken out of production. The Emergency Watershed Program provided engineers to do post flood assessments on creeks and rivers in Portage County. From resource and agricultural standpoints, there was minimal damage. The Rapid Carbon Assessment (RCA) has been completed in Portage County. Soil samples were taken from five test pits on three sites to test the ability of the soil to hold carbon. Results will be reported when they are available. Halvorson reported NRCS is working with Trout Unlimited-Frank Hornberg Chapter and hope to secure more funding for streambank enhancement projects on the Tomorrow River.

6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No conservation plans presented.

7. Committee Representative Reports

a. Lakes Management District (Barden) – Bradley reported a grant to purchase 22 acres on the north side of Lake Jacqueline was submitted to the DNR on behalf of the Lake Jacqueline District and Golden Sands RC&D. RC&D will make the initial land purchase with the DNR and the Portage County Land Preservation Fund each reimbursing 50% of the purchase price. The property will then be turned over to the Portage County Parks Department. Bradley noted the appraised value of the property is \$47,000, which is also the purchase price.

b. Resource Conservation & Development (Guth) – The next meeting is November 18.

c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (Presley) – Barden and Benedict attended the Fall Conference/Poster and Speaking Contest at the Wausau School Forest. Barden noted one of Portage County's poster entries took first place and will advance to the State contest in Stevens Point on November 6. Benedict stated Jacowski was nominated to represent the NCLWCA for the Land and Water Conservation Board elections, but Tom Rudolph, Oneida County, received more votes. Carolyn Scholl, Vilas County Conservationist, was appointed to represent the NCLWCA on the WLWCA Board for 2011-2013. Julian Zelazny, WLWCA Executive Director, reported the Middleton High School team took first place in the Wisconsin Envirothon, and placed 6th overall at the national competition, taking 1st in the oral presentation. WLWCA will offer Conservation on the Land Internships again in 2011. A merger between the WLWCA and the Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees (WALCE) is being discussed. An ad hoc committee is being formed consisting of five representatives from each organization. Two resolutions were passed and will be presented at the December LCC meeting.

d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Guth) – Shannon Rohde, CWWP Project Manager, gave an update on activities in 2010. Just under 10 miles (52,238 feet) of windbreaks were installed, with the following breakdown: Portage County – just under 20,000 feet, Adams County – just over 18,000 feet, Waushara County – just under 2,000, Juneau County – just over 12,000. Rohde explained they installed 14 rolls (4,200 feet) of 10 foot wide fabric on a farmstead in Marquette County, which the owners are turning into a nature preserve. Rohde added they planted 125 trees, and the owners planted various wildflowers, installed trails, and put up bird houses. In addition to machine plantings, Rohde also reported they hand planted 275 trees. They also provided maintenance, replacing

dead or missing trees, hand weeding around trees, and mowing around the edge of the fabric. He stated the CWWP guarantees 95% survival rate on windbreaks with fabric installation. Windbreaks are maintained the year of installation and two years beyond. Because the goal of 15.5 miles of windbreaks was not achieved, the revenue shortage will be taken from the equipment replacement reserve account to balance the budget. Rohde stated he has a good start on sales for 2011. Due to the amount of rain, the 2010 windbreak sites grew well, but required a significant amount of weeding and mowing. The success rate for trees and shrubs was good for most of the sites; however some species had a high mortality rate. A site in the Town of Carson received too much rain and will require many replants. Rohde explained that in addition to installing windbreaks, the CWWP also offers open field plantings, shelter plantings, and seeding projects for prairies and food plots.

e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien) – O'Brien reported the Drainage District annual inspection took place earlier in the day. Among the attendees were several Portage County Board members, Village of Plover officials, Judge Finn, and Drainage District Commissioners. O'Brien stated some ditches were clean, some were plugged with debris, and some dams need to be removed. The annual meeting is scheduled for November 16. Jacowski commended the Drainage District Commissioners, who are very knowledgeable and are not paid for their time.

f. Mill Creek Watershed (Barden) – No report

g. Little Plover River (O'Brien) – O'Brien attended the October 27 meeting. George Kraft presented a flow data report. After the heavy rains, flow peaked at just over the minimum public rights stage, and is coming down. O'Brien questioned whether the minimum public rights stage was set too high. The groundwater depth is measuring three to four feet higher from 2005 to 2010. The Village of Plover has purchased land from Del Monte and proposes acquiring 400 acres from Worzalla's and 400 acres from Kizewski Farms. The Village of Plover plans to use 80 acres for a future park and the remain acreage to provide a buffer for the Little Plover River.

8. Wisconsin Conservation Congress Update

Chojnowski was not in attendance. No report.

9. Discussion/Possible Action – Wildlife Damage Program Crop Prices

Benson distributed copies of 2010 proposed prices for crops. Benson stated he did assessments for alfalfa, field corn, soybeans and sweet corn in Portage County. After review, the LCC recommended increasing alfalfa, field corn, and soybeans to the following prices: Alfalfa - \$143.75/ton, field corn - \$5.00/bushel, soybeans - \$11.00/bushel. The LCC felt the price of sweet corn was sufficient at \$74.50/ton. Motion by Jacowski, second by O'Brien to approve the crop prices as amended. Motion carried by voice vote.

10. Discussion/Possible Action – Resolution – Wildlife Damage Program Fund

A draft resolution was included in LCC packets. The resolution encourages the Governor and Legislators to utilize hunting license surcharge fees for their intended purpose, funding the Wildlife Damage Program. Motion by Jacowski, second by Presley to adopt the resolution as presented. Motion carried by voice vote. The resolution will be presented to the County Board at the December meeting.

11. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – No update.

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

12. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for December 7 at 5:00 p.m.

13. Adjournment

Motion by Presley, second by Guth to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at December 7, 2010 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

/Richard Barden/
Richard Barden, Vice Chair

/Dale O'Brien/
Dale O'Brien, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Conference Room 5, County Annex
Stevens Point, WI 54481
December 7, 2010

Members present: Richard Barden, Cathy Guth, Barry Jacowski, Dale O'Brien, Jeff Presley

Member excused: Mike Wiza

Others present: Kevin Halvorson, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Pam Riggs, Lake Jacqueline District; 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 6:00 p.m. by Vice Chair Barden.

Barden 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.

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of November 2, 2010

Motion by Jacowski, second by Presley to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Correspondence

Copies of the Central Wisconsin Grassland Conservation Area Partnership newsletter, a brochure of conservation programs for landowners in Portage County, and Stevens Point Journal and Portage County Gazette articles regarding the poster and speaking contest results were distributed.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20100901, 20100902, and 20100944, and purchases were reviewed. Special meeting attendance approvals were given for Guth attending the Golden Sands RC&D Council meeting on November 18 at the County Annex, and O'Brien attending the Portage County Drainage District meeting on November 18 at the Buena Vista Town Hall.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Halvorson reported the hiring process for the District Conservationist (DC) position is going slow. The Federal budget is operating under ongoing continued resolutions. Budgets are frozen at this time. The Wood and Waupaca County DCs continue to provide assistance. The workload is heavy now, processing Conservation Stewardship Program/Conservation Security Program payments. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) signups are underway, with little interest at this time. A meeting was held with Trout Unlimited to coordinate some projects. A meeting is scheduled with DNR staff to discuss funding sources to remove some old dams from ditches in the Buena Vista area. Halvorson reported a public notice will be published for a permit for Jean Adams to install a new crossing and culvert.

6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No plans presented.

7. Committee Representative Reports

- a. Lakes Management District (Barden/Presley–McDill Alternate) –** No report.
- b. Resource Conservation & Development (Guth) –** Guth attended the meeting on November 18. The budget was reviewed for 2011. There is a projected deficit of \$2,000; however Bradley stated there are reserves to cover the shortage. There were 87 applicants for the half time position open in RC&D. Guth questioned the tax rate on lands purchased by the DNR. Bradley offered to have someone do a presentation for the LCC to explain how the lands are taxed.
- c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (Presley/Jacowski-Alternate) –** No report.
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Guth/Presley-Alternate) –** The next meeting is scheduled for December 20.
- e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien) –** O'Brien attended the Annual Meeting on November 18. The DNR is happy with what the Drainage District is doing. Because of the flood damage, the District is running low on money. They hope to receive some funding from FEMA. Assessment fees were increased from \$1.25 to \$1.75 per acre benefitted by the ditches.
- f. Mill Creek Watershed (Barden) –** No report.
- g. Little Plover River (O'Brien) –** The next meeting is in January.

8. Wisconsin Conservation Congress Update

Chojnowski gave each LCC member a calendar, distributed copies of On Wisconsin Outdoors, and articles regarding: Denial of closing the locks on the Chicago River; the bear harvest increased by approximately 1,000; parasites in rusty crawdads; and cardinal flower information. Chojnowski stated there was a report of a deer with CWD in Ashland County, but samples came back negative. He also noted the December issue of Wisconsin Conservation has an insert on the chronological history of deer hunting. Chojnowski stated he will not attend the next couple of meetings and plans to return in March.

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

LCC Chairs are authorized to cast votes at the Annual Conference. Since Wiza is not attending the conference, the LCC must approve the proxy in order to allow Bradley to cast votes as directed by the LCC. Motion by Guth, second by Jacowski to approve the voting proxy. Motion carried by voice vote.

10. Discussion/Possible Action – Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) Candidate Recommendations

Biographies for the four LWCB candidates were included in LCC packets. Three votes can be cast. Motion by O'Brien, second by Jacowski to vote for Tom Rudolph, David Hammer, and Charles Wagner. Motion carried by voice vote. The votes will be recorded on the ballot, which Bradley will turn in at the Annual Conference.

11. Discussion/Possible Action – WLWCA Resolutions

Four resolutions will be presented at the WLWCA Annual Conference. Resolution #1 – Requesting Elimination of the Potential for Asian Carp to Spread Throughout the Great Lakes and Surrounding Watersheds. Motion by O'Brien, second by Jacowski to approve the resolution. Motion carried by voice vote. Resolution #2 – Supporting Deer Management and Retention of Nine Day Deer Hunting Season. There was discussion regarding moving the season earlier in November and the changes in many hunters' practices. Bradley noted the LCC can suggest amendments; which he would present at the Annual Conference business meeting. Motion by O'Brien, second by Jacowski to approve Resolution #2 as presented. Motion carried by voice vote, Presley voting nay. Resolution #3 – Resolution Supporting Legislation to Require Comprehensive Well Water Testing Prior to Real Estate Transfers. Motion by Guth, second by Jacowski to reject Resolution #3. Motion carried by voice vote, Presley voting nay. Resolution #4

– Reducing/Limiting the Number of WLWCA Attendees to the NACD National Conference. Motion by Presley, second by Guth to approve Resolution #4. Motion carried by voice vote.

12. Discussion/Possible Action – Soil & Water Resource Management (SWRM) Cost Share Contract Extensions

Bradley stated the following projects will not be completed in 2010 and requested approval to extend the projects into 2011. Joan Kolodziej, Town of Dewey – Livestock Watering Facility, total cost - \$10,000, cost share amount - \$7,000. Motion by Jacowski, second by O'Brien to approve an extension for Kolodziej. Motion carried by voice vote. Robert Simkowski, Town of Carson – Wetland Restoration, total cost - \$9,811.83, cost share amount - \$6,868.28. Motion by Jacowski, second by O'Brien to approve an extension for Simkowski. Motion carried by voice vote. Larry and Anne Graham, Wetland Restoration, total cost - \$11,743.34, cost share amount - \$8,220.33. Motion by Jacowski, second by Guth to approve an extension for Larry and Anne Graham. Motion carried by voice vote. Portage County Parks Department, Town of Carson, County Road O site – Wetland Restoration, total cost - \$16,650, cost share amount - \$11,655, extension amount - \$2,166.00. The difference between the extended amount and cost share amount will be made up out of the 2011 cost share allocation. Motion by O'Brien, second by Guth to approve the Portage County Parks Department extension. Motion carried by voice vote.

13. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – No update.

b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts – Bradley presented cost share contracts for: Joan Kolodziej, Robert Simkowski, Larry and Anne Graham, Portage County Parks Department for the previously explained projects, and Myron Losinski, Town of Amherst, for a manure storage abandonment project, total cost - \$8,738, cost share amount - \$6,116.60. Motion by Jacowski, second by Guth to approve the cost share contracts. Motion carried by voice vote.

14. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for January 4, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. Presley noted he will be unable to attend.

15. Adjournment

Motion by Jacowski, second by Guth to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at January 4, 2011 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

/Mike Wiza/
Mike Wiza, Chair

/Dale O'Brien/
Dale O'Brien, Secretary