

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Conference Room 5, County Annex  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
January 4, 2011

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

Others present: Kent Glazer, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; Kevin Halvorson, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Bob Chojnowski, Wisconsin Conservation Congress; Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land Conservation Division; Patty Dreier, County Executive.

1. Call to Order

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

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

Planning and Zoning Department Director Jeff Schuler was unable to attend and present Bradley's performance evaluation. Agenda Items 2 and 3 are postponed until the February LCC meeting.

3. At Approximately 5:15 p.m. Return to Open Session for Action on Above Performance Evaluation (See Agenda Item 2.)

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.

Wiza stated Chojnowski requested moving Agenda Item 10 up on the agenda. Hearing no objections, Wiza announced Agenda Item 10 will be heard after Agenda Item 6.

4. Review/Approval – Minutes of December 7, 2010

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

Wiza thanked Barden for chairing the January LCC meeting in his absence.

5. Correspondence

Bradley distributed information on the Prairie Chicken Festival on behalf of Sharon Schwab, Golden Sands RC&D. The festival will be held April 15-17, 2011. Bradley also distributed Public Land and Property Taxes brochures as a result of a discussion at the December LCC meeting.

6. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20100985 and 20101018 were reviewed. Special meeting attendance was approved for Guth attending the Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners meeting on December 20 at the Hancock Ag Research Station.

10. Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) Update

Chojnowski distributed handouts regarding the Hall deer farm near Almond, which has Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) contaminated areas. The Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) shut the farm down and required a fence around the contaminated area to remain in place for five years. The fence requirement expires May 24, 2011. Only certain areas where deer gathered were treated, not the entire farm. There are issues with prions, which affect deer brains. The DNR Board

unanimously supported a resolution to have the fence remain in place. Chojnowski stated if local or transient deer get into the area, eradication zoning may be necessary. The U.S. Department of Agriculture does not feel further action is necessary. Chojnowski added the property is for sale and he feels it is unlikely the current owner or a prospective buyer will retain and/or maintain the fence. Chojnowski suggested involving the Corporation Counsel to possibly request an injunction to keep the fence in place. Before suggesting any action, Wiza would like information regarding soil contamination tests. Bradley has been in contact with Davin Lopez, DNR Chronic Wasting Disease Biologist, who has concerns. However, Bob Ehlenfeldt, State Veterinarian, DATCP Division of Animal Health, is not concerned. Ehlenfeldt told Bradley the top two inches of soil was scraped in the high traffic areas and buried on site, and some feed bunks were burned. Bradley reiterated they did not treat the entire 80 acres. Ehlenfeldt said prions are known to last at least three years, and he feels requiring the fence for two additional years is adequate. Lopez believes the prions could last longer than three years. There is research and soil testing being done. The DNR would like to come up with funding to purchase the farm for CWD research. Wiza asked Bradley to extend invitations to Lopez and Ehlenfeldt to give presentations at the February LCC meeting and have a discussion item on the agenda. Bradley offered to include a copy of the DNR Board resolution in the February meeting packets. Chojnowski said the UWSP may have additional information. Bradley will also invite Corporation Counsel to the February LCC meeting.

(Patty Dreier arrived.)

#### 7. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Halvorson reported Ben Brancel has been appointed Secretary of Agriculture. Halvorson said they have been wrapping up end of year payments. The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) signup is underway. Eight new applications have been submitted, including some large acreage farms. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) signup is open through January 14. Halvorson estimates 30 applications, which includes several windbreaks. He said there is not much interest in manure storage. There are a couple of applications for the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP). Melissa Knipfel has been hired as the District Conservationist. She is a native of Dodge County, and has worked in Wausau the last few years. She will be starting the end of January and will be introduced at the February LCC meeting. Halvorson will be meeting with the Drainage District Board on Friday (January 7). He is putting together a proposal for funding removal of the 36 remaining dams. Halvorson said they may need some assistance from LCD staff writing the proposal. Some issues have come up as a result of an article published in the Portage County Gazette written by a landowner, who also wrote a letter to the Drainage District Board. Halvorson said they are working hard on building relationships between the conservation agencies, the Drainage Board, and landowners.

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

No conservation plans presented. Because of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Halvorson said conservation plans are not to be shared and an LCC signature is no longer required. This item will be taken off the agenda.

#### 9. Committee Representative Reports

**a. Lakes Management District (Barden/Presley-McDill Alternate)** – No report.

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

**c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (Presley/Jacowski-Alternate)** – Bradley reported on the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) Annual Conference. During the business meeting, the 2010 budget report was given and the 2011 budget was passed. Resolution results are as follows, with 50 counties casting votes: Resolution #1 – Request elimination of the potential for Asian carp to spread throughout the Great Lakes – passed unanimously; Resolution #2 – To support deer management and retention of the nine day deer hunting season – failed 26-23; Resolution #3 – To require comprehensive well water testing – approved 26-24; Resolution #4 – To limit the number of WLWCA attendees to the national conference – withdrawn by submitting area.

**d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Guth/Presley-Alternate)** – Guth reported the budget was discussed. Bradley added reaching the goal of installing 15.5 miles of windbreaks is critical in 2011. Rohde’s sales are nearing the goal.

**e. Portage County Drainage District (O’Brien)** – There was discussion regarding the landowner letter received by the Drainage District.

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

**g. Little Plover River (O’Brien)** – The next meeting is January 26.

11. Tree Planter Fund Report

Kent Glazer, DNR Forester, distributed copies of the tree planter fund report. The 2010 beginning balance was \$13,010, and the ending balance was \$13,770, resulting in a \$760 profit, which includes approximately \$20 in interest. Six people used the sprayer and 13 people rented the tree planters. The motor was replaced on the sprayer at a cost of \$360 and a broken boom was repaired at a cost of \$190. Glazer said planting statewide has been slow the last couple of years, mainly due to the economy. He noted the Hayward nursery will be closing, leaving the nurseries in Wisconsin Rapids and Boscobel. Glazer and Benedict reviewed the expenses for the account. Benedict noted the third and fourth quarter interest was not included as the report was printed prior to the end of the year. Glazer said he expects 2011 to be similar to 2010.

12. Discussion/Possible Action – Conservation Poster and Speaking Contests

Benedict asked the LCC if they want to hold the poster and speaking contests in 2011. She expects to grow. There is up to \$300 available in the LCD budget. If approved, Benedict will begin promoting the contests in March or April to make teachers and students aware of the fall contest dates. Motion by Jacowski, second by Guth to approve continuation of the poster and speaking contest program. Motion carried by voice vote.

13. Watershed Projects

**a. Updates** – Bradley reported two wetland restoration projects have been started in the Town of Carson.

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

14. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. in Conference Room 5, County Annex.

15. Adjournment

Wiza adjourned the meeting at 5:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at the February 2, 2011 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  
February 1, 2011

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

Others present: Melissa Knipfel, Kevin Halvorson, and Rhia Buth, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Barry Benson, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services; Mike McKenna and Blair Ward, Corporation Counsel; Patty Dreier, County Executive; Jeff Schuler, Planning and Zoning Department Director; Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land Conservation Division; Chris Wiza, Kevin Gruber, and Nathan Wininger.

Present via teleconference for Agenda Item #12: Dr. Bob Ehlenfeldt, Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection; Davin Lopez and Tami Ryan, Department of Natural Resources; Laurie Seele, Whitetails of Wisconsin

1. Call to Order

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

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

Motion by Jacowski, second by Presley to adjourn into Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

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

Motion by Barden, second by Jacowski to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Open session reconvened at 5:08 p.m. Motion by O'Brien, second by Jacowski to accept the performance evaluation submitted for Steve Bradley and place on file. Motion carried by voice vote. Wiza noted the LCC is pleased with Bradley's performance.

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. Kevin Gruber, Nathan Wininger, and Laurie Seele (via telephone) registered to speak regarding Agenda Item 12.

4. Review/Approval – Minutes of January 4, 2011

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

5. Correspondence

Wiza passed around the January 25 agenda and meeting information for the North Central Land and Water Conservation Association (NCLWCA). Bradley distributed information on the Prairie Chicken Festival as requested by Sharon Schwab, Golden Sands RC&D. Bradley informed the LCC a revision is upcoming for the County's Farmland Preservation

Plan. The Planning and Zoning Committee has the lead, however the Land Conservation Division is responsible for conservation compliance checks for participating landowners, and Bradley said the LCC is welcome to participate in the meetings. Interested members should let Benedict know and she will provide meeting agendas. Bradley also noted the shoreland zoning revision will be handled the same way.

#### 6. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20110031 and 20110055 were reviewed. Special meeting attendance approvals were given for Guth attending the Golden Sands RC&D Council meeting on January 20 and the Little Plover River Workgroup meeting on January 26, both at the County Annex Building.

#### 7. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Halvorson reported most program signups have concluded. Twenty three applications were submitted for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). Six EQIP applications are for windbreaks through the Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners. Other practices for EQIP funding include pasture, cover crops, irrigation, and nutrient management, but no manure pits. The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) signup ended January 21, with 12 applications submitted. Three or four are for non industrial private forest land and the remaining are cropland. The Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) signup ended January 14, with four applications submitted. For the previously mentioned programs, cost estimates and rankings will be done for the applicants. By March 1, the amount of funding should be known, and contracts will be written for accepted applications. The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) signup is currently underway, running through the end of February. Most applications come from the Buena Vista marsh and prairie chicken area. There are limited funds for the GRP, but there is substantial interest. Halvorson reported a general Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) signup will be held nationwide from March 14 to April 15. The Farm Service Agency will handle signups, and NRCS will provide conservation plans. Halvorson announced Buth has taken a full time NRCS position in Minnesota. He noted she has been an asset to the NRCS office and will be missed. The 32 hour contracted position will be advertised locally. Halvorson introduced Melissa Knipfel, District Conservationist. Knipfel has worked as a soil conservationist in Wausau for six years and in Buffalo County prior to that. She also worked for the Taylor and Dodge County Land Conservation Departments. She looks forward to working in Portage County. The LCC introduced themselves.

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

Bradley and Halvorson explained, due to privacy issues for landowners, the NRCS will no longer present conservation plans for LCC approval; however, the Farm Service Agency prefers to have the LCC review plans. By consensus, the LCC indicated they want to continue to review plans. Bradley presented two Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) plans for Richard Cherney, Town of Eau Pleine. A total of 48.8 acres will be enrolled in State Acres For wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) to provide wildlife habitat. Motion by Barden, second by Jacowski 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)** – Guth attended the Golden Sands RC&D Council meeting on January 20. There was discussion on annosum, a fungus which spreads in the root system of mainly red pine, but also white pine after thinning. Fungicides are one treatment used to limit the spread. Guth reported the RC&D Regional Conference

will be held in Stevens Point in the fall. There was also information shared regarding delisting the timberwolf. Bradley attended the Water Resources Committee meeting. He reported RC&D will submit another grant to DNR for the regional Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) program, adding Waupaca County to existing participants Waushara, Wood, Marathon and Portage Counties.

**c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (Presley)** – The 2011 activity schedule was distributed prior to the meeting. Portage County will host the tour, tentatively scheduled for August 12. Bradley suggested possible tour stops: A factory and/or field tour of Del Monte, highlighting water conservation efforts for the Little Plover River; Schmeekle Reserve and the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame; the Moses Creek wetland restoration project; and Gordondale Farms manure digester.

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

**e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien)** – O'Brien reported it appears the Isherwood project will not go forward. DNR representatives said the ditch profiles would have to be changed, which creates a lot of work.

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

**g. Little Plover River (O'Brien)** – Guth attended the January 26 meeting. Water levels were reported. George Kraft would like to work with Del Monte to get more accurate modeling. Effects of the New Page paper mill closing were discussed. Two businesses near the Little Plover River (LPR) are having problems with flooding in their building's lower levels. State legislation is being explored for restoring and creating wetlands at the headwaters of the LPR. Jeff Weiman, an entomologist who worked with vegetable growers, spoke regarding putting together a Central Sands water management team. The Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association (WPVGA) and the Midwest Processors have provided some grant funding.

#### 10. Wisconsin Conservation Congress Update

Chojnowski was not in attendance. No report.

#### 11. Discussion/Possible Action – 2010 Wildlife Damage Claims

Benson distributed copies of the 2010 Portage County Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program summary (WDACP). He explained the program. Most participants reached their harvest objectives. One participant, Larry Schulist, missed his objective by one deer, shooting 15 of 16. Benson recommended granting an exception and paying his claim. Jonathon Bushman did not shoot any deer. Benson recommended denial of his claim. There were two claimants that did not have shooting permits. Stanley Lemke had deer damage to his pumpkin crop in the Town of Sharon. The damage occurred too late to issue a shooting permit, but if Lemke chooses to remain in the program in 2011, Benson will require him to either get a shooting permit or fence around the crop area. John Tess, Almond, had goose damage to his snap bean crop. A number of abatement methods were tried, but none worked. If Tess remains in the program in 2011, a shooting permit for geese can be issued. Four participants chose to get shooting permits, but did not submit claims. The total deer kill for the county shooting permits was 121. The total claim amount, excluding Bushman, is \$16,111.56, which is about \$1,000 less than 2009. Funding for the program comes from surcharges on hunting licenses and bonus tags. O'Brien questioned whether shooting permits can be obtained for sand hill cranes. Benson replied sand hill cranes are not a huntable species at this time and therefore permits cannot be issued. However, farmers can go through the Federal permit process. A \$100 nonrefundable permit fee is required and if approved, farmers may be allowed to shoot a limited amount of cranes. Motion by Wiza, second by Guth to approve the wildlife damage claims with the

exception of Jonathon Bushman's, which is denied. Motion carried by voice vote. Wiza signed the claim forms.

#### 12. DNR and DATCP Presentations, Discussion/Possible Action – Chronic Wasting Disease on Buckhorn Flats Deer Farm, Almond

Wiza said Chojnowski stated concerns at the January LCC meeting regarding removal of the fence around the deer farm scheduled for May 2011. Wiza thanked Corporation Counsel Mike McKenna and Deputy Corporation Counsel Blair Ward for attending. Wiza stated reports from DNR and DATCP representatives will come first, then comments from the public, and discussion and possible action by the LCC. Ehlenfeldt, Lopez, Ryan and Seele joined the meeting via telephone. Wiza explained the LCC has concerns that Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) may possibly still exist. He noted area State legislators and the Izaak Walton League were informed about this meeting, but no one responded.

Ehlenfeldt gave some background on the deer farm. The farm was depopulated in 2006. A USDA contract requires a perimeter fence is maintained for five years, based on science showing that three years appears to be the maximum amount of time that CWD prions are known to exist and be infective. Ehlenfeldt stated one depopulated farm in southern Wisconsin has repopulated with no incidence of CWD, and another in South Dakota has been repopulated for six years after being shut down for two to three weeks, with no problems. (Comment added by Ehlenfeldt February 9, 2011: Subsequent to the conference call I did learn from the South Dakota State Veterinarian's office that there was one positive just over three years after repopulation. The South Dakota farm depopulated March 5, 2001, repopulated March 19, 2001, positive elk May 12, 2004. No positive since. South Dakota required that animals of any age that died on this farm be tested for CWD. Normally it is just those over 16 months old.) Regarding Buckhorn Flats, Ehlenfeldt said there is a premise plan, a five year contract which is signed by both owners (Stanley Hall and Patricia Casey), a USDA representative, and Ehlenfeldt as a representative from the DATCP and State Veterinarian. Wiza asked Ehlenfeldt for his opinion whether the area should remain quarantined. Ehlenfeldt replied there is no scientific evidence that says it needs to be quarantined longer.

Lopez stated while there is no published evidence stating CWD prions are infective past three years, there is no evidence that they are not. He said the DNR considers the Hall farm (Buckhorn Flats) an exception compared to other CWD positive farms, in that there was nearly 80% prevalence, about the highest incidence in captive or wild populations. Although the law was followed in decontaminating, Lopez said the DNR is concerned because of the high level of contamination, this area is an exception and poses a potential risk to the wild cervids. Some evidence is also based on scrapie evidence, another prion disease similar to CWD. Scrapie can survive upward of 13-16 years according to studies. Lopez stated there is no absolute evidence, scientific or empirical, that reintroducing wild deer will result in CWD infection; however, the DNR feels a risk exists. Wiza asked if the DNR has initiated any action to require quarantine beyond the contract. Lopez replied the DNR does not have authority; however, he asked Ryan to explain the avenues being pursued.

Ryan said the DNR is reaching out to the USDA to consider an extension to the premise plan. In addition, a letter writing campaign to USDA has been implemented by an association of wildlife management agencies and partners expressing their concerns regarding the expiration of the premise plan. Ryan noted the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF) has also expressed concerns and is advocating for the DNR to pursue avenues to

remedy the potential risk to the wild population. Ryan stated she has testimony from Jack Fritsch, WWF, at the January Natural Resources Board meeting. His testimony indicates the WWF is very concerned about the fences coming down at the Hall farm and the risk to the local deer population as well as the hunting tradition in Central Wisconsin. Wiza asked how long an extension is being requested. Ryan said they have not requested a specific term, they would leave that up to the USDA to determine. She added a white paper on the current state of science on CWD will be provided to the USDA for consideration. Lopez added the white paper is an updated version of the one provided in LCC packets authored by Chris Jacques.

Lopez summarized the paper outlines a review of the public science, how different soil types play a role in contamination, and includes the variety of literature available. Lopez stated once again there is no definitive science to state an infection remains. In addition to requesting an extension to the premise plan, Lopez said the DNR would like to repeat studies previously done with soil samples taken prior to decontamination and use current soil samples to better ascertain whether a risk exists.

Seele said there are a number of deer farms in Portage and nearby counties that could be affected should CWD be found. She said Whitetails of Wisconsin feels it is in the best interest of deer farmers that the fence remain intact; however, they also believe an extension of the contract without the landowners' agreement is a violation of the property owners rights. Seele said the best solution for all parties is to have the DNR and/or other associations purchase the property. She stated over \$30 million has been spent in an attempt to eradicate the disease in the southern part of the State. Spending an additional \$500,000 to purchase the property is in the best interest of taxpayers.

Wiza asked for comments from the public. Gruber declined to comment stating his concerns have been covered. Winger stated he is a deer farmer and feels the owner of the subject property should be compensated if the fence must remain.

Wiza asked for an opinion from Corporation Counsel whether the LCC or Portage County has any legal authority to take any action. Blair Ward, Deputy Corporation Counsel, stated he spoke with Bradley and read the documents provided for the meeting. He stated Portage County was not a participant in the original enforcement action and it is the opinion of the Corporation Counsel's office that Portage County would not have any legal standing to bring court action based on a nuisance theory or threat to the public. Ward does not feel there is enough evidence to support a public health threat.

As an alternative to requesting that the fence remain in place, Ryan said the DNR is interested in purchasing the farm. In the event the DNR is successful, they would like to sell the six or seven acre portion with the home and buildings; however, the local zoning requires a minimum of 10 acres. Ryan asked the LCC to consider supporting a waiver of the zoning ordinance to allow sale of the home and buildings. Wiza said the LCC does not have authority, but could offer a recommendation. Wiza asked how likely it is that a purchase will take place. Ryan could not say, but said an appraisal has been done.

Seele agreed that the DNR purchasing the property is in everyone's best interest and selling the house and buildings would help recoup some of the purchase price. Seele did not have the information available, but heard of an elk farm in the west that was repopulated after five years and recontamination has occurred. She will check into the matter further and forward information if available.

Wiza thanked Ehlenfeldt, Lopez, Ryan, and Seele and asked if further information becomes available to relay it to Bradley. The teleconference ended.

Wiza said the LCC can take no legal action; however, they could offer a recommendation or letter of concern to any of the interested parties.

Regarding a possible purchase of the property, Bradley noted the DNR would likely fund the purchase through the Stewardship Program, which does not allow paying more than the appraised value.

O'Brien suggested sending a letter to Mr. Hall recommending the fence remain in place and encourage sale of the property to the DNR.

Presley feels it is not the LCC's place to get involved. He believes it is infringement on the property owner's rights and legally the LCC has no authority. Wiza said the LCC has the authority to offer an opinion. Presley cautioned an opinion can be far reaching and he would not support doing so.

Wiza stated while he would like the owner to voluntarily keep the fence up, or have the DNR purchase the property, he stated there is no evidence to support the theory that prions last beyond three years, and feels it would be presumptuous of the LCC to make a recommendation.

Wiza said he wants to research some issues further and suggested including this item again on the March LCC agenda. No action taken.

### 13. Watershed Projects

**a. Updates** – No update.

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

### 14. Next Meeting Date

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

### 15. Adjournment

Wiza adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dale O'Brien, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Conference Room 5, County Annex  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
March 1, 2011

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

Others present: Lyle Eiden and Kent Glazer, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; Bill Ebert and Amy Thorstenson, Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D); Tim Karcheski, Jim and Marlene Rowe, Town of Plover; 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.

Wiza asked the LCC if there were any objections to moving Agenda Item 9 up on the agenda. Hearing none, Wiza announced Agenda Item 9 will be heard after Agenda Item 4.

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of February 1, 2011

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

3. Correspondence

Wiza stated he received notice of the Friends of Mill Creek Annual Meeting on Thursday, March 10 at the Milladore Village Hall. Bradley reviewed the 11 year history of the Wisconsin deer donation program.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20110125 and 20110165 were reviewed.

9. Discussion/Possible Action – Golden Sands RC&D Letter of Support

Bradley explained RC&D programs are scheduled for \$50 million in cuts nationwide. A draft letter of support was included in LCC packets. Thorstenson distributed copies of Golden Sands RC&D's Annual Highlights. Ebert said continuing resolutions must be approved to allow funding through the end of Fiscal Year 2011, which is September 30. There are 375 RC&D Councils throughout the nation, with seven in Wisconsin. Golden Sands RC&D covers nine counties in Central Wisconsin. Jacowski asked how many employees will be affected. Regarding Golden Sands RC&D, Ebert replied directly, seven or eight employees will be affected, and as many as 30 indirectly. Thorstenson stated most staff is funded through grants for specific projects; however, the office functions which support the grants rely on NRCS support. Ebert said nationwide, RC&D funding has been frozen at \$51 million for the last eight years. He explained RC&Ds are USDA programs administered by NRCS. Federal dollars are used to bring in additional funds for projects. Thorstenson calculated Golden Sands RC&D generates \$6.60 for every \$1.00 of Federal funding. Ebert said the House of Representatives has already approved the bill to eliminate funding for RC&Ds in the 2012 Budget. The Senate has yet to address the bill. Regarding the draft letter, Presley suggested eliminating the first sentence in the fourth paragraph: "Acknowledging that everyone must sacrifice in these difficult financial times, we can understand the need to reduce RC&D funding by \_\_\_%." Presley also requested adding his signature to the letter. Motion by Presley, second by Wiza to amend the letter to strike the first sentence in the fourth paragraph, and add Presley's name to the letter. Motion carried by voice vote. Wiza noted, if the letter is approved, the LCC is making a recommendation that they believe RC&D's programs are valuable and the funding should not be eliminated. Motion by Jacowski, second by Barden to send the letter as amended, including the signatures of all LCC members.

Bradley added the issue is time sensitive and the letters will be faxed and emailed. Motion carried by voice vote.

#### 5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

No one was present.

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

Bradley presented Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) plans for: James Kotterman – 7.3 acres of tree/shrub establishment; Casimer Trzebiatowski - 91 acres of conservation cover; Freddie Hardt – 8.8 acres of conservation cover; and Mark Dittmar – 10.5 acres of established trees and upland habitat management. There were questions whether the Kotterman plan should be approved by Portage County as the land is located in Marathon County. It was determined the land is rented to a Portage County producer. 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)** – No report.
- c. **North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (Presley)** – No report.
- d. **Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Guth)** – No report.
- e. **Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien)** – No report.
- f. **Mill Creek Watershed (Barden)** – The Friends of Mill Creek Annual Meeting is scheduled for March 10. The Wisconsin River Water Quality Improvement Symposium will be held at the Dreyfus University Center on March 11.
- g. **Little Plover River (O'Brien)** – No report.

#### 8. Wisconsin Conservation Congress Update

Chojnowski distributed copies of newspaper articles and copies of conservation publications. Wiza noted Assembly Bill 35, allowing culling of small and large mouth bass, was introduced on February 28. Chojnowski asked what action was taken regarding the Hall deer farm. Wiza replied no action was taken based on information from the Corporation Counsel's office that the LCC has no legal authority to force the owner to maintain the fence. Jacowski added the LCC felt it would be good for the fence to remain in place. Chojnowski said Laurie, Wisconsin Whitetails, is under the impression the LCC is recommending changing the zoning to allow the DNR to purchase the property. Wiza clarified that is not within the LCC's authority. Such a request must be initiated by the landowner, or by the Town through their Comprehensive Plan. Chojnowski referred to a newspaper article which indicates it is unlikely DNR will purchase the Hall deer farm property. Other articles' topics were deer prions, corn in ethanol, and charges to be reissued in Waupaca County related to deer killings.

#### 10. Discussion/Possible Action – Tree Planter Fund Equipment Purchase

Glazer distributed information regarding a proposal to seek funding for an anchor chain scarifier. Waupaca County is investigating purchasing a scarifier to assist with oak regeneration. Glazer stated a good portion of the oak in Portage County is declining and dying. In the natural process, the trees convert to species other than oak, due to certain conditions that need to be present for oak to regenerate, i.e. bare mineral soils and adequate light. Glazer explained the scarifier and the scarification process, which exposes the mineral soil, knocks down brush, and prepares soil for oak to regenerate. Glazer and Eiden believe having a scarifier available to Portage County would be beneficial and believe some landowners would be interested in renting the equipment. Glazer proposed using funds from the Tree Planter Fund and contributing toward the purchase of a scarifier. The Waupaca County LCD, Waupaca County Resources Foundation, Marquette County Land & Water Conservation Department, and Whitetails Unlimited have contributed approximately 40-45% of the amount needed. The Turkey Federation will be approached for remainder of the funding. Glazer suggested using between \$200 and \$500 from the Tree Planter Fund. The scarifier would be used in the fall, when acorns are dropping. The equipment needed to pull it will have to be about 80 hp. Glazer anticipates there will be a use fee along with a cost per acre fee. Revenues will be collected by Waupaca County and used for maintenance. Wiza asked what benefit Portage County will receive by contributing to the purchase of the scarifier. Glazer replied contributors will

have preference for use. Eiden stated the balance in the Tree Planter fund is over \$13,000. All of the planters are in excellent condition, and he estimated maintenance costs for the planters at less than \$1,000 last year. As a side note, Wiza stated the County has a partially vacant building at the closed landfill site, and suggested checking with John Gardner, Solid Waste Department, to see if the tree planters could be stored in the building. Glazer and Eiden feel this is an inexpensive way to determine interest and potential use in Portage County. If the demand is sufficient, Portage County may consider purchasing a scarifier on its own. Presley asked when a decision must be made. Glazer said the proposal will be submitted March 28 to the Turkey Federation. Motion by Jacowski, second by Barden to invest \$500 from the Tree Planter fund toward a scarifier. Motion carried by voice vote.

11. Discussion/Possible Action – Strategic Planning for 2012 Budget

Wiza stated the County Executive has instructed each County department to work through a process for strategic planning. Oversight committees will be responsible for reviewing the plans. Mandated programs are to be listed, as well as other programs and projects, current partners, opportunities to partner with other programs, and prioritizing responsibilities. The goal is to have the process completed by June. Bradley reported Planning and Zoning Department staff started the process by listing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT). Updates will be provided to the LCC at each meeting.

12. Watershed Projects

- a. **Updates** – The wetland restoration projects are complete.
- b. **Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts** – No cost share contracts were presented.

13. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for April 5 at 6:00 p.m.

14. Adjournment

Wiza adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at April 5, 2011 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

/Mike Wiza/  
Mike Wiza, Chair

Excused  
Dale O'Brien, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Conference Room 5, County Annex  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
April 5, 2011

Members present: Richard Barden, Cathy Guth, Barry Jacowski, Jeff Presley, Mike Wiza

Member excused: Dale O'Brien

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

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 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 March 1, 2011

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

3. Correspondence

Bradley reported he spoke with John Gardner, Solid Waste Analyst, regarding the possibility of storing the tree planters in the building at the former landfill. Gardner asked Bradley to check back at the end of May.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20110249, 20110271, and 20110182 were reviewed. Benedict explained the cost share check that was issued to the Parks Department on February 25 was voided and reissued to the contractor, Altmann Construction Co. Special meeting approvals were given for: Barden attending the Friends of Mill Creek Annual Meeting on March 10 at the Milladore Village Hall, and the Wisconsin River Water Quality Symposium at the Dreyfus University Center on March 11; Guth attending the Golden Sands RC&D Council meeting at the County Annex on March 17, and the Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners meeting at the Hancock Ag Research Station on April 5.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Knipfel reported she has been accepting applications for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), processing applications for the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), and preparing contracts for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). Nine applications have been submitted for the GRP for over 3,800 acres. Three applications were submitted, requesting over \$78,000, for the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP). Two contracts were approved for just over \$73,000. Twenty one of twenty four applications were funded for EQIP, for just over \$84,000. Practices include cropland and pasture activities, windbreaks, and one organic contract. The three unfunded EQIP applications were for barnyard practices, which Bradley offered to submit Targeted Runoff Management grants to the DNR if the landowners are interested. Eight applications were submitted for the CSP, and Knipfel said she received preapproval for five of the applications, three for cropland and two for private forest land.

6. Committee Representative Reports

**a. Lakes Management District (Barden/Presley-McDill Alternate) – No report.**

**b. Resource Conservation & Development (Guth) – Guth reported a majority of the discussion was regarding funding issues. The Grazing Specialist is funded through 2012. An update of RC&D's five year plan is in progress. A \$1,500 contingency account has been established from 2010 profits to be used for**

start up funds for projects and small expenditures. The Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) weevil raising project is in its third year and will continue through a fourth year, with Paul Skawinski leading the project. Guth reported on neighborhood gardens and the possibility of requiring spraying. The Portage County Land Preservation Fund financed 100% of the Lake Jacqueline land purchase.

**c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (Presley/Jacowski-Alternate)** – The next meeting is in June.

**d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Guth/Presley-Alternate)** – Guth attended the April 5 meeting. Just under 17 miles of windbreaks are planned, with over nine miles in Portage County. A couple of seeding projects are lined up. The contract for LTE employees with RC&D was approved in the amount of \$30,000.

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

**f. Mill Creek Watershed (Barden)** – Barden attended the Annual Meeting on March 10. The agenda included a discussion on invasive species, update on funding, 2011 projects, the Wisconsin River Symposium, bylaws, and election of officers.

**g. Little Plover River (O'Brien)** – The next meeting is scheduled for April 13 at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room 5, County Annex.

#### 7. Wisconsin Conservation Congress Update

Chojnowski reported the Hall Deer Farm was purchased by the DNR. The DNR lost 66 positions and 971 employees have inquired about retirement, most having 30+ years of service. Chojnowski distributed news articles and copies of Wisconsin Conservation. He reported there will be trout fishing meetings held throughout the State. DNR fisheries managers propose to increase the muskie limit statewide to 40" and limit walleyes to three 18" in size for the southern part of the State. There has been a 73% decrease in PCBs in the Fox River. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) may be cut drastically. Many farmers are considering growing corn for ethanol, and wheat crops due to the high commodity prices. The Spring hearings will be held next Monday at 7:00 p.m. (April 11) at Ben Franklin Junior High. Elections will take place. Chojnowski and one other delegate are up for election. The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF) annual meeting is at the Ramada Inn this weekend (April 2-3). Bradley noted the Friends of the Little Plover River won the Water Conservationists of the Year award from the WWF.

#### 8. Discussion/Possible Action – Resolution to Submit Aquatic Invasive Species Grant to DNR for Sunset, Lime, Pickerel, and Unnamed Lake in Town of Almond

A draft resolution was included in LCC packets. Bradley explained the unnamed lake in the Town of Almond is infested with Brazilian waterweed, which was sold by a nursery as a decorative plant. In 2010, DNR rules restricted sale of this, and other invasive plants. Bradley said the DNR suggested applying for the grant and the landowner is agreeable. Hand pulling EWM at Pickerel Lake was attempted, but was not successful and chemical treatment is needed. Motion by Jacowski, second by Guth to approve the resolution. Motion carried by voice vote.

#### 9. Discussion/Possible Action – Authorization to Submit Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Grant Applications for Zorowski Farms, Edward Lein, and Jenny Zinda

For TRM grants, the DNR does not require individual resolutions for each grant application. An authorizing resolution was approved by the LCC in May 2009 allowing Bradley to submit TRM grants to the DNR on behalf of Portage County. Motion by Jacowski, second by Presley to authorize Bradley to submit TRM grant applications for Zorowski Farms, Edward Lein, and Jenny Zinda. Bradley noted Jenny Zinda is not certain she will request TRM grant funding for manure storage, but the deadline to apply is May 1, which is prior to the next LCC meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.

#### 10. Discussion/Possible Action – Trees for Tomorrow and Conservation Camp Scholarships

Benedict explained that in the past, \$200 has been allocated for Trees For Tomorrow scholarships, but has not been used. Benedict passed around the list of courses. Teachers in Portage County schools are eligible. Motion by Wiza, second by Presley to make a \$200 scholarship available for Trees For Tomorrow. If the scholarship goes unused, the funds may be used for the poster and speaking contest. Motion carried by voice vote.

Benedict stated the LCC has allowed \$100 for conservation camp scholarships. The cost for the camp for grades six through eight is \$50 per student and the cost for grades nine through 11 is \$100. Motion by Wiza, second by Jacowski to make \$100 available for conservation camp scholarships. Motion carried by voice vote. Benedict will distribute the information to Portage County schools.

#### 11. Discussion/Possible Action – 2012 DNR/DATCP Grant Application

Bradley explained Portage County is eligible for \$240,955 for staff; however, in 2011, only approximately \$134,000 was allocated. Bradley expects a similar allocation for 2012. For cost sharing, Bradley will request \$100,000, but expects to receive approximately \$61,000. The TRM grant funding requested is \$450,000, \$150,000 each for three projects. Bradley noted the TRM grants are competitive statewide and the highest ranking projects are funded. In 2010, the Zoromski Farms and Edward Lein projects did not get funded and Bradley will submit them again. Motion by Presley, second by Guth to authorize submitting the 2012 DNR/DATCP grant application. Motion carried by voice vote.

#### 12. Discussion/Possible Action – Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) Cost Share for Windbreaks

Bradley stated the CWWP has requested SWRM cost share funds estimated at \$40,125.29 for windbreaks for eight customers, on 13 sites. The landowners are: Dorothy Sankey, Hamerski Farms, Joe Sankey, John Jazdzewski, Larry Adams, Okray Family Farms, Paramount Farms, and Rebecca Knoll. Bradley passed around the estimates for each windbreak. For 2011, of \$61,000 allocated for cost share funds, the Portage County Parks project, extended from 2010, will use approximately \$10,000, minus windbreak funding leaves approximately \$11,000 remaining for a possible streambank fence project. Motion by Wiza, second by Barden to approve cost share funding for windbreaks not to exceed \$40,125.29.

#### 13. Watershed Projects

**a. Updates** – No update.

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

#### 14. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for May 3 at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room 5, County Annex.

#### 15. Adjournment

Wiza adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at May 3, 2011 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  
May 3, 2011

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

Member excused: Mike Wiza

Others present: 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 April 5, 2011

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

3. Correspondence

Bradley announced he received the 2011 DATCP grant contracts. The staffing grant award is \$133,653 and cost sharing in the amount of \$86,185.96. Bradley will have the County Executive and Finance Director sign the contract and return to DATCP.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20110293 and 20110324 were reviewed. Benedict noted the procurement card purchase in the amount of \$60 for Randy Slagg to attend the Wisconsin Lakes Conference will be reimbursed by the Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees (WALCE).

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Knipfel was not in attendance.

6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No conservation plans presented.

7. Committee Representative Reports

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

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

**c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (Presley)** – Bradley reported the ad hoc committee, formed to explore merging the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) and WALCE organizations, met today (May 3). He also stated Portage County will host the North Central Land and Water Conservation Association (NCLWCA) Summer Tour in August. Presley suggested informing the County Executive and County Board Chair to encourage attendance. Planned tour stops are Del Monte, to view field operations, the Moses Creek restoration project, Schmeekle Reserve and the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame, and possibly Gordondale Farms' methane digester.

**d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Guth)** – No report.

**e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien)** – O'Brien reported Paul Cieslewicz' term is up on the Drainage District Board. The Ag and Extension Committee will conduct interviews on May 9. Cieslewicz and Justin Isherwood are candidates.

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

**g. Little Plover River (O'Brien)** – O'Brien and Bradley were unable to attend. Bradley spoke with Ray Schmidt, Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Department Water Quality Specialist, who attended the meeting. Existing projects were reviewed.

#### 8. Wisconsin Conservation Congress Update

Chojnowski reported the Spring hearings were held on April 11. Over 200 people attended the Portage County session. He distributed copies of Wisconservation. Articles were distributed: Regarding deer hunting rules, with the DNR Board voting to eliminate earn-a-buck for the 2011 hunting season; The appointment of three new DNR Board members; Wolf de-listing – the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation got 36,739 signatures in favor of de-listing. Montana and Idaho attempted de-listing, but the efforts were blocked by a federal judge. Publications were distributed regarding Asian carp in the Great Lakes. Presley noted a new barrier is being tested, as the current method is not working. Chojnowski mentioned the predation of elk by wolves. Presley asked for an update on the Hall deer farm. Chojnowski reported he understands the DNR has purchased the property.

#### 9. Discussion/Possible Action – Portage County Restore II Grant Resolution

Bradley explained the grant is an extension of the current Lakes grant being implemented. A portion will be used to contract with the UW-SP, providing a staff person to work with lake groups to continue developing and updating lake management plans. The remaining funds will be used to provide 75% cost sharing for landowners to install shoreland practices. Landowner participation and interest has been generally good on the larger, more populated lakes. The lesser populated lakes have groups that are interested, but may not be as active. Bradley noted no county funds are required for the grant. The 25% County match will be in-kind, using LCD and GIS staff and landowner time. Bradley explained the funding for DNR's lake grants comes from motor boat gas taxes. Motion by Presley, second by Jacowski to approve the resolution. Motion carried by voice vote. Members signed the resolution.

#### 10. Discussion/Possible Action – Support For Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Annex Office Space

Bradley stated Federal funding has been eliminated from the budget for RC&D Councils. The Golden Sands RC&D program will survive, with cutbacks and elimination of some projects. Currently, the RC&D office is located with USDA offices on the second floor of the Annex, but the USDA will no longer pay the rent for office space. In anticipation of the funding cut, RC&D budgeted rent for office space. Corporation Counsel was consulted and determined there is no legal issue preventing the County from renting office space to RC&D. RC&D staff attended a Space and Properties Committee meeting and are allowed to remain on a month to month basis at this time. Corporation Counsel may draft a lease agreement. Bradley said the LCD and RC&D work closely and it would benefit both offices if they could remain in the Annex building. Motion by Jacowski, second by Presley to support RC&D offices remaining in the Annex building. Motion carried by voice vote.

#### 11. Select Trees For Tomorrow/Conservation Camp Scholarship Recipients

(There were no applicants for the Trees For Tomorrow scholarship.) Three teacher recommendations were made for Camp Bird scholarships. Two scholarships can be awarded at \$50 each. Barden drew Alyson Plaski's and Lee Goman's names, both students at Almond Bancroft Schools. The third student, Miles Geske, Plover Whiting school will be considered an alternate in the event either of the scholarship recipients do not attend the camp.

### 12. Stewardship Report

Benedict reported activity booklets for grades K-5 are offered to teachers in Portage County schools. An email announcement was sent and within one day, orders had to be cut off. Benedict apologized for going \$120 over budget; however, over 1,000 booklets were provided. Open letters were sent to the Stevens Point Journal and Portage County Gazette. Benedict thanked the LCC for their support of the Stewardship program.

### 13. Strategic Plan Report

Bradley referred to the information sent in LCC packet, which contained only the portion dealing with the LCD. The Planning and Zoning Committee reviewed and approved the Strategic Plan document for the entire department at their April 26 meeting. The LCC requested to see the entire document, including the list of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats that were compiled by department staff. Benedict will email the documents to LCC members.

### 14. Watershed Projects

**a. Updates** – Myron Losinski's manure storage abandonment project, carried over from 2010, is nearing completion. The contractor shaped and compacted the area and it is ready for seeding. Bradley noted he submitted Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) grant applications for Ed Lein and Zoromski Farms. Jenny Zinda decided against applying for a TRM grant. DNR approvals for TRM grants should be made by September.

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

Bradley handed out brochures from the Prairie Chicken Festival, which took place April 15-17, 2011.

### 15. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 7, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room 5, County Annex.

### 16. Adjournment

Motion by Jacowski, second by Presley to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at June 7, 2011 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  
June 7, 2011

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

Others present: Bob Chojnowski, Wisconsin Conservation Congress; Chris Wiza; 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.

(Guth arrived.)

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of May 3, 2011

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

3. Correspondence

Wiza received the meeting information for the North Central Land and Water Conservation Association. Bradley stated he, and other County and UWSP water resource conservation professionals, received a request from a Stevens Point citizen who opposes the water fountain being built on the square. The citizen asked for conservation professionals to give their opinions regarding water waste. A meeting was held on June 6. Bradley did not attend, but was informed the result of the meeting was to provide an education effort regarding groundwater. (Presley arrived.) Jacowski asked Bradley to forward the emails he received. Bradley feels it is a City issue and unless the LCC would like him to, he will not get involved further. Benedict reported the two conservation camp scholarship recipients have turned in their registrations. Benedict also asked LCC members to come to the next meeting with dates they would be available for the poster and speaking contests in late September or early October.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20110369, 20110370, 20110412, and 20110452 were reviewed.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Melissa Knipfel, NRCS District Conservationist, was unable to attend the meeting, but provided a written report, which was distributed to LCC members. The report was placed on file.

6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No plans presented.

## 7. Committee Representative Reports

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

**b. Resource Conservation & Development (Guth)** – Bradley attended the last meeting and reported there was a lot of discussion regarding employees contracted by DNR through RC&D working on the National Heritage Inventory (NHI). The RC&D staff person administering the contract has resigned and the contract is due for renewal on July 1. In addition, the RC&D's current health insurance company can no longer cover the employees. Bids were received from three companies. The company chosen considers 30 hours full time, versus 24 for the former company. One employee could potentially lose health insurance benefits and was offered additional hours to bring the position to full time. The offer was declined as the employee opted to get health insurance through their spouse. The Administrative Coordinator in RC&D will take on the duties of the position created by the resignation, and her hours will increase from 24 to 40 per week.

**c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (Presley)** – The Spring meeting is Friday, June 10 in Antigo. Bradley and Barden will attend.

**d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Guth)** – No report.

**e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien)** – O'Brien reported the recent tornado along County Road W left an estimated 60 trees in Ditch 4. O'Brien, his son, Don Hamerski, and Paul Cieslewicz cleaned the trees out of the water. The Town of Plover received a permit to repair the erosion damage on Isherwood Road. The Agriculture and Extension Committee conducted interviews with Paul Cieslewicz and Justin Isherwood for appointment to the Drainage District Commission. With the Committee's recommendation, the judge reappointed Cieslewicz.

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

**g. Little Plover River (O'Brien)** – Bradley will let LCC members know when the next meeting is via email/telephone.

## 8. Wisconsin Conservation Congress Update

Chojnowski passed out articles and publications. He referred to the resolution in Wisconsin regarding panfish spearing, which passed unanimously at the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation meeting. The resolution will be considered at DNR hearings in April 2012. Other articles presented: Wolf predation of Wisconsin's elk, and Peregrine falcons are making a comeback statewide.

## 9. Discussion/Possible Action – Revised Portage County Restore II Grant Resolution

Bradley explained the DNR requires specific wording for the resolution, which was not in the resolution approved at the May LCC meeting. Motion by Wiza, second by Barden to approve the resolution. Motion carried by voice vote. LCC members signed the resolution, which will be forwarded to the DNR as part of the grant application.

## 10. Discussion/Possible Action – Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) – Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees (WALCE) Possible Merger

Bradley referred to the special edition of the Thursday Note. An ad hoc committee has been formed to explore a possible merger of the two associations. WLWCA members will vote at their annual conference in December. If passed, WALCE members will vote at their annual conference in February/March. If LCC members have any suggestions or concerns, they can relay them through Bradley. Benedict will forward future ad hoc committee information to LCC members.

## 11. Watershed Projects

**a. Updates** – Bradley explained compliance issues at the Christine Ostrowski farm on County Road SS. A DNR Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) grant in the amount of \$150,000 for manure storage was approved for Ostrowski's, but they have decided against doing the project. Bradley and two DNR staff have scheduled an onsite visit next week.

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

12. Next Meeting Date

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

13. Adjournment

Wiza adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dale O'Brien, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Conference Room 5, County Annex  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
August 2, 2011

Members present: Barry Jacowski, Dale O'Brien, Jeff Presley, Mike Wiza

Member excused: Cathy Guth

Member absent: Richard Barden

Others present: Melissa Knipfel, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Bob Chojnowski, Wisconsin Conservation Congress; Amy Thorstenson, Golden Sands RC&D; 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 7, 2011

Under Committee Representative Reports, Resource Conservation and Development, Benedict clarified the title of Administrative Assistant should be Administrative Coordinator. Motion by Jacowski, second by Presley to approve minutes as amended. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Correspondence

Bradley received correspondence from the Town of Sharon regarding abandonment of approximately 100' of the eastern end of Ed's Lane, near Lake Jacqueline. The Sharon Town Board will meet on August 9 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall to make a decision on the abandonment. A letter was received from the Marinette County Land and Water Conservation Department, thanking the LCC for sponsoring conservation camp scholarships. Included with the letter were camper evaluations and camp press releases.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20110493, 20110530, 20110542, 20110547, 20110602, 20110621 were reviewed. Presley questioned whether the fuel for the CWWP is tax exempt. Jacowski said any fuel used off road by counties, municipalities, or for ag use should be tax exempt. Benedict will investigate. Special meeting attendance was approved for Barden attending the North Central Land and Water Conservation Association meeting in Antigo on June 10.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Knipfel reported there are five Portage County Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts. They are in the process of doing site visits and conservation plans. There are three sites being appraised for the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), which they hope to have completed by the end of the fiscal year on September 30. Funding should be available for 300-350 acres. Applications were received for over 3,800 acres. Prior to September 16, the local workgroup will meet to discuss resource concerns and priorities for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). Knipfel anticipates a fall/winter signup. She

does not know yet how much will be available for cost sharing. Knipfel will be completing field visits for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) by September 30. Knipfel informed the LCC she will be on vacation from August 22 to September 16. Julie Ammel, NRCS Resource Conservationist, will assist with Knipfel's duties while she is out.

#### 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) –** Bradley passed around handouts from the Central Wisconsin Grassland Conservation Area's (CWGCA) Annual Meeting. Bradley attended the RC&D meeting (July 21, 2011), which included discussion on Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). Thorstenson updated the LCC regarding the RC&D offices remaining in the Annex building. A draft month to month lease will be reviewed by the RC&D Council and their legal counsel.

**c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (Presley/Jacowski-Alternate) –** Bradley and Barden attended the meeting on June 10 in Antigo. Langlade County talked about their shoreland zoning ordinance. DNR revised NR 115 in 2010, and counties are required to revise their ordinances. Updates were provided by DATCP, NRCS, and WLWCA. The business meeting included the treasurer's report and a presentation on forest fragmentation and its effect on habitats. Benedict asked LCC members to respond by August 4 if they plan on attending the Summer Tour on August 12.

**d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Guth/Presley-Alternate) –** The next meeting is August 15 at 1:30 p.m.

**e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien) –** O'Brien reported they have started cleaning Ditch 1 near 130<sup>th</sup> Street, and want to have it complete before deer and elk hunting begins.

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

**g. Little Plover River (O'Brien) –** O'Brien attended the meeting on July 13. The flow at Hoover Road is 10.8 cubic feet per second (cfs). Because of the healthy flow, the Village of Plover has allowed pumping from Wells 1 and 2, which are closest to the Little Plover River. The Village of Plover is considering acquiring 40 acres of land for a park. Bradley mentioned the University of Wisconsin and Wisconsin Vegetable and Potato Growers Association (WPVGA) are among the sponsors for the Central Wisconsin Water Initiative on August 25 (3:00 to 7:00 p.m.) at the Hancock Ag Research Station. Featured will be water conservation efforts the University of Wisconsin is doing in conjunction with potato and vegetable growers.

#### 7. Wisconsin Conservation Congress Update

Chojnowski provided the following handouts: Wisconsin; an article regarding retirements within the DNR; an article about importing wasps from China to combat the Emerald Ash Borer and the unknown implications; an article regarding algae warnings on some Wisconsin lakes; an article on lawsuits filed to control the wolf population, which were unsuccessful; an article on Asian carp. Chojnowski also reported it has been found that gypsy moths are attracted to the heat from car brakes and have been transported in the hub caps of cars.

#### 9. Presentation – Portage County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Control Efforts

Bradley introduced Amy Thorstenson, Golden Sands RC&D Executive Director and Regional AIS Coordinator. Her PowerPoint presentation featured regional efforts to control AIS in Portage, Marathon, Waupaca, Waushara, and Wood Counties, and biological control studies for Eurasian Water Milfoil, which was part of her graduate program work.

(Wiza left the meeting at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was no longer present.)

10. Watershed Project Reports

**a. Updates** – Bradley reported the Borgen Brothers manure storage project will be in September.

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

11. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be August 30, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room 5, County Annex.

Benedict will email LCC members for their availability for the poster and speaking contest dates.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dale O'Brien, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Conference Room 5, County Annex  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
August 30, 2011

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

Others present: Barry Benson, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services; Bob Chojnowski, Wisconsin Conservation Congress; Chris Wiza; Jim Gifford; 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 August 2, 2011

Under the Little Plover River Committee Representative report, Bradley clarified that because of the healthy flow, the Village of Plover is now allowing pumping from Wells 1 and 2, which are closest to the Little Plover River, rather than Well 3 as reported. Motion by Presley, second by Jacowski to approve minutes as amended. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Correspondence

Wiza passed around a list of Assembly and Senate bills being introduced in the 2011-13 session. He also reported RC&D is holding a Harvest Celebration for community gardeners on Thursday, September 8 at the west end of Mead Park. Benedict reminded the LCC the date for the Poster and Speaking Contest is Wednesday, October 19. She will email the flyer and other information to LCC members.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20110665 and 20110690 and CWWP procurement card purchases were reviewed. Special meeting attendance approvals were given for: O'Brien attending the Little Plover River Workgroup meeting on June 13 at the County Annex; Guth attending the Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners meeting on June 20 at the Hancock Ag Research Station; and Presley attending the Lake Jacqueline District Annual Meeting on August 20 at Lake Jacqueline.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

No report. Knipfel is on vacation.

6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

Bradley presented four conservation plans: Quintian Cieslewicz, Town of New Hope, 23.5 acres, re-enrollment of established softwood tree plantation; Gerald Ernst, Town of Sharon, seven acres, re-enrollment of established softwood tree plantation; Richard Okray, Town of Carson, 15 acres, establishment of permanent grass or legume; Larry Graham, 12.7 acres, establishment of permanent native grasses. Motion by Jacowski, second by O'Brien to approve the conservation plans. Motion carried by voice vote.

7. Committee Representative Reports

**a. Lakes Management District (Vacant/Presley-McDill Alternate)** – Presley attended the Lake Jacqueline Annual Meeting. There are concerns whether goose and deer hunting are allowed on the property purchased by the County. Bradley said the hunting issue was discussed prior to the property purchase. Because funding is through the DNR Stewardship Program, hunting restrictions are not

allowed. The District would also like a boardwalk in the bog, possibly funded by the UWSP because they do a lot of work in that area. Presley reported the District will be stocking the lake with twice the normal amount due to increased water levels. They also have issues with users not paying at the boat landing. Presley will contact the Parks Department. The budget was approved. Motion by Jacowski, second by Guth to accept the report. Motion carried by voice vote.

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

**c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (Presley/Jacowski-Alternate)**– Bradley and Benedict hosted the Summer Tour. There were 24 attendees. Favorable comments were received.

**d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Guth/Presley-Alternate)** – Bradley reported the budget and fee schedule were approved.

**e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien)** – O'Brien reported cleaning in Ditch 2 continues.

**f. Mill Creek Watershed (O'Brien)** – No report.

**g. Little Plover River (O'Brien)** – The next meeting will be held in October.

#### 8. Wisconsin Conservation Congress Update

Chojnowski distributed copies of Wisconsin conservation and various articles. He reported a cougar from Wisconsin was killed in Connecticut. The DNR can no longer state a position to legislators regarding fish and wildlife issues per instructions from Governor Walker's office. Articles included: A fact sheet on concealed carry; the August Inland Fish Committee Report - the Wild Rose fish hatchery is asking for help with funding to feed the fish; three articles on Asian carp; and an article on wolves. Chojnowski expressed concerns regarding sand mining and high capacity animal farms and the lack of enforcement.

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

Benson said action must be taken by the County to indicate they want to participate in the venison donation program. Motion by Jacowski, second by O'Brien to participate in the venison donation program. Motion carried by voice vote.

#### 10. Discussion/Possible Action – Wildlife Damage Program 2012 Budget

Benson said the budget is not prepared yet, but he presented a preliminary figure of \$26,087. He will present the budget at the October meeting. No action taken.

#### 11. Appoint Replacement Committee Representatives for Lakes Management District and Mill Creek Watershed

Benedict stated the County Executive makes the appointment for the Lakes Management District. Motion by Wiza, second by Jacowski to recommend Presley for the Lakes Management District appointment. Motion carried by voice vote. O'Brien volunteered for the Mill Creek Watershed appointment. Motion by Jacowski, second by Guth to appoint O'Brien as the Mill Creek Watershed representative. Motion carried by voice vote.

#### 12. Update on Land Conservation Vehicle Purchase

Bradley described the current LCD truck issues. Funds are budgeted in 2011 to purchase a vehicle. The Purchasing Director provided a quote for a new vehicle from a dealership in Oconomowoc. Bradley contacted a local dealership with the quote and specs, but they did not call back with a quote. Bradley added a topper needs to be purchased separately, but there are adequate funds budgeted. Motion by Jacowski, second by Wiza to purchase the quoted vehicle and a topper, not to exceed \$22,000. Motion carried by voice vote.

#### 13. Review/Discussion – 2011 Projected/2012 Proposed Budget

Bradley explained the handout is a draft. For 2011, the expected amount of tax levy is \$178,747. He pointed out the Ostrowski Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) grant will be carried over to 2012. The TRM grants applied for Lein and Zorowski have not been approved by the DNR yet, but are included in the 2012 budget. O'Brien questioned the decrease for the Lake Study grants. Bradley explained the study and planning phases, which were large grants, will be complete in 2011. The grant for implementation of the lake plans is smaller. Bradley noted \$6,400 was cut from the 2012 budget under professional

services, which has been used in the past as in kind funds for grants received. Bradley also mentioned the amount of revenue received from DATCP for the staffing grant for 2012 is estimated to be 5% less than 2011. Presley questioned the amount for publications, dues, and subscriptions. Discussion followed on the benefits realized from dues paid.

14. Watershed Projects

**a. Updates** – Bradley reported the Borgen Brothers manure pit project will begin mid September.

**b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts** – Borgen’s estimated total project cost is \$220,000, of which \$150,000 is cost sharing under a TRM grant. Motion by Jacowski, second by O’Brien to approve Borgen’s cost share contract. Motion carried by voice vote.

15. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 4 at 6:00 p.m. or immediately following the County Board meeting.

16. Adjournment

Wiza adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at the October 4, 2011 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 4, 2011

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

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

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 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.

As it was Karcheski's first meeting, replacing Richard Barden, LCC members and other attendees introduced themselves.

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of August 30, 2011

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

3. Correspondence

Guth distributed information on behalf of Golden Sands RC&D. Referring to the article regarding Drainage District Restructuring in the Thursday Note, O'Brien commented he is not in favor. It was suggested he contact Julian Zelazny, WLWCA Executive Director. Benedict will provide O'Brien with Zelazny's contact information. Wiza reminded LCC members the Poster and Speaking Contests will be held on Wednesday, October 19. The registration deadline is Friday, October 14. Benedict will contact LCC members with further information. Wiza noted the Bill Cook Chapter, Izaak Walton League has offered to provide up to \$250 to help fund the contests.

Bradley reported John Gardner responded to his request to store the tree planters at the building located at the closed landfill on County Road QQ. The Solid Waste Board approved storage of up to six tree planters and a sprayer at no charge, renewable after five years. Corporation Counsel suggested entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the LCC and Solid Waste Board. Wiza suggested either checking with Corporation Counsel to see who should sign the MOU on behalf of the LCC, as Wiza will sign on behalf of the Solid Waste Board.

Bradley updated the LCC on aeration at Collins Lake. During routine sampling, a DNR employee found there is low dissolved oxygen, causing concern of a fish kill. The LCD was contacted to assist in finding funding sources to install an aeration system. The DNR has an aeration system, but funds are not budgeted for the electricity, estimated between \$500-\$600. Wiza noted the Bill Cook Chapter of the Izaak Walton League authorized funding up to \$500, and a private donation was received in the amount of \$100. If additional funds are needed, Prime Water Anglers and Rosholt Lions offered to contribute. Wiza said a suggestion was made for the County to establish an emergency fund using voluntary contributions when these types of projects arise.

#### 4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20110728, 20110778, and 20110779 were reviewed as well as the LCD truck purchase, Kwik Trip gas card, and the CWWP procurement card purchases.

#### 5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Knipfel was not in attendance. No report.

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

Bradley presented two Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) plans for Norbert Kluck. Both plans are to establish introduced grasses, one on 12.5 acres in Marathon County, but administered in Portage County, and the other on 7.6 acres in the Town of Dewey. The plans were signed by O'Brien.

#### 7. Committee Representative Reports

**a. Lakes Management District (Vacant/Presley-McDill Alternate)** – Presley reported the McDill Pond District is holding a meeting today (October 4). The agenda includes how to identify members.

**b. Resource Conservation & Development (Guth)** – Bradley reported the Space and Property Committee approved a yearly lease for RC&D's office space. Wiza attended the Neighborhood Gardens Harvest Party.

**c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (Presley/Jacowski-Alternate)** – Bradley will attend the area Poster and Speaking Contest at the Wausau School Forest on October 27. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Benedict. Registration is due October 17.

**d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Guth/Presley-Alternate)** – The next meeting is in December.

**e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien)** – Ditch 1 cleaning is done for the year.

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

**g. Little Plover River (O'Brien)** – The next meeting is Wednesday, October 26.

Wiza suggested including committee representative appointments on the next meeting agenda.

#### 8. Wisconsin Conservation Congress Update

Chojnowski reported he will be stepping down as vice chair of the Portage County Conservation Congress. He explained changes in Legislative Act 21 allow the Governor to rule first on fish and game rules. He believes it will take twice as long for any fish and wildlife rules to get through the system. He distributed copies of articles regarding: Sand mining issues; high capacity dairy farming; the effects of Act 21 on the Conservation Congress; crazy ant infestation; termite infestation in Endeavor; and cancellation of the Chinese dog eating festival. Chojnowski stated he also serves as the associate director for the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. The LCC asked Chojnowski to continue providing updates at meetings.

#### 9. Discussion/Possible Action – Election of Vice-Chair

Wiza called for nominations for the vice-chair position vacated by Richard Barden. O'Brien nominated Jacowski. Wiza called for nominations three times. Hearing none, Wiza motioned, Presley seconded to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Jacowski. Motion carried by voice vote.

#### 10. Discussion/Possible Action – 2012 Wildlife Damage Program Budget

Benson distributed copies of the 2012 Wildlife Damage budget. The wildlife damage program was explained to Karcheski. Benson pointed out \$1,880 is included in the budget for the venison donation program. Amendments can be made to the budget if necessary. Due to Benson's services expanding to Marathon County, the budget amount is decreased. Motion by Jacowski, second by Guth to approve the Wildlife Damage Program budget. Motion carried by voice vote.

#### 11. Discussion/Possible Action – 2011 Wildlife Damage Crop Prices

Benson stated he will have the crop prices for the November LCC meeting. He noted prices will be set for field corn, sweet corn, and soybeans.

12. Watershed Projects

**a. Updates** – Bradley stated the manure storage project at Borgen Brothers is underway.

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

13. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is November 1, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room 5, County Annex.

14. Adjournment

Wiza adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at November 1, 2011 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

/Barry Jacowski/  
Barry Jacowski, Vice Chair

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

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Conference Room 5, County Annex  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
November 1, 2011

Members present: Cathy Guth, Barry Jacowski, Carl Karcheski, Dale O'Brien, Jeff Presley

Member excused: Mike Wiza

Others present: Barry Benson, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services; Bob Chojnowski, Wisconsin Conservation Congress; Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land Conservation Division (LCD).

1. Call to Order

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

Jacowski 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 October 4, 2011

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

3. Correspondence

In the past, Bradley stated plat books were provided to LCC members funded by the LCD budget. He said there aren't sufficient funds budgeted; however, the LCD will have an office copy which Bradley will bring to LCC meetings.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20110824 and 20110861, purchases, and procurement card charges were reviewed. Special meeting attendance was approved for O'Brien attending the Little Plover River Workgroup meeting on October 26 at the County Annex.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Knipfel reported they are wrapping up activities and construction projects as the fiscal year ended September 30. Letters and payments will be sent to participants in the Conservation Stewardship and Conservation Security Programs in November. Participants can choose to receive payments in either calendar year 2011 or 2012. The Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) will begin in November. Three points will be taken at 37 sites throughout Portage County. An Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) signup will take place in November/December. The federal budget is under a continuing resolution until November 18. When the budget is settled, programs can be offered. A letter will be sent from the state office offering those Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) applicants not selected in 2011 an opportunity to defer their applications to 2012. New applications will also be accepted from mid November into December. Eight applications, with over 3,800 acres, were submitted in 2011. Four sites (three participants) were selected for lifetime easements, approximately 500 acres, after going through the ranking process. Knipfel stated another signup for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) will be held in the near future.

6. Review/Approval – Conservation Plans

Motion by Jacowski, second by O'Brien to approve two conservation plans for Norbert Kluck. Motion carried

by voice vote.

#### 7. Discussion/Possible Action – Committee Representative Appointments

Benedict distributed copies of the current committee assignments. After discussion, it was decided to leave the appointments as is. Guth announced her term with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Committee expires in two months. Presley asked Benedict to notify the lake districts and associations of his appointment to the Public Inland Lake and Rehabilitation District Board Commission.

#### 8. Committee Representative Reports

**a. Lakes Management District (Presley)** – Presley was unable to attend the McDill District meeting as it was held the same time as the LCC meeting.

**b. Resource Conservation & Development (Guth)** – No meeting.

**c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (Presley/Jacowski-Alternate)** – Bradley attended the meeting on October 27 at the Wausau School Forest. The area speaking and poster contests took place in the morning. Benedict reported there were two first place and one second place posters from Portage County. The first place posters advance to the State contest in Waupaca on November 5. Benedict will go to the schools within the next two weeks to award students with the prizes from the Portage County, area, and state contests. Bradley stated the business meeting took place in the afternoon. The treasurer's reported was reviewed. There was discussion on the proposed merger of the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) and the Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees (WALCE). Bradley said all counties in attendance supported the merger. Julian Zelazny, WLWCA Executive Director, has resigned. It has been decided to delay refilling the position until after a decision on the merger. There were no resolutions from the NCLWCA to present at the annual conference in December.

**d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Guth/Presley-Alternate)** – No meeting.

**e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien)** – O'Brien reported there will be a ditch tour on Friday, November 11. He will find out the date of the annual meeting. O'Brien and District Commissioner Paul Cieslewicz tried, but were unable to get a response from Julian Zelazny regarding the Drainage District restructuring, an attempt to move authority for appointing commissioners from a judge to the LCC. However, according to State Statutes, a judge must appoint commissioners.

**f. Mill Creek Watershed (O'Brien)** – No meeting.

**g. Little Plover River (O'Brien)** – O'Brien attended the meeting on October 26. According to George Kraft, water flow levels are above the minimum public rights stage and the Village of Plover reported groundwater elevations are 2-3 feet above levels a year ago. The next meeting is March 28. The group has cut back meetings from 4 times to 2 times per year. The Village of Plover wants the group to stay active through the possible development of Worzalla's property into a park, and a possible Department of Transportation wetland restoration project at the headwaters. Bradley said the DNR representative talked about a Supreme Court case involving high capacity well regulation. The Supreme Court ruled the DNR has the authority and responsibility to consider high capacity wells impact on groundwater affecting surface water. Bradley said the DNR will look only at the impact of the well being applied for, and not a cumulative effect of all surrounding wells.

#### 9. Portage County Conservation and Wildlife Update

Chojnowski distributed copies of Wisconservation and newspaper articles regarding: Whooping cranes in Horicon; bats with white-nose syndrome; killing of a 648 pound bear with a possible record head measurement; elk population in Wisconsin; the hunter mentor bill; tests for Asian carp in the Mississippi River near Minneapolis; whooping cranes found in Minnesota; streamlining mining regulations; a 4,200 cow dairy farm in Adams County; and Act 21. He also noted there are four documented cougar sightings in Wisconsin.

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

Benson distributed copies of the 2011 Crop Price Proposal for Portage County. Crops to be considered are alfalfa, field corn, soybeans, sweet corn, and potatoes. After discussion, the LCC set prices as follows: Alfalfa - \$175.00 per ton; Field corn - \$6.15 per bushel; Soybeans - \$12.42 per bushel; Sweet corn - \$104.00 per ton; Potatoes - \$9.51 per hundred weight. Motion by Jacowski, second by Presley to approve the crop prices. Motion carried by voice vote.

11. Watershed Projects

**a. Updates** – Bradley reported the Borgen Brothers manure storage project is complete. The landowner is pleased. There are some Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) cost share funds left over, which may be used for wetland restoration projects in the Mill Creek area. If the projects cannot be completed in December, the funds will be carried over to 2012.

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

12. Next Meeting Date

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

13. Adjournment

Motion by O'Brien, second by Jacowski to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at December 6, 2011 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  
December 6, 2011

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

Others present: Jennifer Glad, Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D); Bob Chojnowski, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF); Shannon Rohde, Project Manager, Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (CWWP); Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department (P&Z), Land Conservation Division (LCD).

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.

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of November 1, 2011

Karcheski pointed out Wiza was excused from the November meeting; therefore Jacowski chaired and read the public notice. Motion by Jacowski, second by O'Brien to approve minutes as amended. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Correspondence

Bradley distributed copies of the Central Wisconsin Grassland Conservation Area Partnership newsletter on behalf of Sharon Schwab, Golden Sands RC&D.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20110901, 20110934, 20110935, 20110979, purchases in the amount of \$30.50, and procurement card charges in the amount of \$126.46 were reviewed. Bradley noted there is an outstanding invoice for the Borgen Brothers manure pit project, otherwise all projects are complete for 2011. Special meeting attendance approvals were given for: O'Brien attending the Drainage District Annual Meeting on November 16 at the Buena Vista Town Hall; and Guth attending the Golden Sands RC&D meeting on November 17 at the County Annex.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Melissa Knipfel, District Conservationist, was not in attendance. Jennifer Glad, Golden Sands RC&D, reported Bill Ebert, NRCS, is retiring as of December 30, 2011.

6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No plans presented.

7. Committee Representative Reports

**a. Lakes Management District (Presley)** – Presley assumes the McDill District will be meeting soon regarding the bridge.

**b. Resource Conservation & Development (Guth)** – Guth attended the meeting on November 17. She reported Golden Sands RC&D will celebrate 40 years in 2012. Fund raising activities will take place for a celebration to be held in the fall. An Agriculture Committee will be formed and combined with the Forestry Committee. Dr. Brown, UW-Madison, is scheduled for the January meeting, presenting information on frac sand. Glad added a fundraising dinner will take place August 18, 2012 at the Jensen Center, Amherst. A local chef will be featured using farm fresh, locally raised produce and meats. Entertainment is yet to be determined. There will be monthly events throughout 2012. Glad stated Guth will no longer be on the LCC and asked about appointing a replacement for the RC&D Council. Glad noted Guth is also the Council's treasurer. An agenda item will be included for the January LCC meeting. Glad pointed out most counties have two delegates appointed to the Council. She also reported RC&D is involved with the Friends of the Little Plover River, who received the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation's Water Conservation Organization of the Year award. The award was shared with Roosevelt and Plover-Whiting Elementary schools. Motion by Presley, second by Jacowski to accept the report. Motion carried by voice vote.

**c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (Presley/Jacowski-Alternate)**– The Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) Annual Conference will be held at the Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, on December 8 and 9. Bradley will attend.

**d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Guth/Presley-Alternate)** – Rohde reported 16.6 miles of windbreaks were installed in 2011, broken down as follows: Adams County – 10,576 feet; Langlade County – just under one mile; Portage County – 48,762 feet; Waushara County – 23,550 feet. Other projects included a windbreak renovation in Portage County, installation of fabric on a landowner planted windbreak, additional fabric, tree, and shrub sales, and seeding projects. Rohde is currently working on windbreak sales for 2012 and collecting remaining payments for 2011 projects. He will set up the CWWP display at the WLWCA Annual Conference, and will attend the Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees (WALCE) Annual Conference the end of February. Bradley asked about a potential seeding project for the County near Amherst. Rohde stated the project area was a highway drainage basin, covering 7-8 acres. It was determined that the CWWP's equipment would not work on the site. However, the representative from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offered to direct other projects that could be completed by the CWWP. Rohde feels having a broadcast seeder and/or sprayer for the 4-wheeler might open up more seeding projects. The next CWWP Board meeting is December 19. A replacement for Guth must be appointed for the CWWP Board. This will take place at the January LCC meeting.

**e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien)** – O'Brien attended the Annual Meeting on November 16 at the Buena Vista Town Hall. There are officially 53,000 acres in the Drainage District, of which 43,000 acres are charged assessments. Assessment fees will remain the same for 2012. Maintenance projects for 2012 include: Level spoil banks, Ditch 1 restoration, lateral restorations, and spraying ditches for aquatic vegetation. The proposed budget for 2012 was discussed. Motion by Presley, second by Guth to accept the report. Motion carried by voice vote.

**f. Mill Creek Watershed (O'Brien)** – No meeting.

**g. Little Plover River (O'Brien)** – The next meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2012.

#### 8. Portage County Conservation/Wildlife Update

Chojnowski distributed copies of Wisconsin conservation and articles regarding: The State's smallest owl; Figures on hunters for opening weekend - 54,000 were women, all 50 states were represented and 71 hunters from foreign countries; The changes in the DNR Board; The DNR Secretary and Deputy Secretary; 15 plants and animals may be removed from the endangered species list; Assembly Bill 24 regarding shoreline protection; and Wisconsin

mining laws. Karcheski mentioned a Town of Linwood man who has been banding owls for many years. Chojnowski said he may miss the next couple of meetings.

9. Discussion/Possible Action – Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) Cost Share Carryover

Bradley explained remaining 2011 cost share funds will be carried over to 2012 in the amount of \$7,482.86 for a wetland restoration project for Jim Vitort. Motion by Jacowski, second by Karcheski to approve carryover funds. Motion carried voice vote.

10. Discussion/Possible Action – Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Staffing Grant Resolution

Bradley explained that during budget preparation, the LCD staffing grant for 2012 was estimated to receive a 5% cut. When DATCP released actual figures recently, the cut ends up at nearly 16%, approximately \$15,000 short of the amount budgeted. Bradley made the County Executive and the Finance Director aware of the shortage. DATCP has \$1.1 million in Segregated (SEG) funds planned for nutrient management cost sharing. Efforts are being made by the WLWCA to encourage DATCP to transfer the \$1.1 million in SEG funds to help fill the gap for staffing grants. Interested landowners can apply for cost sharing for nutrient management through the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). Wiza feels it is important to try to meet the budgeted revenues for 2012. If the SEG funds are not transferred, Bradley said he is unsure how the revenue deficit will be handled by the county. Bradley received a letter addressed to Governor Walker, drafted by WLWCA, which asks counties to support the SEG fund transfer. If the LCC does not agree with the transfer, nothing needs to be done. If the LCC supports the transfer, they can sign the letter and/or adopt the resolution and forward to the County Board. Motion by Jacowski, second by Guth, not to support the resolution. Wiza explained an aye vote signifies not in favor of the resolution. Motion carried, Guth, Jacowski, Karcheski, O'Brien voting aye, Presley and Wiza voting nay. Wiza asked Bradley for a copy of the draft WLWCA letter.

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

Since none of the LCC members are attending the Annual Conference, the proxy authorizes Bradley to vote on behalf of the LCC on resolutions. Motion by O'Brien, second by Jacowski, to approve the voting proxy. Motion carried by voice vote.

12. Discussion/Possible Action – WLWCA Resolutions

The LCC instructed Bradley to vote as follows:

Resolution #1 – Regarding Reduction of Agriculture Phosphorus Loading to Green Bay and Lake Michigan. Motion by Jacowski, second by Presley not to support Resolution #1. Bradley summarized the resolution mandates that farmers with land draining to Green Bay and the Fox River receiving Federal farm subsidies and CAFOs (large farms) will be forced into nutrient management. Jacowski feels in order for government to make requirements, science must be available to support regulations. Also, he is not familiar with farmers' abilities and inabilities in that area, and does not feel comfortable making decisions that affect them. Motion carried, Guth, Jacowski, Karcheski, Presley, and O'Brien voting aye, and Wiza voting nay.

Resolution #2 – Retain Agricultural Classification on Lands Enrolled in the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). Bradley explained that lands enrolled in the WRP may not be classified as agriculture use value and may be assessed at the higher recreation use tax rate. Under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), wetland restorations retain the

agriculture use value. Motion by Jacowski, second by Wiza to support Resolution #2. Motion carried by voice vote.

Resolution #3 – Requesting Increased Resources Be Directed to Prevent Asian Carp From Spreading to Inland Watersheds Through the St. Croix and Wisconsin River Systems. Motion by Jacowski, second by Karcheski to support Resolution #3. Motion carried by voice vote.

Resolution #4 – Requesting Changes Be Made to Conservation Practice Standards Incorporating Recommended Adaptations for Climate Change. Bradley explained the USDA-NRCS sets design and engineering specifications for conservation practices. The resolution encourages the NRCS to reevaluate their engineering specifications to handle larger storm events. Motion by Presley, second by Wiza to support Resolution #4. Motion carried by voice vote.

Resolution #5 – Support Merging WLWCA with WALCE and the Repeal and Recreation of the WLWCA Bylaws. Motion by Presley, second by O'Brien to approve Resolution #5. Motion carried by voice vote.

### 13. Watershed Projects

**a. Updates** – No update.

**b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts** – Bradley requested a contract approval for Jim Vitort's wetland restoration project, with cost sharing in the amount of \$7,482.84. Motion by Wiza, second by Jacowski to approve the cost share contract. Motion carried by voice vote.

### 14. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for January 3, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. in Conference Room 5, County Annex.

### 15. Adjournment

Wiza adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dale O'Brien, Secretary