

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Conference Room 5, County Annex
Stevens Point, WI 54481
January 3, 2012

Members present: Barry Jacowski, Dale O'Brien, Mike Wiza, Carl Karcheski

Members absent: Jeff Presley, Roger Bacon

Others present: Melissa Knipfel, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Jennifer Glad, Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (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 5:00 p.m. by Chair Wiza.

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

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of December 6, 2011

Benedict noted a correction in the Conservation Wildlife Update, end of page 2, beginning of page 3. The portion reading "and Act 21 regarding mining." is corrected to read "Wisconsin mining laws." Motion by Karcheski, second by Jacowski to approve minutes as amended. Motion carried by voice vote.

Karcheski noted the name of the man he referred to at the last meeting who has been banding owls is Gene Jacobs at the Linwood Springs Research Station. Website - www.raptorresearch.com, phone – 715-347-7998. Jacobs studies owls and hawks.

3. Correspondence

Bradley distributed materials regarding the 2012 Prairie Chicken Festival, April 13-15, on behalf of Sharon Schwab, Central Wisconsin Grassland Coordinator, Golden Sands RC&D.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20111027 and 20111049 were reviewed. Special meeting attendance approval was given for Cathy Guth, attending the Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners Board meeting on December 19, 2011 at the Hancock Ag Research Station.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Knipfel reported the first round deadline for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) signup is January 13. Any applications received after that date will be considered in the second pool. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) signup deadlines are February 3. Knipfel announced Bill Ebert retired as of December 30. Ebert was formerly the Golden Sands RC&D Coordinator, and most recently worked in the NRCS offices assisting with various projects. Seven applications, covering over 2,500 acres, have been submitted for the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP). The GRP is an easement program. Applications are accepted locally and ranked at the State office in Madison. Portage County applications usually rank high.

6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No plans presented.

7. Committee Representative Reports

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

b. Resource Conservation & Development (Vacant) – Glad reported a promotional video titled “A Spring Grassland Celebration” was produced about prairie chickens and can be viewed on YouTube. Another promotional video will begin production January 10, specifically featuring Golden Sands RC&D, to make people aware of who they are, what they do, and how to get involved. A publicist is helping with the 40th anniversary plans. Year end projects are being wrapped up, as well as reporting and finalizing field work. Wiza suggested providing the Stevens Point Convention and Visitors Bureau with copies of the videos.

c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (Presley/Jacowski-Alternate)– Bradley reported on the voting results for the resolutions at the annual conference. He stated 54 counties were present and eligible to vote. Resolution #1 – Regarding Reduction of Agriculture Phosphorus Loading to Green Bay and Lake Michigan – Passed 35-16. Resolution #2 – Retain Agricultural Classification on Lands Enrolled in the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) – Passed 52-2. Resolution #3 – Requesting Increased Resources Be Directed to Prevent Asian Carp From Spreading to Inland Watersheds Through the St. Croix and Wisconsin River Systems – Passed unanimously. Resolution #4 – Requesting Changes Be Made to Conservation Practice Standards Incorporating Recommended Adaptations for Climate Change – Passed with 11 opposed. Resolution #5 – Support Merging WLWCA with WALCE and the Repeal and Recreation of the WLWCA Bylaws – Passed with two opposed. A floor resolution was presented opposing further cuts to land conservation staffing grants. Bradley abstained as the LCC was not able to discuss and provide direction. Bradley noted the floor resolution passed unanimously. Bradley attended a session on frac sand issues.

d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Vacant/Presley-Alternate) – No report.

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

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

g. Little Plover River (O’Brien) – The next meeting is scheduled in March.

8. Portage County Conservation/Wildlife Update

Chojnowski did not attend.

9. Discussion/Possible Action – Appointment of Golden Sands RC&D Delegate(s) and Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners Representative

Motion by O’Brien, second by Karcheski to postpone until the February meeting. Motion carried by voice vote. Glad stated two representatives can be appointed to the Council.

10. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – Jim Vitort’s wetland restoration project is scheduled to begin in January.

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

11. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for February 7, tentative starting time is 5:00 p.m.

12. Adjournment

Wiza adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at February 7, 2012 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
February 7, 2012

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

Others present: Barry Benson, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services; Jennifer Glad, Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development; Jeff Schuler, Planning and Zoning Director; Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land Conservation Division.

1. Call to Order

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

Wiza introduced Roger Bacon, Farm Service Agency representative.

2. At Approximately 6:00 p.m. Adjourn into Closed Session as Specified in Section 19.85(1)(c) of the Wisconsin Statutes to Discuss Performance Evaluation of the County Conservationist

Motion by O'Brien, second by Jacowski to adjourn into Closed Session. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

3. At Approximately 6:15 p.m. Return to Open Session for Action on Above Performance Evaluation

Motion by Jacowski, second by Presley to return to Open Session. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Motion by Wiza, second by Karcheski to approve the performance evaluation of the County Conservationist as amended. Motion carried by voice vote.

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

4. Review/Approval – Minutes of January 3, 2012

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

5. Correspondence

Wiza noted the Thursday Note was included in meeting packets. Bradley explained in May, 2011, a letter was mailed to participants in the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP). Land Conservation staff is responsible for certifying that participants meet the criteria for the State's soil and water conservation performance standards, which includes requiring a nutrient management plan. Participants were asked to contact the Land Conservation office to schedule an onsite farm compliance check by the end of October 2011. A second letter was mailed recently to participants that did not respond, along with a Notice of Noncompliance, informing them they are no longer eligible to claim FPP tax credits. The Notice of Noncompliance gives participants an opportunity to appear before the LCC to appeal and request a chance to bring the farm into compliance, and reinstate their eligibility to claim FPP tax credits. For the participants that have responded so far, Land Conservation staff determined they may meet compliance requirements. Of the remaining people that have not responded, Bradley believes some may not actually be claiming the credits. Others may find that the nutrient management plan requirement may cost more than the credits they receive and they may voluntarily opt out of the FPP. The March LCC meeting agenda will include hearings for anyone wishing to appeal their noncompliant status. After the meeting, the Notices of Noncompliance will be forwarded to the Department of Revenue.

Bradley reported he received an email on the status of the scarifier. The LCC approved providing a portion of the funding. The rest of the funding has been secured and building of the equipment can begin.

Wiza asked Bradley to express concerns from the LCC regarding the timeframe for building and when the scarifier will be available for use.

Bradley distributed information on the Prairie Chicken Festival.

6. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20120031, 20120074, and purchases were reviewed.

7. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

No report.

8. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No plans presented.

9. Committee Representative Reports

- a. **Lakes Management District (Presley)** – Presley reported a meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 8 regarding the McDill dam. Wiza stated the City of Stevens Point Plan Commission approved two dredging operations on McDill Pond. Karcheski said the spoils from past dredgings were stockpiled and were contaminated with nitrates. He stated the spoils are now being land spread near Rocky Run Creek in the Town of Linwood, which has raised concerns. Wiza suggested contacting the Planning and Zoning Department with the concerns.
- b. **Resource Conservation & Development (Vacant)** – Wiza stated a replacement is needed for Cathy Guth. Jennifer Glad reported Guth is now an at large member on the RC&D Council and remains as treasurer. Bacon and Jacowski said they would accept appointments. Wiza appointed Bacon as the primary representative and Jacowski as alternate, with the consensus of the LCC. Glad noted the RC&D Council has discussed having one delegate that must be an LCC or County Board member, and the alternate may be an appointment made by the LCC. Glad also reported RC&D is offering aquatic invasive species (AIS) classroom lessons to 5th grade classes in five counties and have received a good response. They plan to write a Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) grant to fund similar classroom lessons on groundwater in Portage County. An AIS grant has been submitted to the State to continue the five county AIS program. The grant funds LTEs to monitor boat landings, and staff working specifically on AIS issues. RC&D is working with Marathon County LCD to present the 5th annual Heart of Wisconsin Grazing Conference on March 8 at the Stoney Creek Inn, Rothschild. The event is open to the public for a minimal registration fee, which includes lunch. RC&D is working with the Portage County Land Preservation Fund (LPF), using a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and DNR Land Acquisition Grant, to purchase 70 acres in the Town of Carson. Golden Sands RC&D proposes to contribute 25%, the LPF 25%, and the State 50%. Bradley added the LPF and DNR will not exceed the appraised value for the purchase price.
- c. **North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (Presley/Jacowski-Alternate)**– No report.
- d. **Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Vacant/Presley-Alternate)** – Jacowski agreed to accept the appointment, made by Wiza with the consensus of the LCC.
- e. **Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien)** – O'Brien referred to the article in the Thursday Note regarding appointment of Drainage District boards, which are currently, made by the Circuit Court. O'Brien sent an email stating Portage County has the largest drainage district in the State. The system in place works well and he requested not making any changes.
- f. **Mill Creek Watershed (O'Brien)** – No report.
- g. **Little Plover River (O'Brien)** – The next meeting is scheduled for March.

10. Wisconsin Conservation Congress Update

Chojnowski was not in attendance. He emailed Wiza asking if the LCC wants him to continue providing reports. The LCC agreed they look forward to the reports.

11. Discussion/Possible Action – 2011 Wildlife Damage Claims

Benson distributed copies of the Wildlife Damage summary with the names of the 2011 participants and explained the program. Of the eight participants with payable claims, four names were highlighted, not meeting the total harvest objective – Albert Kaminski, Michael Omernik, Tony Kruzicki, and Leonard Wiza. Benson explained Kaminski kept a log book, which is a requirement of the program, and a good effort was made. Omernik, Kruzicki, and Wiza did not keep log books. Benson recommended an exemption for Kaminski, and denial of claims for the other three. Motion by Presley, second by Jacowski to approve Benson’s recommendations. Motion carried by voice vote. Benson noted 117 deer were shot using ag tags and the total payable claim is a bit over \$15,000. Benson offered to do a thorough presentation on the Wildlife Damage Program at the March LCC meeting.

12. Discussion/Possible Action – Conservation Camp Scholarships

Benedict distributed brochures for the two camps. In past years, the LCC has approved \$100 to be offered as scholarships. This year, the camp for students entering grades 9, 10, and 11 will be held at Trees for Tomorrow, Eagle River. The early bird registration, by May 25, is \$175, and \$200 thereafter. The fee for the Sand Lake Conservation Camp increased to \$55 per camper. Motion by O’Brien, second by Jacowski to offer \$110 for two scholarships to the Sand Lake Conservation Camp. Motion carried by voice vote. Benedict will send information on the Trees for Tomorrow camp, but will indicate scholarships are not offered. If necessary, a lottery will take place at the May LCC meeting to choose two scholarship recipients.

13. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – Bradley said preliminary word on the applications for Ed Lein’s and Zoromski Farms’ manure storage Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) grants is that Lein’s will be funded, but Zoromski’s did not make the cut. Official word should be coming in February. Lein’s project can begin in spring. Vitort’s wetland restoration project will begin in February.

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

14. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for March 6 at 6:30 p.m.

15. Adjournment

Wiza adjourned the meeting at 7:10 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 6, 2012

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

Others present: Melissa Knipfel, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service; Barry Benson, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services; Steve Bradley, Randy Slagg, and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land Conservation Division; Brandi Makieski, Stevens Point City-Times.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 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. Discussion/Possible Action – Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) Notice of Noncompliance with Soil and Water Conservation Requirements Hearings

A packet of FPP forms and information was distributed to members. No one appeared for a hearing. Slagg said there were various responses to the notices mailed. Some called to rectify their situation. Those who are no longer interested in participating and those who have not responded will have Notice of Noncompliance forms forwarded to DATCP and the Department of Revenue. Landowners can re-enter the program as new participants, which requires a nutrient management plan, farm review, and certificate of compliance from the LCD to become eligible for the next tax year. Some landowners believe the FPP is not worth the time and expense for the tax credit they receive.

3. Review/Approval – Minutes of February 7, 2012

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

4. Correspondence

Bradley received a response from Lyle Eiden, DNR Forester, to the question regarding the delay in constructing the scarifier. The delay is partially due to the contractor's schedule, and because the anchor chain portion of the scarifier comes from a ship anchor and is not easily obtained or transported. Eiden said the Waupaca County Forester believes the scarifier should be completed this summer and available in the fall.

Bradley reported the 2012 DATCP staffing grant allocation has been set. The effort to transfer funds from the nutrient management program to staffing grants failed. For 2012, the LCD budgeted a 5% decrease from 2011, but the actual shortage is close to 14%, or \$12,000. Bradley has made Jeff Schuler, Planning and Zoning Director, Jennifer Jossie, Finance Director, and the County Executive aware of the situation. Bradley said Schuler may look to cover a portion if there is underspending in the P&Z Department budget. Jacowski said an option may be to reduce hours. Wiza said another option is to request contingency funds.

Wiza passed around a list of programs available at Schmeekle Reserve. He also passed around letters from RC&D regarding the programs planned for their 40th anniversary celebration in 2012 and a listing of officers, committee chairs, and members.

5. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20120121 and 20120163, and purchases were reviewed. Presley suggested looking into a less expensive telephone, email, and internet provider for the CWWP.

6. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Knipfel reported the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) signups were completed in January and February. Twenty two applications were received and ranked. Twenty have been preapproved for funding of just over \$100,000 in Portage County, and landowners are coming in to complete contracts. Practices include grazing, windbreaks, cropland practices, and management plans. A couple of farmstead applications, which compete with the northeast area, have lower rankings and have not been preapproved. Farmstead funding is questionable. Knipfel has been working with Bradley and the LCD on a proposal for the National Water Quality Initiative, which utilizes 5% of Wisconsin EQIP funds to focus on impaired waters. The proposal for Portage County includes middle and lower Mill Creek. Knipfel stated a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) signup will start March 12 through April 6, 2012.

7. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No plans presented.

8. Committee Representative Reports

a. Lakes Management District (Presley) – Presley reported the McDill Protection and Rehabilitation District held a meeting and reviewed and approved a post dam repair maintenance contract with the City of Stevens Point for cost sharing. Liability insurance was discussed. Another meeting is scheduled later in the week.

b. Resource Conservation & Development (Bacon/Jacowski-Alternate) – The next meeting is Thursday, March 15.

c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (Presley/Jacowski-Alternate)– Bradley reported the members of the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation (WLWCA) and Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees (WALCE) voted at their respective annual meetings to merge the two associations.

d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Jacowski/Presley-Alternate) – The next meeting is April 10.

e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien) – O'Brien reported a hearing was held in Madison regarding changing the authority to appoint drainage district commissioners from the circuit courts to LCCs. He was unsure of the outcome.

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

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

9. Wisconsin Conservation Congress Update

No report. Chojnowski may return in April.

10. USDA-APHIS Wildlife Damage Program Report

Benson distributed handouts and explained the history and requirements of the Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP). The program was created in 1931 and modified in 1983. The WDACP is conducted under State Statute 29.889 and WI Administrative Code NR 12. All responsibilities under the WDACP are regulated by the Technical Manual, which Benson passed around. The Technical Manual is reviewed yearly and updated as needed. Benson said 49 counties contract with WDACP currently. The remaining counties either have staff, or contract with someone to administer the program. LCCs decide whether or not to participate. The county enters into a five year contract, which can be terminated by the DNR, WDACP, or the county with 30 days notice. The WDACP provides damage prevention and assistance, and partial compensation to farmers who experience wildlife damage to their agricultural crops. Ag crops must be commercial to be eligible for the program. Program funding comes from a \$2 surcharge added to hunting licenses and the \$12 bonus antlerless tag fee. To be eligible, a farmer must own the crop, have hunting access control, notify the county damage specialist within 14 days

of damage occurring (for claims eligibility), notify county damage specialist at least 10 days prior to harvest for appraisal, follow prescribed abatement – fencing, repellents, shooting permit, and follow hunter access rules. Species must be huntable to be covered – deer, bear, geese, turkey, and elk, which was recently added. Benson reviewed specific rules for each species. There are several options for deer damage. Enrollees in the full program can opt for shooting permits and must allow hunting access – either managed hunting (2 hunters per 40 acres of huntable land), or open hunting (no limit on number of hunters). Hunter logbooks must be kept. Harvest objectives must be met by certain dates, but exemptions may be granted if their logbook shows efforts were made. A shooting permit only option, which does not require allowing hunting access, is available for enrollees who waive their right to compensation. WDACP will cost share 75% of the cost to install an 8 foot woven wire deer fence. A 15 year contract is signed by all parties to ensure the fence will be properly maintained and used to keep deer out of ag crops. The penalty assessed for failure to meet harvest objectives is denial of that year’s damage claim. Hunter access denial is investigated by the technician and if valid, the enrollee loses the current year’s claim and cannot participate in the program the following year. Benson explained the deer shooting permit and hunter access requirements of the program. Counties have the list of WDACP participants, which are also available on the DNR website. Claims are determined by the County Damage Specialist, who does an appraisal in accordance with the Technical Manual. Crop prices are determined by LCCs. A \$500 deductible is applied to claims less than \$5,000. Over \$5,000, a \$500 deductible is applied and 80% of the remaining amount is paid. The maximum claim per enrollee is \$10,000. Areas that do not allow hunting, i.e. within city or village limits, can participate in the WDACP. Shooting permits are not issued, but other methods can be used. Bears causing nonagricultural damage can be trapped and relocated with DNR nuisance funds. Funding for wolf investigations, trapping, monitoring, etc., comes from DNR Endangered Resource funds and/or Federal funds if available. Benson noted Brandon Stefanski replaced Greg Dahl, who retired.

11. Watershed Projects

- a. **Updates** – Vitort’s wetland restoration project may be delayed until July.
- b. **Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts** – No cost share contracts presented.

12. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for April 3 at 6:30 p.m.

13. Adjournment

Wiza adjourned the meeting at 7:40 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
April 3, 2012

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

Others present: Bob Chojnowski, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation; Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land Conservation Division.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 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 registered to speak.

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of March 6, 2012

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

3. Correspondence

Wiza received a notice of intent to reissue Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit for the City of Stevens Point. The notice was published in the Stevens Point Journal.

Bradley received a letter from the DNR Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP), making the LCC aware they are sending letters informing participants of an opportunity to enroll in the Voluntary Public Access program. The DNR is attempting to increase public access for hunting and fishing. Landowners are offered \$3 per acre for agricultural land, \$10 per acre for grassland and wetland, and \$15 per acre for forest land to open the property for public hunting and fishing. A copy of the letter will be scanned and emailed to LCC members.

(Bacon arrived.)

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20120212 and 20120239 and a purchase in the amount of \$9.45 were reviewed. Special meeting attendance was approved for: Bacon attending the Golden Sands RC&D Council meeting on March 15 at the County Annex; O'Brien attending the Little Plover River Workgroup meeting on March 28 at the County Annex; and Wiza attending the Wisconsin River Water Quality Symposium on March 29 at the UWSP Alumni Room.

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 (Presley) – No report.

b. Resource Conservation & Development (Bacon/Jacowski-Alternate) – Bacon attended the March 15 meeting. The 2011 Golden Sands RC&D Highlights publication was passed around. Bacon mentioned the upcoming Prairie Chicken Festival. There are also various fundraisers being planned for RC&D's 40th anniversary observance. Information is posted on the RC&D website.

c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (Presley/Jacowski-Alternate)– No meeting.

d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Jacowski/Presley-Alternate) – The next meeting is April 10. Bradley noted the Portage County Finance Department has suggested the CWWP file for tax exempt status. The CWWP will discuss and possibly take action at their meeting.

e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien) – O'Brien reported Assembly Bill 528 has failed.

f. Mill Creek Watershed (O'Brien) – The Annual Meeting is April 10 at 4:30 in Conference Room 5, County Annex.

g. Little Plover River (O'Brien) – O'Brien attended the March 28 meeting. Flows are up to around 6 cubic feet per second (cfs). Discussion took place regarding a conservation project south of the Little Plover River. At meeting in February, the Land Preservation Fund (LPF) Committee approved pursuing acquisition of the land and will provide one half of the funds. A DNR Stewardship grant for the remaining half has not been approved yet. Bradley added a scoring sheet is being developed by the LPF Committee to prioritize potential projects.

8. Wisconsin Conservation Congress Update

Chojnowski distributed handouts. Included were: Various articles regarding the mining bill; the spring hearings to be held Monday, April 9 at Ben Franklin Junior High. Chojnowski offered copies of the questionnaire; a parasite that may be causing honey bees to die; a two walleye limit for spearing; and an article written by Paul Skawinski, Golden Sands RC&D. On Wisconsin Outdoors and Wisconsin Conservation publications were also distributed. Karcheski noted Gene Jacobs, Linwood Springs Raptors, found a hawk had returned to nest in an area that was logged by New Page last year.

(Agenda item 10 was moved up.)

10. Discussion/Possible Action – DNR/DATCP Grant Application

Bradley presented the annual staffing and cost share grant application. Requested are: \$240,390 for the staffing grant, (just under \$115,000 is allocated for 2012); \$150,000 for a Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) grant for manure storage for Karl Wogsland; and \$100,000 for Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) cost sharing, (approximately \$60,000 is allocated for 2012). Motion by Jacowski, second by Bacon to approve the DNR/DATCP Grant Application. Motion carried by voice vote. Wiza signed the application.

Wiza left the meeting. Vice Chair Jacowski chaired the remainder of the meeting.

9. Discussion/Possible Action – Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) Notices of Noncompliance

A list of landowners receiving a notice of noncompliance, and those who voluntarily opted out, was distributed. Motion by Presley, second by Karcheski, to approve the FPP Notice of Noncompliance list. Motion carried by voice vote. The notices will be signed by Chair Wiza. The original Notice of Noncompliance is forwarded to the Department of Revenue and copies to the landowner and the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP).

11. Discussion/Possible Action – Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Grant Applications

Bradley proposed submitting a grant application to the DNR in the amount of \$150,000 for Karl Wogsland, Town of Amherst, for a manure storage project. Applications are ranked statewide.

Motion by Presley, second by O'Brien to approve a TRM grant application for Karl Wogsland.
Motion carried by voice vote.

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

Bradley stated just over \$60,000 is allocated for cost sharing conservation projects. Approximately \$42,000 is requested to cost share windbreaks at 70%. A small livestock fencing project and roof gutters proposed for Robert Jinsky and a fencing project and alternative livestock watering for Dave Stuczynski are estimated to use \$10,000. There may be interest for the remaining cost share funds for wetland restoration projects in the Mill Creek area. Cost share contracts with dollar amounts will be presented to the LCC for approval prior to projects beginning. Motion by Bacon, second by Karcheski to approve the cost share projects as presented by Bradley. Motion carried, no one opposed, O'Brien abstained.

13. Discussion/Possible Action – Poster and Speaking Contests

Motion by Presley, second by Karcheski to hold the poster and speaking contests in Fall 2012.
Motion carried by voice vote.

14. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – Regarding Vitort's wetland restoration project, Bradley said there is an issue because Vitort cleaned a ditch without prior approval. Vitort must work with various agencies to resolve the issue. Bradley will report again at the next meeting.

b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts – Bradley presented a cost share contract for Ed Lein for a TRM grant in the amount of \$150,000. The total project cost is estimated at \$285,000 for approximately eight months of storage. Bradley explained they must have at least six months storage to avoid winter spreading in order to receive cost sharing. Another issue Bradley noted is that NRCS manure storage standards now require six inches of concrete instead of five previously, and 2.5:1 side slopes instead of 2:1, which has driven up construction costs, and is not necessary to provide structural integrity. Bradley suggested the LCC may want to oppose these standard requirements. Motion by O'Brien, second by Bacon, to approve Lein's cost share contract. Motion carried by voice vote.

15. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room 5, County Annex.

16. Adjournment

Motion by O'Brien, second by Karcheski, to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at May 1, 2012 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

/Barry Jacowski/ Chair

/Bo DeDeker/ Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Conference Room 5, County Annex
Stevens Point, WI 54481
May 1, 2012

Members present: Roger Bacon, Bo DeDeker, Leif Erickson, Allen Haga, Jr., Barry Jacowski, Dale O'Brien

Others present: Bob Chojnowski, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation; Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land Conservation Division.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Steve Bradley.

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

Bradley called for nominations for Chair. Haga nominated Jacowski. Bradley called three times for further nominations. There being no further nominations, motion by Haga, second by DeDeker to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Jacowski. Motion carried by voice vote, no one opposed.

Jacowski called for nominations for Vice Chair. Jacowski nominated O'Brien. Jacowski called three times for further nominations. There being no further nominations, motion by Bacon, second by Haga to cast a unanimous ballot for O'Brien. Motion carried by voice vote, no one opposed.

Jacowski called for nominations for Secretary. Jacowski nominated DeDeker. Jacowski called three times for further nominations. There being no further nominations, motion by Haga, second by Bacon to cast a unanimous ballot for DeDeker. Motion carried by voice vote, no one opposed.

3. Appointment of Committee Representatives

Bradley provided brief descriptions and meeting schedules for the committees. The following appointments were made by Chair Jacowski and consensus of the LCC, unless otherwise noted:

- a. Lakes Management District - The County Executive appointed Erickson.
- b. Resource Conservation & Development – Haga and Bacon were appointed.
- c. North Central Area Land & Water Conservation Association – Jacowski was appointed as the primary representative and DeDeker as the alternate.
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners – Jacowski was appointed as the primary representative, and Erickson as the alternate.
- e. Portage County Drainage District – O'Brien was appointed as the primary representative, and Bacon as the alternate.
- f. Mill Creek Watershed – Erickson was appointed as the primary representative, and O'Brien as the alternate.
- g. Little Plover River Work Group – Haga was appointed as the primary representative, and DeDeker as the alternate.

Bradley noted changes can be made to appointments if necessary.

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. No one registered to speak.

4. Review/Approval – Minutes of April 3, 2012

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

5. Correspondence

Included in the packets were the Thursday Note and information on the deer donation program. Bradley distributed a flyer on behalf of Sharon Schwab, Golden Sands RC&D Central Wisconsin Grassland Coordinator, for the Prairie Chicken Festival. The date for next year's festival is April 12-14, 2013.

6. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Bradley noted he will look into less expensive phone and internet service for the CWWP. Voucher approval numbers 20120282 and 20120317 were reviewed. Motion by Haga, second by Erickson to place vouchers on file. Motion carried by voice vote. Special meeting attendance approval was given for O'Brien attending the Friends of Mill Creek Annual Meeting on April 10 at the County Annex.

7. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report

Melissa Knipfel, District Conservationist, was unable to attend, but provided a written report. Bradley explained the NRCS, and some of the programs and practices they administer. Motion by Bacon, second by Haga to accept the written report. Motion carried by voice vote.

8. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No plans presented.

9. Committee Representative Reports

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

b. Resource Conservation & Development (Haga/Bacon) – Bacon reported RC&D has redesigned their website and a promotional video has gone live on You Tube. Their programs include regional Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), managed intensive grazing, Stevens Point neighborhood gardens, the Central Wisconsin Grassland Conservation Area. In support of the prairie chickens, Central Waters will be brewing a Booming Brew Ale. Bradley will show the You Tube video at the next meeting.

c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (Jacowski/DeDeker-Alternate)– Bradley reported the annual meeting is Friday, June 8 in Antigo. If anyone is interested in attending, contact Benedict by May 31. Bradley will attend.

d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Jacowski/Erickson-Alternate) – Bradley attended the April 10 meeting. The Board approved expenses to pursue tax exempt status for the CWWP. However, since the meeting took place, Bradley has been in contact with Portage County's Finance Director, who mentioned the possibility of unincorporating the CWWP and setting up a different arrangement with the five partner counties. He will report further at the next LCC meeting. Over 17 miles of windbreaks are planned for 2012, mostly in Portage County.

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

f. Mill Creek Watershed (Erickson/O'Brien) – Erickson reported the Friends of Mill Creek (FOMC) Annual Meeting took place jointly with the Friends of the Little Plover River (FOLPR) on April 10. The groups discussed how to create interest and build membership. The FOLPR partially focuses on information and education. FOMC's main focuses are preventing surface water contamination and improving water quality. The FOLPR sponsors the Little Plover River Appreciation Day, which features educational stations for fourth grade students emphasizing various water issues. Erickson said water quantity has increased in the Little Plover River since the closing of the mill.

g. Little Plover River (Haga/DeDeker) – No report.

10. Portage County Conservation/Wildlife Update

Chojnowski distributed copies of Wisconservation and recent news articles regarding: Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in northern Wisconsin; a 240 pound sturgeon netted that was born in 1887; crane hunting; why wetlands are important; the resignation of a Conservation Congress member; Conservation Congress Spring hearings; where your Wisconsin tax dollars go; and reformulated gasoline. Haga commented on the amount of damage cranes can do. Bradley said cranes are not a huntable species and crop damage cannot be claimed through the Wildlife Damage Program. Chojnowski offered pamphlets for the McKenzie Center, near Poynette.

11. Review 2012 Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) Grant Contract

Bradley reported 2012 SWRM grant funding from the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is as follows: Staff - \$114,743; Cost Sharing for conservation practices - \$60,242.

12. Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plan 2011 Accomplishments

Bradley explained the Land Conservation Division (LCD) expended approximately \$756,000 on LCD activities, and brought in approximately \$569,000 in grant revenues, utilizing approximately \$187,000 of County tax levy. The 2011 staffing grant was \$133,653. Bradley noted for 2012, only \$114,743 will be allocated for staff, a 14% decrease. Because figures were not available from DATCP during the budget process, a 5% decrease was budgeted. The Finance Department and County Executive have been made aware of the approximately \$12,000 projected revenue deficit. Land Conservation is a division under the Planning and Zoning Department, and when six month budget projections are done in late summer, we should have an idea whether part, or all, of the deficit can be absorbed within the Planning and Zoning Department budget. A contingency fund request may be necessary. DeDeker asked whether the lapse in funding is one time, or continuing. Bradley said he believes it will be continuing. Returning to the accomplishment report, he stated cost share practices installed/implemented in 2011 were: fencing and watering systems for grazing, windbreaks, wetland restoration, and manure storage abandonment. Bradley's report also included: activities carried out by the Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners; an update on the Portage County Lake Study projects; the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) control program in cooperation with Golden Sands RC&D; efforts in the Mill Creek watershed; NR 151 agricultural performance standards compliance efforts; nutrient management plan education; installation of a barnyard runoff control and manure storage structure using DNR funding; participation in the Wildlife Damage Program; providing assistance to Planning and Zoning staff with stormwater plan review, nonmetallic mining reclamation plans, and the shoreland zoning ordinance; staff support for the Friends of Mill Creek, Friends of the Little Plover River, Friends of the Tomorrow/Waupaca River, and Land Preservation Fund Committee. Documentation of some accomplishments is being incorporated into the County's geographical information system (GIS).

13. Discussion/Possible Action – Conservation Camp Scholarship Selections

Benedict stated recommendations were received for three Almond-Bancroft sixth grade students. The LCC previously approved \$110 in scholarships, which would cover two students, for the Sand Lake Conservation Camp in Marinette County. Motion by Haga, second by DeDeker to approve an additional scholarship, allowing all three students to attend the camp. There is adequate funding in the Information and Education line item in the budget. Motion carried by voice vote.

14. Stewardship Week Report

Benedict explained the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) publishes educational materials each year in observance of Stewardship Week. Land Conservation offers activity booklets to K-5 teachers in Portage County schools at no charge. Teachers at Sacred Heart School-Custer, Almond-Bancroft, Kennedy, McKinley, McDill, Rosholt, and Boston School Forest requested booklets for their students. Open letters are sent to the Stevens Point Journal and Portage County Gazette. Benedict said the Stevens Point School District will no longer email information to teachers. Photocopies must be provided for distribution to the schools, which increases copy costs. Options to inform Stevens Point teachers will be explored. A suggestion was made to check into using social media, such as Facebook, to advertise programs and events.

15. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – Bradley reported Dan O’Connell, LCD Senior Conservation Technician, is working on the design for the manure storage project at Ed Lein’s, Town of Belmont. After the design is complete, bids can be sent out, and hopefully the project can begin in June. Bradley said the issues regarding NRCS standards for slopes and concrete thickness have not been resolved. He said he may ask the LCC for support in requesting justification from the NRCS for the more stringent requirements. Other options may be to revise the County Animal Manure Storage and Nutrient Management Ordinance, or the landowner can hire a private engineer to review and sign off on the design. The LCC suggested involving Corporation Counsel.

b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts – Bradley presented contracts for windbreaks for Freddie and Kathleen Hart, cost share amount - \$1,699.74, and Isherwood Company LLP, cost share amount - \$7,052.50. Motion by Bacon, second by Erickson to approve the cost share contracts. Motion carried by voice vote.

16. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is Tuesday, June 5 at 6:30 p.m., Conference Room 5, County Annex.

17. Adjournment

Motion by Haga, second by DeDeker to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at June 4, 2012 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

/Barry Jacowski/
Barry Jacowski, Chair

/Bo DeDeker/
Bo DeDeker, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Conference Room 5, County Annex
Stevens Point, WI 54481
June 5, 2012

Members present: Roger Bacon, Bo DeDeker, Leif Erickson, Barry Jacowski, Dale O'Brien

Member excused: Allen Haga Jr.

Others present: Bob Chojnowski, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation; 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 6:30 p.m. by Vice Chair O'Brien.

O'Brien 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 May 1, 2012

(Jacowski arrived at 6:33 p.m.)

Motion by Erickson, second by Bacon to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Correspondence

The Thursday Note was included in members' packets. Bradley read an email from Lyle Eiden, DNR Forester, regarding the completion of construction and arrival of the anchor chain scarifier. The scarifier will be ready to use in the fall of 2012. Photos were passed around. Bradley explained what a scarifier does.

Benedict stated one of the four conservation camp scholarship recipients is unable to attend. Two students have submitted their registrations. If the third student doesn't get his application in by the deadline, there may be only two scholarships used.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20120348, 20120405, and 20120442 were reviewed as well as purchases in the amount of \$10.79 and procurement card charges in the amount of \$384.77. Special meeting attendance approval was given for Leif Erickson attending the Lake Helen Protection and Rehabilitation District meeting at the Central Wisconsin Electric Coop on May 26.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Knipfel could not attend.

6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No conservation plans presented.

7. Committee Representative Reports

a. Lakes Management District (Erickson) – Erickson attended the Lake Helen Protection and Rehabilitation District meeting on May 26. Elections took place. Approximately \$5,500 is

budgeted for weed control, mailings, social gatherings, etc. Erickson estimated 45-50 lake residents attended. Jen McNelly, UWSP, gave an update on the lake management plan. Erickson reported there are problems with Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) spreading on the lake. Thorstenson stated Paul Skawinski (RC&D Regional AIS Education Specialist) is working on a research project with the DNR using weevils more effectively to produce a higher success rate. The weevils can be expensive to purchase and have limited success on some lakes. Thorstenson is also working on a research project with the DNR to develop a simplified method for volunteers to raise their own weevils, which would bring the cost down, but may not be available for a few years. Bradley said weevil's winter survivability seems to be better in undeveloped areas. Part of the efforts of the lake management plans include discouraging residents from mowing to the shoreline, leaving a buffer, filter, and/or leaf litter.

b. Resource Conservation & Development (Haga/Bacon) – Bradley distributed information from Sharon Schwab (Golden Sands RC&D's Central Wisconsin Grassland Conservation Area Coordinator) regarding a book titled "Save the Last Dance, A Story of North American Grassland Grouse". Bradley will ask Schwab for a copy of the book to share at the next LCC meeting. Thorstenson distributed information including RC&D highlights and project overviews from 2011, a new brochure, and a flyer with ticket information for Golden Sands RC&D's 40th Anniversary celebration on August 18 at the Jensen Center, Amherst. She showed the video posted on You Tube. She reported elections took place at the last RC&D Council meeting. All positions remained the same, except a secretary is needed. Thorstenson explained the National Heritage Inventory (NHI) is RC&D's largest contract, employing several DNR staff in Madison. RC&D is the second place contract bid, which is in dispute at this time. The NHI catalogs areas of endangered and threatened species statewide and enters the information into a database. Prior to beginning projects, agencies can check the database so they can proceed appropriately.

c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (Jacowski/DeDeker-Alternate)– The next meeting is June 8 in Antigo. Bradley will attend. Bradley noted the Annual Meeting for the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) will be held jointly with the Fall County Conservationist meeting, October 4-5, 2012 at Hotel Mead, Wisconsin Rapids.

d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Jacowski/Erickson-Alternate) – The next meeting is June 25. Bradley reported he met with the Finance Department Director and Corporation Counsel regarding CWWP's tax status. Their recommendation is to file Dissolution of Articles of Incorporation, reestablish the CWWP as a branch of Portage County government, and enter into an administration agreement with the other four counties. Corporation Counsel is drafting the documents, which will be presented at the June 25 CWWP Board meeting and will eventually go to the County Board.

e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien/Bacon-Alternate) – O'Brien reported Judge Flugaur reappointed Don Hamerski as a Commissioner on the Drainage District Board, taking into consideration a recommendation from the Agriculture and Extension Committee.

f. Mill Creek Watershed (Erickson/O'Brien-Alternate) – No meeting.

g. Little Plover River (Haga/DeDeker-Alternate) – The next meeting is scheduled for October.

8. Wisconsin Conservation Congress Update

Chojnowski distributed copies of Wisconsin Conservation and On Wisconsin Outdoors. Several articles were distributed regarding overspreading of human waste in Waukesha and Jefferson Counties, reactions from two former DNR Secretaries, the current DNR Secretary, and an opinion letter. Other articles included an opinion letter regarding Governor Walker and sportsmen, and the how nuclear fallout from Japan has affected migrating blue fin tuna.

9. Review 2011 Budget

Based on figures provided by the Finance Department, Bradley estimates the 2011 LCD budget to be approximately \$16,818 under the anticipated tax levy. The savings are a result of

employees paying for retirement and funding budgeted for the nutrient management specialist position, which was vacated in April. Bradley noted the vehicle replacement reserve account current balance is approximately \$9,700, and an additional \$2,500 will be added from sale of LCD truck in 2012. Bradley does not expect being able to add to the account as in the past due to budgets tightening. The balance of the reserve account for the AutoCAD subscription is \$3,400.

10. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – Bradley reported the issue regarding concrete specifications for manure pits, which has been discussed at the last couple of LCC meetings, has been resolved. Engineers will allow counties to make decisions. Designs must meet, but do not have to exceed the NRCS standard. Bradley stated the Ed Lein manure storage project is in the design phase. Leins would like to increase the size of the pit, and are considering how to cover the additional costs.

b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts – Bradley presented a cost share contract for a windbreak for the Village of Plover along Interstate 39. Total cost is \$5,712. The SWRM cost share amount at 70% is \$3,998, with the Village of Plover paying \$1,714. Jacowski asked if a living snow fence program was considered. Bradley said he will contact Dan Mahoney (Village of Plover Administrator). Bradley stated he and Rohde met with the former Portage County Highway Commissioner several years ago to discuss planting living snow fences along highways. He was not interested. Bradley said they will approach the current Highway Commissioner. Motion by Bacon, second by O'Brien to approve the cost share contract. Motion carried by voice vote.

Chojnowski stated he would like to work with the LCC and Portage County regarding groundwater concerns resulting from issues such as overspreading of waste and high capacity dairy farming. Jacowski suggested Chojnowski attend the Groundwater Citizens Advisory Committee (GCAC) meetings. Benedict will have the GCAC recording secretary add Chojnowski to the mailing list.

11. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 10, at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room 5, County Annex.

12. Adjournment

Motion by O'Brien, second by Bacon to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at July 10, 2012 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

/Barry Jacowski/
Barry Jacowski, Chair

/Bo DeDeker/
Bo DeDeker, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Conference Room 5, County Annex
Stevens Point, WI 54481
July 10, 2012

Members present: Roger Bacon, Bo DeDeker, Leif Erickson, Allen Haga, Jr., Barry Jacowski, Dale O'Brien

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

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by 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. No public registered to speak.

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of June 5, 2012

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

3. Correspondence

Bradley passed around a notice of the Central Wisconsin Grassland Conservation Area (CWGCA) Partnership Annual Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 31 from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm in Conference Rooms 1 and 2, County Annex. Benedict passed around articles, a picture, and thank you note to the LCC from the Sand Lake Conservation Camp organizers. Two scholarships were used. A survey, "Wisconsin Field Office of the Future", was distributed to LCC members. NRCS has requested LCC members and LCD offices complete and return the survey. Bradley will complete a survey on behalf of LCD staff.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20120485, 20120505, and 20120510 were reviewed, as well as a procurement card purchase.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Knipfel reported their intern, Eleanor Horvath, has been working limited hours. Her last day is July 25. She has written articles on invasive species and technical services provided by NRCS, developed a fact sheet on knapweed, and has helped with field work. Knipfel put up a display at the dairy breakfast at Gordondale Farms and helped with handing out door prizes. She distributed NRCS brochures to LCC members outlining available programs and conservation practices. Because of heavy rains in the spring, a number of landowners experienced washouts and gulleys. Knipfel has been working with some of the landowners promoting grassed waterways. Applications for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) have been received, two for CP-1 Establishment of Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes and three CP-3 existing rollovers. Plans will be presented at the next LCC meeting. The Appleton office is conducting field compliance checks on selected highly erodible land (HEL) and wetland tracts. A field office audit will take place in August/September. Contracts and books will be reviewed and areas for improvement considered. In August, the local work group will meet to discuss Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) priorities and

ranking. At this time, field work includes EQIP and WHIP practice installations and contract reviews. Knipfel explained EQIP and WHIP. She noted no cost share funding was available this year for WHIP.

6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No conservation plans presented.

7. Committee Representative Reports

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

b. Resource Conservation & Development (Haga/Bacon) – The next meeting is July 19.

c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (Jacowski/DeDeker-Alternate)– Bradley attended the Spring meeting on June 8 in Antigo. A presentation was given on the Antigo Flats, designated as an Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA), which is eligible for farmland preservation tax credits. Other updates and presentations were: an update from Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association Executive Director, Jim Vanden Brook; a presentation regarding the State budget process by the Wisconsin Legislative and Fiscal Bureau; presentations from the Wisconsin Geological Survey regarding the impact of high capacity wells on groundwater, and metallic mining; an update from the DNR on frac sand mining; a presentation from the U.S. Forest Service regarding organization of cooperative weed management areas. Bradley said little is being done in this area to address terrestrial invasive species. He talked with RC&D and found that other counties are interested in forming a cooperative, which could apply for grant funding to help landowners control invasive species. Bradley reported the business meeting included election of WLWCA Board members – Tom Rudolph, Oneida County, representing LCCs and Carolyn Scholl, Vilas County, representing LCDs.

d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Jacowski/Erickson-Alternate) – A meeting was held on June 25. Bradley reported approval was given to purchase a smaller used truck, which will save on fuel expenses. A lengthy discussion took place on the NRCS windbreak standard, which does not allow multiple species in a row if cost sharing is used. A majority of CWWP windbreaks have been installed with multiple species, which are effective and preferred by landowners. Bradley said a meeting with NRCS representatives in Madison is needed to reach a compromise. Bradley reported Portage County's Finance Director and Corporation Counsel recommended dissolution of the CWWP as a non stock corporation and entering into an intergovernmental agreement with the partner counties. Portage County will continue to provide administration. The CWWP Board agreed to proceed. Haga stated CWWP Project Manager, Shannon Rohde, appeared at the Highway Commission meeting to promote living snow fences.

e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien/Bacon-Alternate) – O'Brien stated he was unable to attend an emergency meeting called on July 9 to issue permits to allow cattle watering in the ditches. However, Bradley attended the meeting and reported a landowner, who received cost sharing in 2005 to provide an alternative source of water and restrict cattle access to the ditches, said the ponds installed for cattle watering are stagnant and the cattle are not drinking from them. An agreement was reached to allow the landowner to let the cattle in the ditch temporarily. The landowner said he will use the ponds until algae appears and use the ditches only when necessary. Bradley also mentioned that through a Memorandum of Understanding, the Drainage District was to notify DNR and DATCP that they permitted the landowner to use the ditches for cattle watering, but that did not happen. In the future, prior notice is to be given.

f. Mill Creek Watershed (Erickson/O'Brien-Alternate) – No meeting.

g. Little Plover River (Haga/DeDeker-Alternate) – The next meeting is scheduled for October. Bradley noted Barb Feltz, who takes flow readings, reported the flow is down to two cubic feet per second (cfs). Haga estimated Del Monte has discharged between one and two million gallons (of non-contact cooling water) in the corner adjacent to the Little Plover River.

8. Portage County Conservation/Wildlife Update

Chojnowski distributed copies of Wisconsin conservation and various news articles. Chojnowski reported an email from a landowner in a subdivision in Amherst was shared with Bradley. Bradley

explained when the well was installed in 2003, nitrates were between four and five parts per million (ppm). A recent sample showed 22 ppm. The well is located downgradient from a large beef lot. Bradley talked with Ray Schmidt, Portage County Water Quality Specialist, who said the increase cannot be positively linked to the beef lot. Schmidt will take samples from other neighboring wells. Bradley said the groundwater in that area moves east/southeast. He added the DNR may put a tracer in the well. Chojnowski said there are 800 to 1,000 beef on the nearby farm. An operation proposed in Wood County could have 3,500 animals. Chojnowski reviewed the news articles regarding: The wolf hunt proposal. Chojnowski also had a brochure from the Wildlife Federation with further information; a bass tournament, noting mortality rates when water temperatures are above 80 degrees; bats; coyotes and Lyme disease; pollution cases linked to fracking; and the proposal for the large dairy farm in Wood County. Chojnowski is concerned with the drawing of water. Each animal uses approximately 100 gallons per day (an estimated 350,000 gallons per day for the operation in Wood County). Bradley said he received an email from Trout Unlimited with a map of the proposed farm area. He said there are applications for 49 high capacity wells within a pretty small area. Bradley said the Wisconsin Supreme Court has ruled on a case for a large dairy high capacity well, which determined DNR has authority when there is a significant impact on ground and surface waters. Chojnowski said the DNR does not have regulations in place yet.

9. Discussion/Possible Action – Select Poster & Speaking Contest Date

Benedict distributed a calendar with conference room availability in October. For the speaking contest, a room is needed for each of the three divisions. The Area Poster and Speaking Contest is being held on Friday, October 26 at the Wausau School Forest, so the local contest must be prior to that date. A deadline will be set for the poster contest, after which judging will take place. It is not necessary for LCC members to be present for the poster judging, but their representation for the speaking contest is appreciated. After discussion, October 9 was chosen as a tentative date for the speaking contest, as part of the LCC regular meeting.

10. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – Bradley reported the project at Genetic Futures is wrapping up. Cost sharing was not used for the project. O’Connell is working with Lein’s on the manure storage project. It appears the Vitort wetland project will be moving forward.

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

11. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date is Tuesday, August 7 at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room 5, County Annex.

12. Adjournment

Motion by Haga, second by O’Brien to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at August 7, 2012 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

/Barry Jacowski/
Barry Jacowski, Chair

/Bo DeDeker/
Bo DeDeker, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Conference Room 5, County Annex
Stevens Point, WI 54481
August 7, 2012

Members present: Roger Bacon, Bo DeDeker, Leif Erickson, Allen Haga, Jr., Barry Jacowski, Dale O'Brien

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

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by 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. No one registered to speak.

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of July 10, 2012

Benedict said Bob Chojnowski is unable to attend the meeting, but called with a correction to agenda item 8 – Portage County Conservation/Wildlife Update on page three. He indicated each animal uses approximately 100 gallons of water per day, not nine as shown in the minutes. Motion by Bacon, second by Haga to approve minutes as amended. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Correspondence

Bradley distributed copies of the Central Wisconsin Grassland Conservation Area (CWGCA) Partnership newsletter on behalf of Sharon Schwab, Golden Sands RC&D. Bradley reported the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) membership renewal arrived in the amount of \$750. Because the LCD will have revenue shortfall in 2012 due to cuts to the staffing grant, Bradley said letting the membership lapse may be an option to cut expenses. He explained NACD represents and lobbies for conservation districts at the national level. The LCC asked Bradley to gather information on membership benefits for the next meeting.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval number 20120567 and a procurement card purchase were reviewed.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Knipfel distributed and reviewed her written report. She said Eleanor Horvath finished her summer internship on July 31. Because of the drought, their office has been processing emergency haying requests and Compatible Use Authorization requests for Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement sites, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) acres. Threatened and endangered species reviews must be done on all requests. Knipfel explained the percentage of the hay acreage that may be harvested varies depending on the results of the review. They have been able to process the reviews within a one to two day turnaround. Knipfel distributed handouts regarding grazing and/or haying acres enrolled in CRP. Limited acres are available in Portage County. She reported participants must contact NRCS prior to proceeding with grazing or haying to ensure they remain in compliance with program requirements. A special Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) signup is in effect through August 24 for cover crops in drought stricken counties south of Portage County. Knipfel was not sure why Portage County did not qualify.

6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

Knipfel presented CRP forestry roll over plans for Coates Family and Poncho Creek LLC, and emergency

hayng requests on CRP or CREP acres for Golden Acres – 21.1 and 9.4 acres, John Raikowski – 3.7 acres, Carol Sekera – 43.7 acres, Mark Totten – 5.7 acres, Casimir Trzebiatowski – 14 acres, and Laura Zubella – 9.5 and 9.9 acres. Motion by Erickson, second by O'Brien to approve conservation plans. Motion carried by voice vote.

7. Committee Representative Reports

- a. Lakes Management District (Erickson)** – No meetings.
- b. Resource Conservation & Development (Haga/Bacon)** – Bradley attended the July 19 meeting. The 40th anniversary banquet is August 18 at the Jensen Center, Amherst.
- c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (Jacowski/DeDeker-Alternate)**– The summer tour is being held in Wood County on Friday, August 24. Tour stops include Completion Industrial Materials and New Page. The business meeting will take place during lunch. Bradley will attend.
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Jacowski/Erickson-Alternate)** – The next meeting is August 20 at 9:30 a.m. in Hancock.
- e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien/Bacon-Alternate)** – O'Brien reported dredging of Ditch 1 is resuming from last year. They also plan to dredge Green Lateral. A new culvert is needed across a ditch in the Town of Buena Vista.
- f. Mill Creek Watershed (Erickson/O'Brien-Alternate)** – No report.
- g. Little Plover River (Haga/DeDeker-Alternate)** – The next meeting is October 26.

8. Portage County Conservation/Wildlife Update

Chojnowski asked Benedict to report he has seen purple loosestrife patches along the Wisconsin River at Mead Park. Bradley will make sure RC&D is aware of the location.

9. Discussion/Possible Action – Poster and Speaking Contest Date

The contests will take place October 16 at 6:30 p.m. during the Land Conservation Committee meeting. Benedict will send out notifications to schools and youth leaders.

10. Watershed Projects

- a. Updates** – Bradley reported Karl Wogsland's Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) grant application ranked low and is unlikely to be funded. Bradley will contact Wogsland in 2013 to see if he would like to apply again.
- b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts** – No cost share contracts presented.

11. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for September 4 at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room 5, County Annex.

12. Adjournment

Motion by Haga, second by O'Brien to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at September 4, 2012 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

/Barry Jacowski/

/Bo DeDeker/

Barry Jacowski, Chair

Bo DeDeker, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Conference Room 5, County Annex
Stevens Point, WI 54481
September 4, 2012

Members present: Roger Bacon, Bo DeDeker, Leif Erickson, Allen Haga, Jr., Barry Jacowski, Dale O'Brien

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

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by 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. No one registered to speak.

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of August 7, 2012

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

3. Correspondence

Bradley distributed a card regarding the voluntary public access program, and information on the Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra partnering with the Prairie Chicken Festival on behalf of Sharon Schwab, Golden Sands RC&D.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20120627 and 20120671, purchases, and procurement card charges were reviewed.

(Bacon arrived.)

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Knipfel reported the local work group will meet on Friday, September 7, at 9:00 a.m. in the conference room located in the NRCS office. Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) applications and ranking questions for 2013 will be discussed. Representatives from Land Conservation, UW-Extension, Farm Service Agency, and RC&D plan to attend. Knipfel published a public notice of the meeting in the newspaper. Knipfel is continuing to process emergency haying requests for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Since the last LCC meeting, one more request was received for 17.7 acres, for an August total of 134.7 acres opened for haying in Portage County in response to drought conditions. Knipfel said their fiscal year ends September 30. Contracts, modifications, and payments are being completed.

6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

Knipfel presented an emergency hay request for Belvin Bulgrin for 17.7 acres in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP); and CRP applications for Fred and Arthur Hebblewhite, 11.3 acres of forestry rollover, and two contracts for Burt Glodowski, a total of 29.4 acres for permanent conservation cover for 10 years. Motion by Haga, second by Bacon to approve conservation plans. Motion carried by voice vote.

7. Committee Representative Reports

- a. Lakes Management District (Erickson)** – No meetings.
- b. Resource Conservation & Development (Haga/Bacon)** – No meeting.
- c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (Jacowski/DeDeker-Alternate)**– Bradley attended the NCLWCA Summer Tour on August 25. The morning stop was a frac sand wash plant in Marshfield. Bradley said a large amount of water is needed to wash the sand, of which they reuse approximately 95%. Stormwater ponds contain runoff and areas are watered down to control dust. The business meeting was held during lunch and included WLWCA updates. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for October 4 and 5. The afternoon tour stop was at the paper mill.
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Jacowski/Erickson-Alternate)** – A meeting was held on August 20 in Hancock. Bradley reported the 2013 budget was presented. The fee schedule was approved with an increase on the six foot fabric from \$.47 to \$.50 per foot. The CWWP Board approved dissolution of incorporation, and establishment of the Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership Group. Portage County continues to provide administrative services. Bradley reported 18.2 miles of windbreaks were installed. Due to the drought, mortality is expected to be fairly significant. Attempts to water were discussed by the Board and staff. Haga said they can contact him to possibly provide access to water and equipment.
- e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien/Bacon-Alternate)** – O'Brien reported work on Ditch 1 is complete and work is being done on Isherwood Lateral. A culvert on a ditch in the Town of Buena Vista must be done by the end of September.
- f. Mill Creek Watershed (Erickson/O'Brien-Alternate)** – No meeting.
- g. Little Plover River (Haga/DeDeker-Alternate)** – The next meeting is October.

8. Portage County Conservation/Wildlife Update

Chojnowski distributed copies of Wisconservation, On Wisconsin Outdoors, and various newspaper articles featuring the wolf season, opposition to the Saratoga dairy, honey bee population, ospreys, dog consumption in South Korea, and cancellation of a dog eating festival in China.

9. Discussion/Possible Action – 2012 Budget Projections/2013 Proposed Budget

Bradley pointed out the amount for the Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) 2013 staffing grant is still unknown, so the 2012 amount is being used. The 2012 staffing grant is over \$12,000 less than was budgeted. To make up a portion of the shortfall in 2013, \$9,000 will be pulled from the Lake Management grant. Work will be done by County, instead of UWSP staff. The LCC questioned whether administrative costs can be charged for grants to increase revenues. Bradley will investigate and bring information to the next LCC meeting. The LCC reviewed the 2012 projections and 2013 proposed budget.

10. Discussion/Possible Action – Resolution Adopting, Approving and Endorsing the Establishment of “The Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership Group” in Conjunction with Adams, Juneau, Waushara, and Wood Counties

Members questioned whether Portage County should be included in the resolution title. Benedict explained the resolution was drafted by Mike McKenna, Corporation Counsel, and she will check with him. Motion by DeDeker, second by Erickson to forward the resolution to the County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Discussion/Possible Action – National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Membership

Bradley tried to contact NACD for the number of Wisconsin counties that pay dues. He did not receive a response. Motion by Haga, second by Bacon to discontinue paying NACD annual dues. Motion carried by voice vote.

12. Discussion/Possible Action – Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) Election

Bradley explained proxy votes are no longer allowed for LWCB elections; however, a ballot can be completed and signed by the LCC chair. Bradley will attend the meeting and turn in the ballot. After discussion, motion by Haga, second by DeDeker to cast votes for Joe Piechowski, Tom Rudolph, and Chuck Wagner. Motion carried by voice vote.

13. Discussion/Possible Action – Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association Resolutions

Bradley noted the North Central Land and Water Conservation Association voted in favor of forwarding two resolutions to the WLWCA Annual Meeting: Resolution #1 – Regarding Increased Funding For Wisconsin AIS Programs, and Resolution # 2 – Fulfill Wisconsin's Land and Water Quality Commitment. Bradley summarized Resolution 2 as requesting full funding for Land Conservation Department staff (as written in State statutes) to carry out Land and Water Resource Management Plans. He asked LCC members to listen for possible issues coming from the Farm Bureau regarding LCDs. Regarding the AIS resolution, the last whereas offers possible funding sources, one of which is implementation of a trailer registration. The LCC supported the resolution, but not taxing or adding fees for trailers. Bradley said friendly amendments can be made on the floor of the WLWCA business meeting. Motion by Jacowski, second by O'Brien to not support Resolution #1 because of increased fees and/or taxes. Motion carried by voice vote. Motion by Haga, second by Erickson to not endorse Resolution #2. Motion carried by voice vote.

14. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – No update.

b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts – Bradley presented a cost share contract for Ed Lein's Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) grant funded manure storage. Project costs are estimated at \$285,000, with \$150,000 in cost sharing. Motion by Jacowski, second by Haga to approve Lein's cost share contract. Motion carried by voice vote.

15. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 16 at 6:30 p.m. The poster and speaking contests will take place at this meeting.

16. Adjournment

Motion by Haga, second by Bacon to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at October 16, 2012 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

/Barry Jacowski/
Barry Jacowski, Chair

/Bo DeDeker/
Bo DeDeker, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Conference Room 5, County Annex
Stevens Point, WI 54481
October 16, 2012

Members present: Roger Bacon, Bo DeDeker, Leif Erickson, Allen Haga, Jr., Barry Jacowski, Dale O'Brien

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

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by 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. No one registered to speak.

2. Announce Results of Poster Contest

Benedict announced the names of students placing first, second, and third in the Conservation Poster Contest. Thirty two posters from two schools were submitted in five divisions. First place posters advance to the area contest in Wausau on October 26, and first place posters at the area contest advance to the state contest in Wisconsin Rapids on November 3. Benedict will visit the schools to present awards to the top three finishers and a certificate and bookmark to all participants. A press release will go to the media after awards have been announced at the schools. Benedict credited the Bill Cook Chapter of the Izaak Walton League, the Central Wisconsin Chapter of Wild Ones, and the Aldo Leopold Audubon Society for monetary donations for the awards. All of the posters will be displayed at the library in Stevens Point in November, after which the Almond-Bancroft students' posters will be sent to the Almond Library for display.

3. Review/Approval – Minutes of September 4, 2012

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

4. Correspondence

No correspondence presented.

5. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20120717, 20120726, 20120727, 20120781, purchases, and procurement card charges were reviewed.

6. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Knipfel was not in attendance.

7. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No conservation plans presented.

8. Committee Representative Reports

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

b. Resource Conservation & Development (Haga/Bacon) – Bradley reported Wysocki Farms presented their proposal for a dairy in the Town of Saratoga, Wood County. Some Town of Saratoga residents also attended, opposing the dairy due to water quality and quantity concerns.

c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (Jacowski/DeDeker-Alternate)– Bradley attended the WLWCA Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Rapids, October 4 and 5. Voting results for the Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB) were: Joe Piechowski (Waushara County), Tom Rudolph (Oneida County), and Chuck Wagner (Kewaunee County), with Leon Wolfe (Lafayette County) as alternate. The AIS and staff funding resolutions passed. The North Central Land & Water Conservation Association Fall Conference will be Friday, October 26. The area poster contest will be held. Bradley will attend.

d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Jacowski/Erickson-Alternate) – The next meeting is scheduled for December.

e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien/Bacon-Alternate) – O'Brien reported there will be a bus tour of the drainage district on Monday, October 22, at 9:00 a.m. Anyone interested in attending should contact O'Brien.

f. Mill Creek Watershed (Erickson/O'Brien-Alternate) – No meeting.

g. Little Plover River (Haga/DeDeker-Alternate) – The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 24 at 6:30 pm in Conference Room 5. Bradley noted Dan Baumann, DNR, indicated he has important items to talk about.

9. Portage County Conservation/Wildlife Update

Chojnowski distributed copies of Wisconservation and On Wisconsin Outdoors, and articles regarding: proper disposal of pharmaceuticals and personal care products; ospreys building nests on cell towers; the proposed Saratoga dairy; frac-sand mining in Wood County; and eel for sale at Walmart in Japan.

10. Discussion/Possible Action – Wildlife Damage Program Proposed 2013 Budget

Benson distributed copies of the 2013 Wildlife Damage Program Preliminary budget in the amount of \$28,632.66, which includes funding for the deer donation program. Benson explained funding for the program comes from bonus tag sales and a \$2 surcharge on hunting licenses. Motion by O'Brien, second by Haga to approve the 2013 Wildlife Damage proposed budget. Motion carried by voice vote.

11. Discussion/Possible Action – Wildlife Damage Program 2012 Crop Prices

Benson distributed copies of the 2012 Crop Price Proposal. He explained the claim process. The LCC set prices for alfalfa at \$250/ton, field corn at \$7.25/bushel, sweet corn at \$95/ton, and soybeans at \$15/bushel. Motion by Bacon, second by DeDeker to approve 2012 crop prices. Motion carried by voice vote.

12. Discussion/Possible Action – Letter of Support for Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) Funding

Bradley explained a request came from Grassworks Inc., a nonprofit organization that supports livestock grazers in Wisconsin. He distributed copies of a draft letter they provided to be addressed to the State legislators representing Portage County. He explained RC&D currently has a grazing specialist on staff that works with Portage, Wood, and Waupaca Counties. The Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) eliminated funding in their proposed budget. Bradley estimated 12 farms in Portage County participate in the grazing program. If the funding is not restored, hours for the grazing specialist could be reduced.

Motion by Erickson, second by Jacowski to approve sending the letter of support to legislators. Motion carried by voice vote, Haga opposed.

13. 2013 Budget Report

Bradley explained after the proposed 2013 budget was presented to the LCC in September, substantial cuts were made after the County Executive's review and her directive to make additional cuts so the department budget was within guidelines. Bradley reviewed the line items that were cut, noting the Benedict will have to solicit donations to continue the stewardship and poster and speaking contest programs. Chojnowski requested to have the Conservation Congress funding restored. Bradley suggested he contact the County Executive.

14. Discussion/Possible Action – Grant Administration Fees

At the September LCC meeting, Bradley was instructed to get information regarding charging administration fees for grants. He checked with neighboring counties, none include administrative fees in their grant requests. Bradley said grants differ depending on the source. Most grants typically fund 75% and require a 25% match from the county. Any administrative fee request would be in addition to the 25% match. Bradley asked to consider each grant on a case by case basis and LCC can review before submitting. No action taken.

15. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – The manure storage project at Lein Farms will begin November 1. Vitort's wetland restoration has been on hold due to landowner personal issues.

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

16. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 6 at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room 5, County Annex.

17. Adjournment

Motion by Haga, second by DeDeker to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at December 4, 2012 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

/Barry Jacowski/
Barry Jacowski, Chair

/Bo DeDeker/
Bo DeDeker, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Conference Room 5, County Annex
Stevens Point, WI 54481
December 18, 2012

Members present: Roger Bacon, Bo DeDeker, Allen Haga, Jr., Barry Jacowski, Dale O'Brien

Member excused: Leif Erickson

Others present: Stan Potocki, Marion Bud Flood, Jerry Piesik, Planning and Zoning Committee; Jennifer Glad, Golden Sands RC&D; Shannon Rohde, Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership Group; Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land Conservation Division.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by 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. No one registered to speak.

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of October 16, 2012

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

3. Correspondence

No correspondence.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20120832, 20120868, 20120869, 20120895, 20120941, 20120983, 20120984, purchases in the amount of \$23.66, and procurement card charges in the amount of \$23.41 were reviewed. Special meeting attendance was approved for O'Brien attending the Portage County Drainage District Annual Meeting on November 29 at the Buena Vista Town Hall, and Jacowski attending the Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership Group Board Meeting on December 17 at the Hancock Agricultural Research Station.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report

A written report was provided by Melissa Knipfel, NRCS District Conservationist. Motion by Haga, second by Bacon to accept the report.

6. Portage County Conservation/Wildlife Update

Copies of an article titled "US judge holds off ruling on Chippewa deer hunt" was distributed on behalf of Bob Chojnowski, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation.

7. 2013 Budget Update

Bradley explained the amount for the 2013 staffing grant allocation from DATCP is slightly over \$11,000 more than was budgeted. The department is proposing restoring funding to several LCD line items cut during the budget process. The Finance Department and County Executive will determine how to proceed.

8. Discussion/Possible Action – Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) Cost Share Project Extension(s)

Bradley explained the LCD received \$60,242 in 2012 to use for cost sharing best management practices. The entire amount has not been used and DATCP will allow the remaining amount to be carried over to 2013 as long as cost share contracts and an extension request are signed by December 31. The exact amount to be carried over is unknown until invoices for the Lein barnyard project are received. A cost share contract will be signed for a streambank erosion project for David Colby, Town of Grant, using \$2,800 in cost share funds. Remaining carry over funds estimated at \$7,669 are requested for windbreak customers, yet to be determined. Motion by Haga, second by O'Brien to carryover the remaining cost share funds to 2013. Motion carried by voice vote. The extension request will be signed by either Jacowski as LCC Chair or the County Executive.

9. Discussion/Possible Action – Poster and Speaking Contests

A survey, initiated by the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA), was mailed to LCC member requesting input regarding the contests. Discussion included the importance of the contests, the time of year preferred to hold the contests, promoting the contests to increase participation, and soliciting donations to fund the contests. Benedict will compile the responses and submit to the WLWCA by December 31.

10. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – Bradley reported the Lein manure pit has been completed.

b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts – A contract was presented for a barnyard runoff project for Ed Lein, cost share was estimated at \$14,980; however, actual cost will be less because the size of the barnyard is smaller than originally planned. A contract for a streambank erosion project was presented for David Colby, Town of Grant, cost share in the amount of \$2,800. Motion by Bacon, second by O'Brien to approve cost share contracts. Motion carried by voice vote.

11. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 4, at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room 5, County Annex.

12. Committee Representative Reports

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

b. Resource Conservation & Development (Haga/Bacon) – Jennifer Glad reported the 8th Annual Prairie Chicken Festival will be held April 12-14, which includes a Grassland Gala at Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids on Friday (April 12). They are working with the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, which is holding their annual three day meeting the same weekend. The festival also features blinds to view prairie chicken booming, demonstrations, tours, lectures, and other activities. RC&D received a grant from the Community Foundation to start a terrestrial invasives program, focusing on environmental education in Marathon County. They hope to expand to other counties in the region as funding allows. Resolutions were passed at their November meeting in support of the Grasslands Conservation Initiative, to continue funding for a full time grazing specialist, and supporting a funding plan, currently in the State budget for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), which funds RC&D Councils and Regional Planning Commissions directly rather than depending on grant funding. Golden Sands RC&D hired a full time agronomist to work in Waupaca, Adams, and Marquette Counties. Glad reported Portage County has terminated the lease for office space for RC&D and the Federal offices on the

second floor of the Annex. They are working with the County Executive and Facilities Department to find office space in the building.

c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (Jacowski/DeDeker-Alternate)–

Bradley noted the WLWCA Conference will be held in March. Benedict reported three Portage County students' posters were entered in the State Conservation Poster Contest held November 3 in Wisconsin Rapids. Tate Bruckhart, Madison School, did not place; Jake Steubs, Almond-Bancroft, placed second; Alexis Williams, placed first. Benedict moderated the Elementary Division (Grades 5-6) Speaking Contest. Six speakers gave speeches on various environmental topics. Bradley explained the WLWCA organization to the Planning and Zoning Committee members.

d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Jacowski/Erickson-Alternate) – Jacowski attended the meeting on December 17 in Hancock. Regular business was handled, the project is running well.

e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien/Bacon-Alternate) – O'Brien attended the annual meeting. Past and future projects were discussed. The bus tour was very informative.

f. Mill Creek Watershed (Erickson/O'Brien-Alternate) – No report.

g. Little Plover River (Haga/DeDeker-Alternate) – Bradley reported a meeting was held the end of October. Dan Baumann, DNR, spoke about further control. The Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers (WPVGA) has a meeting on December 19 at the Elizabeth Inn to discuss groundwater depletion, dry conditions, and better controls on water conservation.

13. Adjournment

Motion by O'Brien, second by DeDeker to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at February 4, 2013 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

Barry Jacowski, Chair

Bo DeDeker, Secretary