

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Conference Room 5, County Annex
Stevens Point, WI 54481
February 4, 2013

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

Member excused: Bo DeDeker

Others present: Lyle Eiden, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; Jennifer Glad, Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development; Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land Conservation Division; Ray Biadiaz.

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 December 18, 2012

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

3. Correspondence

No correspondence presented.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20130023 and 20130078 were reviewed.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Knipfel was not in attendance.

6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No plans presented.

7. Committee Representative Reports

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

b. Resource Conservation & Development (Haga/Bacon) – Bacon attended the January 17 meeting. There are a lot of projects upcoming, especially regarding aquatic invasive species (AIS). Glad reported beginning on March 1, RC&D will be leasing office space adjacent to the Central Wisconsin Children's Museum downtown. They will sublease one office to North Central Conservancy Trust. She said February 1 was the deadline for a number of AIS and other State grants. Planning for the Prairie Chicken Festival, April 12-14, is underway. She reviewed the events, including concerts by the Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra to be held the following weekend, on April 20 and 21. Q Gallery, downtown Stevens Point, will have an exhibit the week between. The Central Waters Brewery is hosting an event on Saturday, April 13, including tours. Glad shared an article regarding prairie chickens featured in Our Wisconsin magazine.

c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (Jacowski/DeDeker-Alternate)– Bradley reported the planning meeting is scheduled for February 22 in Merrill. Dates are set for the coming year at this meeting. Bradley does not plan to attend.

d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Jacowski/Erickson-Alternate) – Bradley reported a meeting was held on January 29. The main focus of the meeting was to discuss hiring of Limited Term Employee (LTE staff). He explained Shannon Rodhe, Project Manager, is a Portage County employee. The LTE staff are currently contracted and hired through Golden Sands RC&D. After consulting the Human Resources Department, Bradley said a pool of candidates can be created for LTEs and proposed hiring them through Portage County, thus saving the 15% administration fee charged by RC&D. The CWWP Board voted to continue to contract LTEs through RC&D for the 2013 budget cycle, but explore hiring through Portage County in the future. Jacowski attended the CWWP Board meeting. He added the Board questioned whether Portage County would allow the CWWP Board to set the pay scale for the field supervisor and windbreak technicians. Bradley plans to have answers to the Board's questions for the April CWWP Board meeting and if they decide to hire through Portage County, the process of requesting new positions can begin in order to meet County deadlines. Jacowski explained RC&D's 15% fee covers items such as payroll and human resources services, unemployment benefits, workers compensation, liability insurance, and sick leave accrual. Currently, Portage County receives a 3% administration fee from the CWWP, which includes liability. Jacowski asked if RC&D would consider reducing the administration fee. Glad replied a 15% administration fee is charged for all RC&D projects. A request can be made to RC&D's Personnel and Finance Committee to consider a lower rate. Glad noted Amy Thorstenson, RC&D's Executive Director, is a presenter at the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) Annual Conference in March. She will highlight the CWWP as a successful RC&D project dating back nearly 30 years, and involving multiple organizations. Bradley said CWWP project costs are increasing and rather than raise the price of windbreaks, other options to reduce costs are being considered. Because of poor weather conditions the last two years, there are a lot of trees and shrubs to be replaced in 2013. Bradley explained the fee structure, maintenance program, and reserve accounts.

e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien/Bacon-Alternate) – O'Brien reported the Agriculture and Extension Education Committee will be advertising for appointment of a commissioner. The Committee conducts interviews and makes a recommendation to the judge, who makes the appointment.

f. Mill Creek Watershed (Erickson/O'Brien-Alternate) – Erickson reported the Friends of Mill Creek Annual Meeting will be held Monday, March 4, at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall in Eau Claire. The North Central Conservancy Trust (NCCT) will do a presentation.

g. Little Plover River (Haga/DeDeker-Alternate) – The next meeting is March 27. Haga said there is continued debate on setting a public rights stage. The DNR is planning another two year study, and working toward creating a model for the area.

8. Tree Planter Report

Eiden distributed and reviewed a summary of trees ordered and planter use from 2005 through 2012, and sprayer use from 2008 through 2012. There are six County planters and one 300 gallon industrial sprayer with a 30 foot boom available. Eiden handles the scheduling and maintenance. He reviewed the 2012 revenue and expense activity. He said the planters are in great working condition, but would like to replace the tires with used tires. Repairs were made to the sprayer in 2012. Eiden commented the storage arrangement at the old landfill is working very well. He was authorized to purchase a tool box for the sprayer, estimated at \$30. Jacowski commended Eiden on the work he does with the planters and sprayers.

Eiden also gave a brief history of the scarifier, explained how it is used, and showed a short video. The scarifier is available to Portage County residents to rent.

9. Discussion/Possible Action – Tree Planter and Agricultural Sprayer Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Department of Natural Resources

Bradley explained there is an existing MOU for the agricultural sprayer, signed in 2006. It was felt the tree planters should be included in the MOU. The draft MOU was reviewed by Eiden and Mike McKenna, Corporation Counsel. Motion by Haga, second by Erickson to approve the MOU. Motion carried by voice vote.

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

Benson was not in attendance.

11. Discussion/Possible Action – Wildlife Damage Program 2012 Claims

Benson was not in attendance.

12. Discussion/Possible Action – Support for Portage County Policies to Reduce Phosphorus Delivery to Lakes and Rivers

Bradley explained Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Director, Jeff Schuler, requested to have the LCC discuss this issue. Bradley said the LCD works with landowners to reduce phosphorus in urban and rural areas. A large part of the Lake Study looked at phosphorus in lakes and lake groups are trying to include ways to reduce phosphorus in their lake management plans. He said septic systems and drainfields do not prevent phosphorus or nitrogen from entering groundwater. Phosphorus does not move quickly through soil, but leaching from septic systems is an issue near lakes. Groundwater inflow areas to lakes were identified during the Lake Study projects, creating concerns for septic systems near lakes. Discussions have taken place with on-site waste and zoning staff on ways to address phosphorus issues. The Private Sewage System Ordinance will be revised by zoning staff in 2013. Options are being considered to require that any new or replacement septic system does not leach phosphorus, i.e. – holding tanks or phosphorus filters. Bradley explained a landowner requested a variance through the Board of Adjustment (BOA) to replace a septic system and build a home, which is in an inflow area. One of BOA's conditions was to consult Ray Schmidt, P&Z Water Quality Specialist, for options. Schmidt suggested building a trench between the drainfield and lake filling with wood chips to provide some filtration, and planting willow trees along the lake edge to uptake some of the phosphorus. Bradley will look for funding for monitoring to measure water quality benefits using this method. He added creating buffers along lakes has been encouraged for natural filtration. The Shoreland Zoning Ordinance does not allow vegetation to be removed within 35 feet of the water's edge, except a 30 foot viewing corridor. Jacowski asked for a policy in writing. Erickson suggested considering septic systems with multiple shoreline homes sharing a system. The LCC agreed they are in favor of reducing phosphorus. Jacowski requested to see a policy in writing. Erickson asked if rivers and creeks are included. Bradley replied the only data collected so far has been for lakes; however for approximately \$200, the UWSP can test a site along a river or creek to determine which direction the groundwater flows. Haga asked who will write the policy? Bradley replied zoning staff is responsible for revising and enforcing the ordinance, but Land Conservation is responsible for the water quality aspects. Bradley suggested a joint P&Z/LCC meeting when the ordinance revisions are presented. No action taken.

13. Discussion/Possible Action – Stewardship Program

Benedict explained the line items for the stewardship program, and other youth programs, were cut from the LCD budget. If the LCC chooses to continue to offer the youth programs, alternate

sources of funding must be found. Through the stewardship program, the LCD purchases activity booklets from the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), which are offered to 4K through 5th grade teachers for use in their classrooms. The amount previously budgeted for this program was \$500. Benedict noted conservation organizations have donated funds for the poster and speaking contests in the past, and she can ask if they are willing to support various youth programs. Motion by Jacowski, second by Bacon to continue to offer the stewardship program if funding can be obtained. Motion carried by voice vote.

14. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – No update.

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

15. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for March 5 at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room 5.

16. Adjournment

Motion by Haga, second by Erickson to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at March 5, 2013 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

Barry Jacowski, Chair

Bo DeDeker, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Conference Room 5, County Annex
Stevens Point, WI 54481
March 5, 2013

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

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

1. Call to Order

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

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 Haga to adjourn to closed session. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

Motion by Haga, second by Erickson to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Meeting reconvened at 6:12 p.m. The LCC agreed by consensus to accept the performance evaluation as presented by Planning and Zoning Department Director, Jeff Schuler.

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 February 4, 2013

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

5. Correspondence

Jacowski indicated that Schuler provided an explanation of a resolution to adjust the Planning and Zoning Department budget, accepting additional grant funds from the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP). Jacowski mentioned the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) Annual Conference will be held March 11-13. Bradley said all of the Land Conservation staff and Shannon Rohde, CWWP Project Manager, will be attending the conference at the Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells. The LCC authorized Jacowski to attend the conference.

6. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20130104 and 20130169 were reviewed. Special meeting attendance approvals were given for: Roger Bacon attending the Golden Sands RC&D Council meeting on January 17 at the County Annex; Barry Jacowski attending the Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership Group meeting on January 29 in Hancock; and Leif Erickson attending

the Friends of Mill Creek Annual Meeting on March 4 at the Eau Pleine Town Hall.

7. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Knipfel reported an Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) signup ended in January. There were 33 applications totaling over \$300,000. Eighteen applications were approved for just over \$100,000. Due to the sequestration, Wisconsin returned \$2 million of potential cost sharing to the national headquarters. Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) easements from 2011 and 2012 are being processed. Knipfel explained separation of duties. When a Portage County landowner requests a wetland or highly erodible land determination, the District Conservationist from Wood County does the review, and vice versa, to avoid conflict of interest. Knipfel noted their office will undergo a national civil rights review by Washington DC staff in May. The review requires interviewing a landowner and an LCC member. Jacowski volunteered on behalf of the LCC. Knipfel stated NRCS and FSA do not have a new office location yet. She also reported a date has not been determined for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). There may not be a signup for 2013. She explained the CSP rewards landowners for being good stewards.

8. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No conservation plans presented.

9. Committee Representative Reports

- a. **Lakes Management District (Erickson)** – No report.
- b. **Resource Conservation & Development (Haga/Bacon)** – Benedict was asked by Jennifer Glad, Golden Sands RC&D, to report that the North Central Conservancy Trust is no longer planning to sublease office space.
- c. **North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (Jacowski/DeDeker-Alternate)**– No report.
- d. **Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Jacowski/Erickson-Alternate)** – No report.
- e. **Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien/Bacon-Alternate)** – No report.
- f. **Mill Creek Watershed (Erickson/O'Brien-Alternate)** – Erickson reported the Friends of Mill Creek Annual Meeting took place on Monday, March 4, and was well attended. An informative presentation was given by the North Central Conservancy Trust.
- g. **Little Plover River (Haga/DeDeker-Alternate)** – The next meeting is March 27.

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

Benson reported the original budget allowed for processing an estimated 35 deer; however 48 deer were donated. A budget amendment is needed for \$800 to cover processing for the additional deer. Motion by Haga, second by Erickson to approve the budget amendment. Motion carried by voice vote. Jacowski signed the amendment.

11. Discussion/Possible Action – Wildlife Damage Program 2012 Claims

Benson distributed and reviewed the 2012 Portage County Wildlife Damage Summary. There were six landowners with deer damage claims; however, one did not meet his quota. Benson noted 110 deer were harvested by program participants. Payable claims, after \$500 deductible, total \$11,502.82. Motion by O'Brien, second by Haga to approve five claims and deny Tony Kruzicki's claim. Motion carried by voice vote. Jacowski signed claim forms. Benson noted wolves are now a huntable species and will be included in the damage program. If he receives a complaint that a wolf killed livestock or a pet, he will investigate, and if he verifies it was a wolf, hunting or trapping must be allowed on the property. At this time, DNR will approve or disapprove the claims instead of the LCC.

12. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – No update.

b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts – Bradley presented cost share contracts for projects extended from 2012 to 2013: David Colby – Streambank/Shoreland Protection, total project estimate - \$4,000, cost share amount - \$2,800; Joe Sankey – Windbreak, total project estimate - \$1,981, cost share amount - \$1,387; Paramount Farms – Windbreak, total project estimate - \$10,175, cost share amount - \$7,122.50; Isherwood Farms LLC – Windbreak, total project estimate \$8,488, cost share amount \$5,941.60. Motion by Haga, second by Erickson to approve the cost share contracts. Motion carried by voice vote.

13. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for April 2 at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Room 5, County Annex.

14. Adjournment

Motion by O'Brien, second by Bacon to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at April 2, 2013 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
April 2, 2013

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

Others present: Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land Conservation Division.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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 March 5, 2013

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

3. Correspondence

No correspondence presented.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20130209 and 20130243, purchases, and procurement card charges in the amount of \$231.15 were reviewed. Special meeting attendance approval was given for Jacowski attending the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) Annual Conference March 11-13 in Wisconsin Dells.

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 (Erickson) – No report.

b. Resource Conservation & Development (Haga/Bacon) – Bacon attended the March 21 Council meeting. Staff has moved into their new office.

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

d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Jacowski/Erickson-Alternate) – The next meeting is April 9. Jacowski cannot attend.

e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien/Bacon-Alternate) – O'Brien reported the process to appoint a new commissioner has started. Jim Isherwood is not seeking reappointment. An advertisement for applications has been published. The Agriculture and Extension Committee will make a recommendation to the judge by June 1.

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

g. Little Plover River (Haga/DeDeker-Alternate) – Haga attended the March 28 meeting. He distributed notes from the October 24, 2012 meeting along with a sheet containing precipitation and flow information. A study involving the UWSP and USGS was discussed. Funding for \$200,000 is needed. The study would be specific to an area of the Little Plover River (LPR) and help understand how to regulate and monitor flow. The Village of Plover is planning to purchase 140 acres of conservancy along the LPR. The next meeting will be October 23. Bradley noted Del Monte deserves credit for returning approximately 24 million gallons of noncontact cooling water and 40 million gallons of process waste water back to the watershed. Haga added the land Del Monte acquired north of the plant has two high capacity wells that pumped between 50 and 60 million gallons when the field was cropped, which have now been capped. He explained Del Monte's water use for processing. Erickson also mentioned since the Whiting paper mill closed, five million gallons per day are no longer drawn from the LPR.

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

Bradley explained the Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) funding requests. Based on the staffing formula of 100% of the first position, 70% of the second position, and 50% of remaining positions, Portage County is eligible to receive, and Bradley will request \$239,463; however, for 2013, the actual allocation is approximately \$125,000. For cost sharing practices, Bradley will request \$100,000; however the expected amount is approximately \$60,000. In addition, two Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) grants for manure storage projects, \$150,000 for Zoromski Farms and \$150,000 for Laverne Lepak, will be requested from DNR. Bradley explained the ranking process for TRM grants. Motion by O'Brien, second by DeDeker to approve the DNR/DATCP Grant Application. Motion carried by voice vote.

9. Discussion/Possible Action – Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) 2013 Cost Share Projects

Bradley stated the 2013 cost share allocation is just under \$62,000. Rohde, Project Manager for the CWWP, can utilize approximately \$25,000 for installing windbreaks for several customers. Bradley explained a water and sediment control basin (WASCOB) project for Hubert Dombrowski that may use approximately \$25,000, and the remaining may be used for possible wetland restoration projects. When individual cost share agreements are executed, they will be presented to the LCC for formal approval. Erickson asked if there are pest control measures for the WASCOB project, i.e. muskrats. Bradley said there are measures taken so rodents cannot get into the pipe, and the site can be inspected yearly for damage. Motion by Bacon, second by Erickson to approve the cost share projects. Motion carried by voice vote with O'Brien abstaining.

10. Discussion/Possible Action – Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plan 2012 Accomplishments

The 2012 LWRM Plan accomplishments were included in LCC packets. Jacowski commented he felt it was a relatively good year. There were no other questions, comments, or concerns.

11. Discussion/Possible Action – Poster and Speaking Contests and Conservation Camp Scholarships

As mentioned at a previous LCC meeting, funding for youth programs was taken out of the 2013 budget. Benedict was informed by Finance Department Director Jennifer Jossie, who consulted with Corporation Counsel, Mike McKenna, that they prefer writing mini grants to fund the programs rather than seeking donations. Benedict drafted a letter of inquiry to potential grant providers, which is being reviewed by Jossie and McKenna. Erickson asked how much money is needed. Benedict replied approximately \$1,000 for all of the youth programs. She

noted it is too late to offer the activity booklets for Stewardship Week this year. Benedict asked if the LCC is in favor of continuing these programs if funding can be arranged. Motion by Haga, second by DeDeker to proceed in seeking grants for the programs if approved by the Finance Department and Corporation Counsel. Motion carried by voice vote.

12. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – Bradley explained the Vitort wetland restoration project, extended from 2011 to 2012, was not completed by the end of 2012 and could not be cost shared.

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

13. Next Meeting Date

Next meeting is May 7 at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Room 5.

14. Adjournment

Motion by Haga, second by O'Brien to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at May 7, 2013 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

Barry Jacowski, Chair

Bo DeDeker, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Conference Room 5, County Annex
Stevens Point, WI 54481
June 4, 2013

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

Member excused: Allen Haga, Jr.

Others present: Jennifer Glad, Golden Sands RC&D; Steve Bradley and Patty Benedict, Planning and Zoning Department, Land Conservation Division (LCD).

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 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 April 2, 2013

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

3. Correspondence

The Thursday Note and an article from Bob Chojnowski, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, regarding manure spraying were included in meeting packets. Handouts at the meeting included the DATCP May Report and copies of an email regarding Conservation Observance Day on June 7 at Brooks Farms in Waupaca County.

Bradley received a notice from the Town of Carson to discontinue Maple Road. Bradley said he is not aware of any opposition.

O'Brien spoke with a Wisconsin Public Service representative who has concerns with the Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership Group (CWWP) planting trees too close to high wires. O'Brien contacted Shannon Rohde, CWWP Project Manager. He will make sure plantings near wires are height appropriate species and a proper distance from wires.

Bradley reported the Joint Finance Committee restored approximately \$1 million for funding LCDs, originally cut from the State budget. The Wisconsin Lakes Association, River Alliance, League of Conservation Voters, Farm Bureau, and other conservation organizations came forward in support of LCDs.

Erickson referred to a recent article in the Stevens Point Journal regarding 50 Minnesota lakes randomly sampled by the DNR. Heroin, cocaine, and various other drugs were found in 46 of the 50 lakes. Drugs flushed down toilets do not break down naturally in septic or sewer systems, and eventually end up in streams, rivers, and lakes. Erickson said the Wisconsin DNR does not test for drugs. The Friends of Mill Creek (FOMC) Board supports testing in Mill Creek, especially considering the headwaters are near the wastewater treatment plant in Marshfield, home of one of the largest hospitals in the area. Erickson plans to talk with the

DNR and legislators. Jacowski didn't feel there would be any opposition and asked Bradley to gather support from colleagues. He noted a number of years ago, people were asked to stop flushing unused drugs, and collection sites were established. He added human waste contains drugs not completely absorbed in the body. He suggested involving the Groundwater Citizens Advisory Committee (GCAC). O'Brien feels the LCC should draft a letter of support to have the DNR begin testing in Mill Creek. Erickson said wanted to have the support of the LCC prior to the FOMC formally addressing their concerns. Glad suggested partnering with the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF) and gave Erickson contact names. Because of the newspaper article Erickson is referring to, the WWF has started looking into this issue. Bradley said testing is expensive. He offered to draft a resolution on behalf of the LCC, working together with GCAC and the Planning and Zoning Committee, to present to the County Board. Erickson appreciates the support and will begin by having the FOMC Board draft a letter.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Benedict pointed out an error on the voucher report sent in the meeting packets. The combined total for LCD and CWWP vouchers should be \$11,383.50, not \$7,967.46 as shown. Voucher approval numbers 20130323, 20130395, and 20130427, purchases, and procurement card charges - CWWP in the amounts of \$135.43 and \$181.95, and Jacowski's lodging for the WLWCA Conference in the amount of \$140 were reviewed. A special meeting approval was given for Bacon attending the Golden Sands RC&D Council meeting on March 21.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

A written report, a Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) brochure, and a copy of the current Operational Agreement between Portage County and the NRCS was provided by Melissa Knipfel, District Conservationist. In her report, Knipfel noted the Operational Agreement will expire this year. NRCS will be updating the document to be presented at a future LCC meeting for discussion and approval. Bradley feels there are a number of changes that need to be made.

6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No plans presented.

7. Committee Representative Reports

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

b. Resource Conservation & Development (Haga/Bacon) – Glad reported the office moved to Main Street March 1. An open house was held in May. She said there is a contaminated area and an undeveloped area behind the building. The City of Stevens Point has plans to put in a parking lot and 6,000 square feet of green space. RC&D, along with the Portage County Arts Alliance, Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra, Central Wisconsin Children's Museum, Recycling Connections Corporation, and Tom Giralamo, Eco Building and Forestry are working with the City to lease and develop the green space. The Stevens Point Area Neighborhood Gardens program received a grant from the Stevens Point Community Foundation for improvements to the Third Street garden site. A new fence was constructed. A dedication ceremony with all the partners is planned. Seven interns have been hired for the summer to work on the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) program. Two interns will specifically work in Marathon, Portage, and Wood Counties on boat launch monitoring and outreach and education for Clean Boats/Clean Waters. A treatment will be done on Wolf Lake in the next few weeks. Lake surveys will be conducted on Tree Lake and Lake Helen. A review of Sunset, Lime, and Pickerel Lakes for Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) will take place and hand pulling done if necessary. EWM will also be hand pulled on Jordan Pond. Interns will be coordinating with lake associations and districts. RC&D is attempting to build a terrestrial invasives program,

similar to the established AIS program. An initial grant was received to work in Marathon County. A pre-proposal for additional grant funding has been submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to include Portage County, working in County parks. Standing Rocks Park has been given high priority. A grant was submitted to the DNR in May for the Mill Creek Watershed to promote Management Intensive Rotational Grazing to reduce phosphorus loading. The grant would fund grazing plans, acres converted to grazing, outreach and education, and watershed mapping. RC&D co-hosted the Little Plover River Appreciation Day in May, where they celebrated over 1,000 students having participated in the program. The new NRCS State Conservationist met in May with the State Association of RC&Ds. He is a strong supporter of RC&Ds. Currently, NRCS is working with RC&D on the effects of last summer's emergency haying and grazing. The Prairie Chicken Festival took place in April. Glad distributed copies of the program. She reported the bad weather kept a lot of people away; however, the prairie chickens were active at the blind locations. Attendance at the Central Waters Brewery event was estimated at 350. She passed around a book entitled "Hamerstrom Stories", about Fran and Hammy Hamerstrom, supporters of grassland conservation and work with prairie chickens in the Central Wisconsin Grassland Conservation Area. The publishing rights for the book were given to RC&D by Hamerstrom's daughter. Five hundred copies of the book were printed and are for sale as a fund raiser for RC&D to support efforts in grassland conservation. Glad said the July 18 RC&D Council meeting will be held at the Steinhagen Farm, the Portage County demonstration forest. She distributed a booklet describing the farm. After the Council meeting, Kent Glazer, DNR Forester, will give a tour, talk about forest management practices, and farm to forest conversion.

c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (Jacowski/DeDeker-Alternate)– Bradley attended the May 23 meeting in Antigo. There was a presentation on the history of the Wisconsin River and two AIS presentations. The Secretary of the DNR spoke. There was discussion during the business meeting if per diems should be paid, and by which organization, for NCLWCA representatives to attend State WLWCA meetings. A subcommittee was formed to consider amending the bylaws and bring back at the NCLWCA Fall Tour business meeting.

d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Jacowski/Erickson-Alternate) – The next meeting is June 24. Bradley stated Rohde had several customers back out and has approximately 12.5 miles of windbreaks for installation. A loss is projected, which will have to be taken from the equipment replacement account. Because of the drought the past two years, between 4,500 and 5,000 dead trees and shrubs must be replaced.

e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien/Bacon-Alternate) – O'Brien reported a new drainage district commissioner, Richard Rashke, was sworn in on June 1.

f. Mill Creek Watershed (Erickson/O'Brien-Alternate) – Referring to the grazing grant submitted by RC&D, Jacowski asked Glad if a phosphorus output base level is known for Mill Creek at the headwaters, near the Marshfield Treatment Plant, and at other sections in the stream to determine where there is an inflow of phosphorus. Glad said the project will depend on where they can target rotational grazing. Bradley believes the DNR has sampling stations at Stadt Road and Ed's Lane. The treatment plant monitors their output. Erickson said Marshfield is very aggressive regarding the ban on the sale of lawn fertilizers with phosphorus.

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

8. Discussion/Possible Action – Amend 2014 DNR/DATCP Grant Application – Modrzewski Addition to Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Grants

After the LCC approved the DNR/DATCP Grant Application at their April meeting, Bradley received complaints of runoff at the Modrzewski farm. Modrzewski expressed interest in manure storage and Bradley completed a TRM grant application for \$150,000. Motion by O'Brien, second by Bacon to amend the 2014 DNR/DATCP Grant Application to include Modrzewski's TRM grant. Motion carried by voice vote.

9. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – Bradley reported there were several manure runoff complaints this spring. Manure was leaving the southeast corner of Eddie Marquardt's property on County Road B and running onto the neighbor's property. Bradley said Marquardt has agreed to have the LCD return in the fall after the corn is off the field and discuss a sediment control basin. Bradley investigated a complaint of manure on a field on the northwest corner of the intersection of Adams Lake Road and Standing Rocks Road. The manure contained a lot of bedded pack and he did not see any problem with manure leaving the site. There was a complaint of manure leaving the property on the Kubisiak farm. The same complaint was called in last year and Bradley delivered a violation letter and discussed solutions. The farmer attempted to minimize the runoff, using a basin. He kept the basin pumped after every rain, but it is not effective when the ground is frozen. Bradley spoke with Corporation Counsel, who are not in favor of issuing a citation at this time, but required Kubisiak to clean the manure from the neighbor's property. The manure was scraped, and the area reseeded. Bradley felt the clean up was adequate and saw no evidence of manure, but the neighbor was not completely satisfied. Bradley discussed remediation options with Kubisiak, who is willing to consider diversions and a basin, which will help but may not completely rectify the problem. If there are complaints in the future, Bradley will contact Corporation Counsel for their opinion. Bradley reported O'Connell has been working on several projects. Bob and Mike Biadasz will be starting a manure storage project. No cost share funds are being used. A TRM grant was approved for Karl Wogsland, who is selling to Jeff Trapp. The DNR will allow transferring the grant to Trapp. Before entering into a cost share agreement, Bradley will verify the property is titled in Trapp's name. A manure storage project for Genetic Futures is also planned. No cost share funds are being used.

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

10. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for July 2 at 7:00 p.m., Conference Room 5, County Annex

11. Adjournment

Motion by Bacon, second by Erickson to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at July 2, 2013 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 2, 2013

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

Others present: Jennifer Glad, Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development; Shannon Rohde, Project Manager, 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 7:00 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 June 4, 2013

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

3. Correspondence

Bradley reported he was contacted by a DNR wildlife staff person in Madison. The DNR would like to provide Portage County with funding to hire a part time LTE for a position titled Central Wisconsin Grassland Area Partnership Coordinator, which would work with private landowners managing grasslands in Adams, Clark, Marathon, Portage, Taylor, and Wood Counties. The DNR will draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be reviewed by the counties. Bradley will have more information at the next LCC meeting. Jacowski asked to have the LCC involved with interviews. Bradley said the position will be advertised through the Portage County Human Resources Department, and estimates filling the position within the next two months. The position would continue as long as the DNR has funding available. Jacowski said he would like to contact the DNR committee making the request. Bradley suggested he speak with Scott Walter (DNR Division of Land, Wildlife Management, Ecology Section). There was discussion regarding Portage County being responsible for unemployment compensation after the position ends. Bradley noted Portage County will receive an administration fee similar to the Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership Group (CWWP).

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20130468, 20130500, purchases, and procurement card charges for CWWP staff, Rohde - \$480.85 and Ewan - \$295.08, were reviewed.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Knipfel was not in attendance. No report.

6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

Conservation plans changing the name from Perry Ward, deceased, to Thomas and Robert Ward, Town of Amherst, were presented. Motion by Erickson, second by Haga to approve the

conservation plans. Motion carried by voice vote.

7. Committee Representative Reports

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

b. Resource Conservation & Development (Haga/Bacon) – The next meeting is scheduled for July 18.

c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (Jacowski/DeDeker-Alternate)– Benedict reported the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) is moving the State poster and speaking contests from the fall to early spring. The local contest would likely be held in January, the area contest in February, and the State contest in March. They are also considering adding photo and/or multimedia contests, as well as eliminating the special needs category for the poster contest.

d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Jacowski/Erickson-Alternate) – Jacowski asked Rohde to attend the meeting to discuss issues reported by Wisconsin Public Service (WPS). A power line was recently installed and a windbreak was planted underneath. Rohde said the landowner requested a row of silver maple and a row of white spruce. Rohde spoke with the landowner regarding positioning the windbreak 30 feet from the lines, but when the site was prepped by the landowner, the nearest row was 10-12 feet from the poles. Rohde said white spruce was planted in the row closest to the poles as the species is less likely to interfere with the lines. O'Brien said planting a shorter species was suggested as an option if the windbreak was placed less than 30 feet from the lines to avoid WPS having to remove or trim the windbreaks in future years. Jacowski believes the LCC should set a policy. Bradley suggested amending the administrative agreement with the CWWP partner counties to make mention of allowed species and proper distance when planting near power lines in cost share contracts. O'Brien suggested having a WPS representative, possibly Dale Bovee, attend a future LCC meeting and review policy language. The issue will be included on the next CWWP Board meeting agenda.

Rohde reported they have a couple of windbreaks remaining to be planted. He estimated windbreak totals between 12.5 and 13 miles. Random projects and savings on the fabric bids will help make up some of the revenue shortage.

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

f. Mill Creek Watershed (Erickson/O'Brien-Alternate) – Glad reported the DNR grant dealing with phosphorus issues and working with farmers to promote managed intensive rotational grazing along Mill Creek will be funded. Glad provided Erickson with a business card for Teal Fyksen and asked for farmer referrals. Glad said there is funding left in the grant pool and the DNR is encouraging RC&D to submit additional grant applications. The LCC suggested that RC&D publish a press release to make Mill Creek farmers aware of the opportunity.

g. Little Plover River (Haga/DeDeker-Alternate) – Bradley reported the Natural Resources Board held a tour last week at the Little Plover River Park. Village of Plover and Del Monte representatives talked about their efforts in water conservation. Other speakers were Barb Gifford, Friends of the Little Plover River, and Duane Maatz, Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association (WPVGA). Haga said an article in the newspaper reported Del Monte is looking to acquire additional high capacity wells in the future for their wastewater. He clarified it should have been referred to as processing water.

8. Portage County Conservation/Wildlife Update

Benedict stated Chojnowski is unable to attend meetings until further notice.

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

Bradley reported the TRM grant in the amount of \$150,000 for manure storage was submitted to DNR for Karl Wogsland; however, the farm is in the process of being sold to Jeff Trapp. A budget adjustment must be done as the grant funds were not put in the 2013 budget. The Finance Committee approved the resolution at their July 1 meeting, LCC will act at this meeting, and the County Board will act at their July 16 meeting. Jacowski asked to be sure the change in ownership has taken place before the cost share contract is signed. Bradley said a survey and design must be completed for the in ground pit. Bradley estimates sizing the pit for at least 1 million gallons, but the exact number of gallons has not yet been determined. At least six months of storage must be available. Bradley noted the landowner must pay the amount exceeding \$150,000. A two party check is issued to the landowner and contractor. Dan O'Connell will be onsite periodically during all phases of construction. Motion by Haga, second by Erickson to authorize acceptance of the Trapp TRM grant. Motion carried by voice vote.

10. Discussion/Possible Action – Support for Friends of Mill Creek (FOMC) Water Monitoring Request

Erickson contacted Friends of Mill Creek Board members. About one half are in favor of contacting George Meyer, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, to gather support and funding, and one half are not in favor. Erickson spoke with the superintendent of the Marshfield Wastewater Treatment Plant, who indicated they do not do any testing for drugs. He said the tests are quite expensive and separate tests would have to be run for individual drugs. Erickson is waiting to hear back from George Meyer. He will follow up.

11. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – With the recent rains, there have been a number of gulleys formed. Bradley has responded to concerns. One washout affected a neighbor's driveway. Soil plugged the driveway culvert and washed onto the neighbor's property. The landowner appeared willing to correct the situation. If the neighbor is not satisfied, Bradley said the LCD will get involved.

Bids were submitted and contractors selected for the Biadasz manure pit. The project will begin soon.

Bradley stated Portage County will be working with Waupaca, Wood, Waushara, and Marquette Counties on a water monitoring project. Each county will work with volunteers to install monitoring wells to study lake levels and stream flow monitoring. The DNR purchased flow meters and will loan them for the project. The volunteers will monitor the wells for depth. All of the information will be input into the DNR's database to provide perspective on what is happening with stream/river flows and lake levels. To this point, modeling has been used more than monitoring. The Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association (WPVGA) has been working with the UW-Madison on the Little Plover River to use actual water levels instead of relying on models. Ray Schmidt, Planning and Zoning Department's Water Quality Specialist, will work with the volunteers. Some of the volunteers may be boy scouts, making this a good community project. Jacowski asked what professionals will be involved, and Bradley replied DNR staff. Volunteers will report data to their county conservationist, who will input the data into the database. There is no grant funding involved. The equipment is provided by the DNR. Bradley has been asked by the DNR to collect reports from the other counties and consolidate into a single report. Bradley stated quality control will be handled by Jessica Haucke, from George Kraft's office at the UWSP. Jacowski asked if any others are involved ensuring checks and balances. Glad said Golden Sands RC&D would be willing, if the

DNR would provide funding. Jacowski prefers having a third party oversee the project. Bradley said there is no need for the DNR to provide funding and did not see a role for Golden Sands RC&D. The counties will coordinate the volunteers. The LCC questioned the ability of volunteers to accurately measure and report data. Bradley said each county conservationist and the UWSP is responsible for verifying submitted data. The LCC is in favor of contacting the DNR for funding for RC&D to oversee the project. This will be put on the August LCC meeting agenda.

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

12. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date is scheduled for Tuesday, August 6 at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Room 5.

13. Adjournment

Motion by Bacon, second by Haga to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at 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 6, 2013

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

Others present: Melissa Knipfel, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Jennifer Glad, Golden Sands RC&D; Dale Bowe and Daniel Siewert, Wisconsin Public Service; Scott Walter and Kris Johansen, Department of Natural Resources; Jim Richter, Justin and Lynn Isherwood; 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 7:00 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. Justin Isherwood registered to speak on agenda item five.

2. Review/Approval – Minutes of June 4, 2013

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

3. Correspondence

Bradley passed around a notice from the Friends of the Tomorrow/Waupaca River. They are holding a river cleanup day on Saturday, August 10 beginning at 8:00 a.m. and ending with a picnic lunch at noon.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval number 20130586, purchases, and procurement card charges for the CWWP – Rohde \$778.52 and Ewan \$116.57 were reviewed.

5. Discussion/Possible Action – Windbreak Plantings Adjacent to Power Lines – Dale Bowe and Dan Siewert, Wisconsin Public Service (WPS)

Jacowski explained Bowe and Siewert were invited to speak and answer questions regarding species to use when planting windbreaks, funded by taxpayer dollars through cost share funds, near transmission lines. Bowe passed around pictures of recent windbreak plantings with species that will grow into the power lines, trees that have reached the lines to be trimmed, and trees that have been trimmed away from the lines. Bowe said trees may have to be trimmed numerous times, and costs are passed on to customers. He encouraged planting appropriate species under the lines. O'Brien said the LCC is looking to set protocol as to the types of species and planting distance from lines. Siewert passed around brochures – "Avoiding Tree & Utility Conflicts" and "Tree Selection", and a booklet – "Lines, Limbs, & the Landscape". He explained the zone within 15 feet of the center of the pole, species should be low growing. From 15 to 30 feet, medium size trees can be planted, and beyond 30 feet, taller species can be planted. Siewert said WPS spends between \$6.5 to 7 million per year for tree trimming in Wisconsin. He added WPS offers customers vouchers from nurseries to purchase replacement trees or shrubs when WPS has removed a tree from under a power line. Jacowski thanked Bowe and Siewert and said the LCC will refer to them as they work through the process of setting protocol.

Justin Isherwood said he appreciates the information provided by Bowe and Siewert. He has installed a number of windbreaks through the CWWP. He said Rohde informs customers the windbreaks must be outside of the road right of way. Isherwood stated asking agriculture producers to offset too far from the power lines, cutting into valuable farmland and not allowing them to plant trees of their choice, they are not likely to plant windbreaks. He sited areas where WPS placed power lines behind mature trees. He believes trees help the farm sector look less industrial. He suggested the landowner could be responsible for trimming. He does not agree with granting WPS the right to 15 extra feet outside of the right of way on a town road. Haga said the intent is to infringe as little as possible on the landowners farmland by using lower growing species that can be planted closer to the power lines, and not require maintenance by the power companies. Jacowski said if cost share funds are not used, the LCC does not have control over species and distance from the lines, but when taxpayer dollars are used he believes there should be guidelines. Isherwood said he understands LCC's obligation.

Jacowski suggested putting together a group, including Rohde, landowners, and power companies to work through the issues. Jacowski asked anyone with questions, comments, and concerns to contact him. The topic will be included on future LCC agendas.

6. Presentation – Central Wisconsin Grassland Conservation Area (CWGCA) – Scott Walter, DNR

LCC introductions were made. Walter explained as the statewide Upland Wildlife Ecologist, he oversees programs for small game such as turkey, pheasant, rough grouse, prairie chicken, etc. He is also the Farm Bill Coordinator and serves on the State Technical Committee coordinating implementation of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), etc. His interest in the CWGCA deals with both the Farm Bill perspective and the prairie chicken focus. Walter referred to the issue brief included with LCC packets. He said the DNR is hoping to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Portage County to hire and house a part time coordinator to oversee the CWGCA efforts, focusing on prairie chickens, but also addressing other wildlife and conservation issues. He said the Greater Prairie Chicken Management Plan (GPCMP) was written in 2004, and will sunset in 2014. The plan will undergo revisions and the goals and objectives may change a bit. One area they hope to explore is working with private landowners to blend conservation goals with production goals. Recommendations in the 2004 GPCMP included establishment of the CWGCA and hiring a coordinator to develop partnerships with stakeholders – NRCS, FSA, local NGOs, and private landowners. The coordinator was hired in 2005 through an MOU with Golden Sands RC&D. The DNR was very happy with the deliverables the coordinator provided, listed on page two of the issue brief. In December 2012, the coordinator resigned from Golden Sands RC&D, and the DNR terminated the MOU. The DNR dedicates \$10,000 annually to the CWGCA project. The Prairie Chicken Committee met in June and after considering a number of organizations, a recommendation was made to approach Portage County to reestablish the coordinator position. Approval has been given by the DNR, the Wildlife Policy Team supports the recommendation and attached the \$10,000 in annual support.

Erickson asked how many hours per week and if interviews would be conducted for the position. Walter replied the position would be approximately 24 hours per week. He noted in addition to the DNR's \$10,000 annual contribution, grants were written by the coordinator for the remaining amount to be a self supporting position. The former coordinator has shown interest in the position and while the DNR would like to see her reestablished, an open recruitment process would be followed.

Jacowski asked how many counties the CWGCA area covers? Walter replied seven counties – Portage, Wood, Adams, Waushara, Waupaca, Taylor, Clark, and Marathon. Jacowski verified the

coordinator would be an employee of Portage County, and Portage County would be responsible for the unemployment and worker's compensation, and liability. Because of the multiple county area, he feels the position would be better housed elsewhere. Bradley stated the majority of the CWGCA is in Portage and Wood Counties, with small areas in the other counties. Haga would like questions answered by Corporation Counsel regarding liability, and unemployment issues should the position cease.

Jacowski asked why RC&D was not considered to house the position. Walter reiterated they were extremely pleased with the deliverables produced by the former coordinator and her return to RC&D is not a possibility. Bacon asked why the DNR does not hire the coordinator. Walter said that is an option; however, they would rather have the position situated locally. In addition, a representative from a local agency may be more accepted when working with the agricultural community than a DNR employee.

Concerns were expressed regarding sharing an employee with other counties. Bradley said the Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership Group is a multiple county program with Portage County providing administration. An agreement was signed by all counties and approved by Portage County's Corporation Counsel. Portage County collects an administrative fee to cover costs such as unemployment and worker's compensation, and liability. Haga asked if the DNR has other options. Erickson suggested approaching the UWEX. He added ag agents routinely visit multiple counties.

Jacowski asked who would supervise the position. Bradley replied he would be the supervisor, and if the former coordinator or a candidate more qualified is hired, he feels supervision will be minimal. Bradley noted one of the goals in the Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plan is wildlife habitat improvement. He added receiving funding from other sources to implement portions of the LWRM Plan is helpful.

Jacowski asked what Walter is looking for from the LCC. Walter replied he would like to begin working with Bradley to draft an MOU. The LCC would like input from Corporation Counsel. Walter said there is no fiscal impact to Portage County. The coordinator hired would be expected to secure grants to achieve funding the position for 24 hours per week. Walter said an MOU may be helpful in approaching other organizations as possible investors.

Glad said RC&D will continue to support efforts with the CWGCA and is willing to hire a coordinator. Walter said the DNR is not interested in providing the funding to RC&D. Some grants which partially funded the coordinator position remain with RC&D, such as organizing the Prairie Chicken Festival.

Jacowski thanked Walter and indicated the LCC's intent is to consult with Corporation Counsel.

7. Discussion/Possible Action – Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin Grant Application

Bradley said the LCC approved cost sharing for a water and sediment control basin (WASCOB) for Hubert Dombrowski. Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) cost share funds will provide 70% of the cost of the project. Bradley estimates the project could cost up to \$40,000. The Dombrowski's do not want to contribute the remaining 30%, \$12,000, so Bradley proposed seeking other funding sources. The Friends of the Tomorrow/Waupaca River verbally committed to contribute between \$500 and \$1,000. The LCD will approach the Village of Amherst for up to \$5,000. To cover the remainder, Bradley would like to apply for a grant from the Community Foundation for approximately \$9,000. If the Community Foundation grant is not awarded, Bradley said there are funds through a DNR Lake Management grant, which are being used for shoreland restorations; however, funds are exceeding interest. He said a scope amendment could be submitted to the DNR to allow using the funds for Dombrowski's WASCOB. Bradley noted the

deadline for applying for the Community Foundation grant is August 15. Motion by Erickson, second by DeDeker to approve the grant application. Motion carried by voice vote. If the Community Foundation grant is not awarded, Bradley will inform the LCC and pursue funding through the DNR Lake Management grant.

8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report

Knipfel stated she is required annually to post and discuss NRCS policies regarding civil rights and anti-harassment. She distributed and explained the handouts. The State Conservationist, Jimmy Bramblett, is in favor of allowing local work groups more flexibility in addressing their area resource concerns and conservation issues. The local work group will meet late August or early September. She will invite representatives from LCD, UWEX, DNR, RC&D, CWWP, FSA, and other partners. Fifteen of 16 applications have been accepted into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

9. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

Knipfel stated she will have 15 CRP plans to present for approval at the next LCC meeting.

10. Committee Representative Reports

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

b. Resource Conservation & Development (Haga/Bacon) – Glad reported Scott Walter, DNR, attended the meeting, discussing the CWGCA. Pre-approval was received for a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) grant for terrestrial invasive program. A full proposal will be submitted. The work will be done on County park land in Portage, Marathon, and Wood Counties. Taylor County has approached RC&D to possibly join the Council. RC&D is working with NRCS on a statewide Underserved Farmer Conference, reaching out to women, tribal, Hmong, and Hispanic farmers. The conference will be held in Wausau the end of September. Translators will be on hand and one on one assistance will be provided to complete applications and fill out forms. RC&D has also been involved with surveying lakes, grazing, and pasture walks.

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

Bradley announced the summer tour will be held in Oneida County on Friday, August 23. Included are the business meeting, a site visit to Tomahawk Lake for a demonstration of a hydraulic conveyor system to remove Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM), lunch, and a tour aboard the Wilderness Queen on the Wisconsin River. Bradley does not plan to attend. If any LCC member wants to attend, contact Benedict.

d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Jacowski/Erickson-Alternate) – The next meeting is Monday, August 12.

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

f. Mill Creek Watershed (Erickson/O'Brien-Alternate) – Erickson reported they have not scheduled a meeting, but there are some issues to discuss.

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

11. Discussion/Possible Action – Increasing Lake Level and Baseflow Monitoring in Central Wisconsin Project

Bradley referred to the handout included in LCC packets describing the project. Ray Schmidt, Water Quality Specialist, is working with the Groundwater Citizens Advisory Committee (GCAC) and trying to recruit volunteers to do stream flow and lake level monitoring. Bradley's role, as coordinator, would be to collect reports from the six other County Conservationists and combine into a report for DNR. The counties are in different stages. Some have volunteers and monitoring wells in place. The County Conservationists plan to evaluate the project at the end of the year. There is no funding available at this time, but there may be an opportunity in the future to bring in RC&D to serve as volunteer coordinators. Jacowski said he received calls from other counties concerned about Portage County taking the lead on the project. Bradley replied he won't mind if another county steps forward to take the lead. At this time, Schmidt is having difficulty recruiting

volunteers. He has one volunteer to monitor one site. The DNR has suggested preferred sites, but volunteers are needed. No action taken. Bradley said the GCAC will handle the monitoring and data collection part of the project. Jacowski said the other counties do not have GCACs. Bradley replied LCDs will be coordinating the project for their counties.

12. Discussion/Possible Action – 2013 Projected Budget and 2014 Proposed Budget

Bradley explained the handout is the entire Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Department budget. The LCD portions are highlighted in green. He pointed out the SWRM staffing grant increased approximately \$8,000 for 2014. The additional revenue offset salary and fringe increases, and was used to restore line items that were cut in the 2013 budget. The proposed tax levy for LCD for 2014 is \$178,854. Total expenditures are \$831,491. The P&Z Committee will review at their August 27 meeting. A preliminary budget meeting for the P&Z budget is scheduled for August 7 with the Finance Department and County Executive.

(Haga left the meeting at 8:40 p.m.)

13. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – Bradley reported the Biadasz manure pit is done and went well. The Colby rip rap project on Four Mile Creek is also complete. Bids for the Trapp TRM grant manure pit will go out soon. The plan for a manure pit for Genetic Futures is nearly complete. There is no cost sharing involved for this project. Groshek Farms are interested in doing a manure pit. There will be no cost sharing for this project.

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

14. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be a joint meeting with the P&Z Committee on Tuesday, August 27 at 4:00 p.m. Following adjournment of the P&Z Committee, LCC will convene for further business.

15. Adjournment

Motion by O'Brien, second by Erickson to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at August 27, 2013 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

/Barry Jacowski/
Barry Jacowski, Chair

/Bo DeDeker/
Bo DeDeker, Secretary

MINUTES
JOINT MEETING OF THE PORTAGE COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING AND
LAND CONSERVATION (LCC) COMMITTEES
August 27, 2013

Call to Order

Chair Piesik called the meeting of the Portage County Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. in Conference Room 5 of the County Annex.

Roll Call

P&Z Members present: Erickson, Flood, Jacowski, Piesik, and Potocki. LCC Member present: Bacon, DeDeker, Haga, Erickson, Jacowski, and O'Brien. Staff present: Benedict, Bradley, Mrdutt, Pelky, Phillis, Schuler, and Wallace, P&Z Department.

Others Present

William Konopacky, Sam Levin – County Board of Supervisors District 17, Phyllis May, George May, Don Butkowski, Bev Mancl, Ralph Bahnke, Janet Wolle – Town of Hull Clerk, John Holdridge – Town of Hull Chair, Jocelyn Reid, Reynaldo Vega, Bob Bowen, Patty Dreier – County Executive, O. Philip Idsvoog – County Board of Supervisors Chair, and Melissa Knipfel – NRCS.

BUSINESS MEETING

1. 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

John Holdridge registered to speak regarding agenda items #5 and #6. Bill Konopacky, Sam Levin, and Rey Vega registered to speak regarding agenda item #5.

2. Review / Approval of July 30, 2013 Minutes

Potocki moved to approve July 30, 2013 minutes. Erickson seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote, 4-0 (Jacowski not in attendance yet).

3. Review - Vouchers, and Purchase and Procurement Card Authorizations

The Committee reviewed Voucher Approval numbers 20130619, and 20130644, and Procurement Card Authorization dated August 4, 2013, as presented by Director Schuler.

Jacowski entered at 4:03pm.

4. Discussion – Update on the Proposed Planned Development (PD) Zoning District

Schuler stated at the last meeting the Committee directed staff to obtain as much town input as possible before returning to Committee for further review. Staff held an informational meeting regarding the PD District after the last P&Z Committee meeting and has also received some additional feedback. Mrdutt stated in the next few weeks there will be more outreach to towns during their monthly Board meetings. Some towns have been very encouraging and some have taken the next step to see how the new district can go along with their Comprehensive Plan, as well as what needs to be changed in their Plan to fully utilize the new district. Schuler stated staff is encouraged by feedback received so far. This PD language is more intense than others. It was brought up at the quarterly meeting of Planning Directors; they were given copies to review and get input back to staff.

Jacowski stated he was questioned by a few different town board officials and other individuals on why we were different in the sideyard setbacks for PD versus regular zoning. Mrdutt stated when looking at development in a PD you are promoting higher density. One goal is making sure that what is being constructed will mesh into the neighborhood and the best way to do so is with screening requirements and a larger setback. The recommendation is 30 feet. Jacowski asked who recommends it. Mrdutt replied staff. This plan will come to P&Z, so if 30 feet does not fit a certain development scenario, the developer can explain to the Committee they may need something smaller. Jacowski stated we need as much ag land left as possible and every time we take up more land we crowd those situations. Mrdutt stated each scenario is going to be different and the Committee will have to look at each when they are presented. Wallace stated the perimeter setback of 30 feet is the only setback. Internal lots that may or may not be created do not have additional setbacks. It is the boundaries of the property that will be the PD, so it is not the traditional setback. Jacowski

stated in some instances we can go as little as 10 feet on a two acre lot, but here we want to take up an extra 20 feet on expensive land. Mrdutt stated they will have to devote a portion to open space and other requirements, in most cases it will be utilized for utility purposes or other uses. We also want to look at screening, which is why it is at 30 feet. Schuler stated we are trying to find a balance between the different types of development that can fit into the neighborhood, but also allow for unique development. Jacowski thought it still seemed like using up real estate that does not need to be used up. Haga disagreed with Jacowski regarding land preservation. Staff is talking about leaving 30 feet of green space and he is talking about building on it. Jacowski stated not if we need that area to develop for farmland to raise a crop that feeds people instead of a green lawn that does not feed a single individual. Haga stated whether it is a half-acre lot with a 10 foot setback or a half-acre lot with a 30 foot setback, we did not use any more land. Jacowski disagreed for the fact that we are using up land that could be built on and could house another set of apartments. Schuler stated this is the reason each plan will be considered case-by-case.

5. Discussion / Possible Action – Research Findings Related to the R2, Single Family Residence District

Mrdutt went through the memo that was sent to the Committee. The Solid Waste Disposal Site definition was changed on May 15, 2011 by County Board. It set allowances specifically in residential, recreational, and conservancy areas and acreage sizes. At the time there was much discussion between towns and the Committee for several months. The Committee has asked us to look at other counties, City of Stevens Point, and the Village of Plover Ordinances for ideas. Staff also reviewed the Town of Saratoga Nuisance Ordinance. When comparing Portage County definitions with other counties, the text is consistent. With Solid Waste, Portage County gives an allowance and other counties use judgment calls. The Village of Plover and Town of Saratoga refer to Nuisance Ordinances. The Village of Plover tries to alleviate a nuisance with screening or putting it in the rear or sideyard. The Town of Saratoga uses citations with their Nuisance Ordinance. Winnebago County defers Solid Waste enforcement calls back to the towns. Schuler stated a few years ago when the discussion took place on what is solid waste, different amounts allowed were researched. It is nice to have a set area for everyone, so there is no debate.

Mrdutt stated the June P&Z Committee meeting centered on enforcement in residential neighborhoods; the perceived unsightly appearance of older cars parked on grass and what is considered to be appropriate. He went over specific points of the memo for the Committee to consider.

Levin stated he is County Board Supervisor for District 17, which includes the Villages of Whiting and Plover. He was contacted by some people regarding this issue and he had no answers for them. He asked for an electronic copy of the resolution to be sent to him. He wanted to remind the Committee if they infringe on a taxpayer or property, they are taking a very big step. He believes the Committee should table the issue for a possible public hearing so everyone involved can be heard on the issue. Regardless of what other cities, counties, or villages do, it may not be best for Portage County.

Haga stated when speaking of regulations for automobile salvage or solid waste, one thing to look at is the properties the County gets back and the Environmental Impact Study needed. If it does not meet that study, then the County will not want to touch it because we will be required to clean it up, which is a big cost to County taxpayers.

Holdridge thought the staff report was done well and asked if a business was permitted in R2 Zoning. Mrdutt replied home occupations are allowed depending on the size and scope. If it will be operated out of the home where it will be 50% more of the floor space, it would require BOA approval. In residential zoning no business outside of the house is allowed. Holdridge asked what BOA does. Schuler replied State Statutes sets BOA as the body that reviews any complaints made by the decision of the Director, Variances, and Special Exceptions. Jacowski stated it is the appeals process. Holdridge would like to see this issue digested and more review of the situation.

Konopacky stated the petition Levin referred to was one he wrote up and gathered signatures to not make any changes to the R2 Zoning District. Piesik read the first page of the petition into the record.

Vega stated this part of the County is no longer in the country and would like R2 Zoning language to fit this area.

Jacowski stated other areas are taking up issues with Nuisance Ordinances and asked if Town of Hull has one. Holdridge replied yes. Flood thought considerable effort was made a few years ago when the definition was changed. Most towns want local control. If a town has a problem with our Ordinance, then they should take up issues with their Nuisance Ordinances. He does not feel anything needs to be changed with the R2 Zoning District. Erickson feels if the Town of Hull is concerned they should create a new zoning district that is more restrictive and states what they want. Jacowski thought the change in zoning may not change the situation because of grandfathering. Piesik stated an option would be for the town to regulate through their nuisance ordinance. The town cannot create their own zoning ordinance. Schuler

stated they could create a new district or addition to the County Zoning Ordinance through the P&Z Committee. Piesik thought it would be best to refer the issue back to the town level. Potocki thought Mrdutt did a marvelous job on his research and felt there should be more discussion on the questions that were asked by him earlier.

Jacowski made a motion to leave the R2 Zoning District text as is. Erickson seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote, 4-1, with Potocki in opposition.

6. Discussion – Refilling Associate Planner Rural Position

Holdridge stated the Town of Hull uses this planner frequently for Comprehensive Plans and encouraged the Committee to refill the position. It is a valuable position to the towns. Jacowski asked how the budget looks. Dreier replied the budget is still in process. There is a gap to fill. She is supporting the refilling of this position and feels it is an important position to the County. Schuler stated the Department is taking action to refill the position and wanted to know if the Committee had any questions on the job description. Jacowski asked Schuler about the Department budget. Schuler replied we reviewed the budget, the projects we have, and will need the manpower. The job is posted now and the deadline is September 9, 2013 to apply.

7. Discussion / Possible Action – Resolution for the Authorization to Increase the Professional Services/Consulting Services Line Item in the Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership Group (CWWP) Budget

Bradley gave a brief description on the CWWP contracts for their Limited Term Employees (LTE). More funds are needed than budgeted for. It is just moving money from the reserve account, with no cost to the County.

For P&Z Committee, Jacowski made a motion to increase the Professional Services/Consulting Services line item in the CWWP budget as presented in the resolution. Flood seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote, 5-0.

For LCC, O'Brien made a motion to increase the Professional Services/Consulting Services line item in the CWWP budget as presented in the resolution. Bacon seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote, 6-0.

8. Discussion / Review – 2014 Planning and Zoning Department Budget

Schuler explained the budget process. There has been another year of grants coming into the Department, which has been helpful. We are in a good position to maintain the services we are able to provide. Piesik asked if it would be appropriate to raise fees. Schuler replied yes, if we can get people to do things they have to pay a fee for. We are always looking for more revenue sources. Jacowski asked if there will be any substantial cuts, then we will lose personnel. Schuler replied yes or open less hours, either way it is less work. Piesik asked how much of the budget is spent visiting towns and after hours activities. Schuler replied it is part of wages. Jacowski asked if an individual gets more comp time hours than what was actually spent. Schuler replied it depends on how many hours were worked in the week. You have to work 40 regular hours to get more than straight time on comp time.

9. Correspondence

Schuler stated a Plan Commission Workshop is coming up in September if any members are interested in attending.

10. Department Report

None.

11. Next Meeting Date

The next P&Z Committee meeting date is Wednesday, September 25, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. in Conference Room 5.

12. Adjournment

Piesik adjourned the meeting at 5:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Phillis, Recording Secretary

Jerry Piesik, Chair

Date

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Conference Room 5, County Annex
Stevens Point, WI 54481
August 27, 2013

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

Others present: Melissa Knipfel, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Teal Fyksen, 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 5:45 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 6, 2013

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

3. Correspondence

No correspondence presented.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20130614, 20130662, purchases, and CWWP procurement card charges for Rohde - \$362.42, Ewan - \$174.46 were reviewed.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Knipfel reported the local work group will meet on September 11 in Conference Room 2, County Annex, to discuss resource concerns throughout the county. Agencies, organizations, and the public are welcome to attend and voice their concerns. Information provided will be utilized to focus Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) funding toward addressing the resource concerns. Jacowski stated it is a difficult time for farmers and other ag related workers to attend and asked if the meeting could be held in October. Knipfel stated her deadline is September 13; however she indicated the State Conservationist has suggested holding multiple meetings throughout the year in the future. Knipfel will forward Jacowski's concerns to her supervisors.

6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

Knipfel distributed a list of fourteen conservation plans. Four plans were presented for signatures. Knipfel will prepare the remaining 10 plans, which must be signed by September 5. Motion by O'Brien, second by Bacon to sign the four plans presented at this meeting, and allow any LCC member to sign the remaining plans at a later date. Motion carried by voice vote.

7. Committee Representative Reports

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

- b. Resource Conservation & Development (Haga/Bacon) – No report.**
- c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (Jacowski/DeDeker-Alternate)– No report.**
- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Jacowski/Erickson-Alternate) – Jacowski attended the August 12 meeting in Hancock. The meeting included discussions on how to increase windbreak sales, Limited Term Employees (LTEs), and the budget. Regarding planting windbreaks near power lines, the CWWP Board decided to put together a subcommittee involving the member counties and power companies to work on drafting a policy.**
- e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien/Bacon-Alternate) – No report.**
- f. Mill Creek Watershed (Erickson/O'Brien-Alternate) – No report.**
- g. Little Plover River (Haga/DeDeker-Alternate) – No report.**

8. Presentation – Mill Creek Grazing Project – Teal Fyksen, Golden Sands RC&D

Fyksen is the Grazing Specialist with Golden Sands RC&D. He has had seven years of experience writing grazing plans, providing technical and educational assistance to farmers of varying types – dairy, beef, sheep, llamas, goats, etc. In the past, funding for his position was provided by the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI), a mix of Federal and State funding administered by DATCP. That funding source is no longer available. He distributed copies of a synopsis for a Lake Management Grant written for the Mill Creek Watershed to promote and implement grazing. A \$50,000 grant was awarded, beginning July 2013 through December 2014, which will cover two EQIP signups. His goal is to convert 1,500 acres of farmland to permanent managed grass. He plans to hold two educational events per month, such as pasture walks. He is applying for additional grants to cover the other counties involved with Golden Sands RC&D. He has high hopes to improve the water quality of Mill Creek and water bodies downstream. Bradley said there have been algae issues in Petenwell Flowage, which can be addressed by reducing phosphorus in the headwaters. Fyksen said there is no better way to reduce phosphorus, keep animals on the landscape and farms profitable than managed grazing. Permanent grass is effective erosion control. On a well managed pasture, an average of .2 tons of soil/acre/year can be lost. Fyksen added the frequency and intensity of 50 year storms is increasing, which usually occur in the spring when soils are unprotected. Permanent sod provides protection. The LCC thanked Fyksen for his presentation.

9. Discussion/Possible Action – Portage County and NRCS Operational Agreement MOU

Bradley referred to the agreement provided in LCC packets and resolution handed out at the meeting. The agreement includes sharing of equipment and vehicles. Corporation Counsel reviewed the agreement and does not have any issues. Motion by Haga, second by Bacon to approve the resolution and agreement. Members signed the resolution. Jacowski and Bradley signed the agreement. The resolution and agreement will be forwarded to the County Board for action.

10. Watershed Projects

- a. Updates – Bradley reported O'Connell is working on a design for manure storage for Wayne and Casey Groshek. No cost share funding is involved. Slagg is working on two shoreland restoration projects.**
- b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts – The property transfer to Jeff Trapp has been completed for his Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) grant. Bradley said cost share up to \$150,000 was awarded; however, he does not believe the entire amount will be needed. Motion by Bacon, second by DeDeker to approve Trapp's cost share contract up to \$150,000. Motion carried by voice vote.**

11. Next Meeting Date

Jacowski received information from Jennifer Glad, Golden Sands RC&D, regarding DNR's proposal for Portage County to hire a part time coordinator for the Central Wisconsin Grassland Conservation Area (CWGCA). He asked to have the information provided to LCC members and an item on the next meeting agenda.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 8, at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Room 5, County Annex.

12. Adjournment

Motion by O'Brien, second by Haga to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at October 8, 2013 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 8, 2013

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

Others present: Jennifer Glad, 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 7:00 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 27, 2013 Joint Planning and Zoning & Land Conservation Committee; and August 27, 2013 Land Conservation Committee

Motion by Haga, second by DeDeker to approve Joint Planning and Zoning & Land Conservation Committee minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote. Motion by Haga, second by DeDeker to approve Land Conservation Committee minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Correspondence

Bradley reported he was asked by Ken Schroeder, UW Extension Ag Agent, to assist in organizing a conservation tent for Farm Tech Days. A meeting will be scheduled when Melissa Knipfel, NRCS District Conservationist, returns from the government furlough.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20130686, 20130736, 20130773, 20130774, purchases, and procurement card charges for Rohde (CWWP) in the amount of \$276.36 were reviewed.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

No report.

6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No plans presented.

7. Committee Representative Reports

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

b. Resource Conservation & Development (Haga/Bacon) – Glad reported a grant has been submitted to provide education to landowners regarding the Emerald Ash Borer. A conference was held on September 25 to reach out to underserved farmers. An intern will be working with the Central Wisconsin Grassland Conservation Area in Taylor County.

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

- d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (Jacowski/Erickson-Alternate)** – The next meeting is October 28.
- e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien/Bacon-Alternate)** – O'Brien reported the annual bus tour is upcoming, but a date has not been set yet.
- f. Mill Creek Watershed (Erickson/O'Brien-Alternate)** – Erickson reported a meeting involving representatives from the Town and Village of Milladore was held to hear concerns from a Village of Milladore landowner regarding water drainage issues on his property.
- g. Little Plover River (Haga/DeDeker-Alternate)** – No report.

8. Discussion/Possible Action – Central Wisconsin Grassland Conservation Area (CWGCA) Part Time Limited Term Employee (LTE) Position

Bradley read an email from Scott Walter stating the DNR no longer intends to pursue hiring the CWGCA LTE position through Portage County and they are exploring other options. Jacowski asked to be kept informed.

9. Discussion/Possible Action – Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to Increase Lake Level and Baseflow Monitoring in Central Wisconsin

Bradley said the county conservationists from the involved counties requested he continue coordinating the project. A draft MOU was included in LCC packets and has been reviewed by all the counties. Bradley received a final version of the MOU and noted the revisions. Haga questioned liability for the equipment and volunteers. Bradley said Portage County has their own flow meter, and DNR will provide flow meters for the other counties. Bradley said the DNR has contracted with the UWSP to perform quality assurance/quality control. He read an email from the UWSP staff person checking the volunteers' accuracy, who reported the readings are comparable to what could be expected from seasoned professionals. Bradley explained the process for taking measurements. He said Corporation Counsel has reviewed the MOU. Jacowski preferred to allow the LCC time to review the revisions. Bradley said the counties will meet on October 17 to report progress, problems encountered, and discuss the future of the project. He will get signatures from the other counties and bring back to the LCC at the November meeting. The LCC expressed concerns regarding checks and balances and making certain accurate, unbiased information is reported. Ray Schmidt, Water Quality Specialist, will be overseeing Portage County's monitoring volunteers, through the Groundwater Citizens Advisory Committee (GCAC). Bradley questioned whether GCAC and Planning and Zoning may be the proper oversight committees rather than LCC.

10. Conservation Awareness Poster and Speaking Contest Dates

Benedict reported the state contests have been moved from fall to late winter/early spring. Local contests should take place in January and area contests in February. Benedict said the North Central area fall meeting will be held October 25. Setting the date for the contests will be included on the agenda. The LCC will decide on a date for the local contest at their November meeting.

11. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – The Genetic Futures manure pit is complete. The Trapp manure pit is almost finished. The Colby rip rap project is complete and some neighbors have expressed interest in similar projects to prevent erosion on the creek.

b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts – Change orders amending cost share amounts were presented for Colby's rip rap – original cost share amount - \$2,800, change order - \$1,586.06 = \$4,386.06. Windbreak projects with change orders are (Original amount, +/- amount = final amount): Ben Sankey - \$1,914.50 - \$946.15 = \$968.35; Jon Hamerski -

\$7,544.95 – \$38.29 = \$7,506.66; Village of Plover - \$1,015.70 – \$36.26 = \$979.44; Bernard Mocodlo - \$3,538.50 - \$131.00 = \$3,407.50; Matthew Gumney - \$4,370.45 - \$138.39 = \$4,232.06; James Isherwood = \$4,742.15 - \$256.02 = \$4,486.13; Paramount Farms - \$6,952.40 + \$7.67 = \$6,960.07; Joe Sankey - \$1,387.05 - \$104.16 = \$1,282.89; Paramount Farms - \$7,122.50 + \$96.50 = \$7,219.00; Isherwood Co LLC - \$5,941.60 - \$175.45 = \$5,766.15. Motion by Erickson, second by DeDeker to approve cost share change orders. Motion carried by voice vote.

12. Next Meeting Date

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

13. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at November 5, 2013 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

Barry Jacowski, Chair

Bo DeDeker, Secretary

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Conference Room 5, County Annex
Stevens Point, WI 54481
November 5, 2013

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

Member excused: Allen Haga, Jr.

Member absent: Bo DeDeker

Others present: Melissa Knipfel, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Barry Benson, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services; Jennifer Glad, Golden Sands RC&D; Ray Schmidt, Planning and Zoning Department, Water Quality Specialist; 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 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 8, 2013

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

3. Correspondence

Jacowski read a portion of a letter received from Justin Isherwood disagreeing with drafting a policy for planting windbreaks under power lines when cost share funds are used. The Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership (CWWP) Group Board discussed at their last meeting and is working toward developing a policy to present at the December CWWP Board meeting.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement

Voucher approval number 20130841 and procurement card charges in the amount of \$527.56 were reviewed.

5. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report

Knipfel thanked the LCC for their help in getting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) plans signed. The plans were approved and submitted to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) on time. Knipfel stated they are catching up and prioritizing work after the furlough. Currently there is no Farm Bill. She is making Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) payments. Participants receive annual payments each year of their five year contract. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) signup deadline has been extended from November 20 to December 20.

6. Review/Approval - Conservation Plans

No plans presented.

7. Committee Representative Reports

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

b. Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (Haga/Bacon) – The next meeting is November 21.

c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Association (Jacowski/DeDeker-Alternate)– Bradley attended the Fall Conference meeting on October 25. Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) Executive Director, Jim VandenBrook gave an update on WLWCA's strategic plan. Senator Tom Tiffany and a Wisconsin Counties Association representative talked about legislation being proposed regarding frac sand mining. There was a presentation on efforts by Lumberjack RC&D to eradicate yellow floating heart, an invasive species. The 2014 budget was adopted during the business meeting. Approval for travel reimbursement for North Central Area members to attend WLWCA meetings passed.

d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership Group (Jacowski/Erickson-Alternate) – In addition to the Board discussing a policy for planting windbreaks under power lines, Bradley reported the Board decided to continue contracting Limited Term Employee (LTE) services with Golden Sands RC&D rather than hiring through Portage County, and to stick with the maintenance fee increase of \$.10 per foot approved at a previous meeting. Additional revenues can replenish funds taken from the equipment replacement fund in years of budget shortfalls. Golden Sands RC&D wants to present a proposal to have the Project Manager become an RC&D employee. Glad distributed copies of their proposal to LCC members. The CWWP Board will consider the proposal at their December 9 meeting.

e. Portage County Drainage District (O'Brien/Bacon-Alternate) – O'Brien reported the annual tour took place. Information was shared about culverts, history of the drainage district, and the commissioners. Bradley said he noticed the excavating firm is doing a good job shaping and protecting the banks with grass after dredging. There are 110 miles of ditches and 43,000 acres in the district, the largest in the state.

f. Mill Creek Watershed (Erickson/O'Brien-Alternate) – Erickson reported a lady called him stating she saw dead baby pigs in a stream while walking south of Milladore. Erickson contacted the DNR and they removed the pigs.

g. Little Plover River (Haga/DeDeker-Alternate) – Bradley reported the flow is currently below the public rights stage. Flow in May was above the public rights stage. The Village of Plover does groundwater elevation monitoring and according to the October readings, levels dropped between one and three feet depending on the area of the watershed. DNR gave an overview of a monitoring project they are funding, working with USGS in the Little Plover River watershed, to develop a model to study changes in flow if, for example, irrigation scheduling is done differently. The Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association (WPVGA) is working with the UW-Madison on a project, coordinating with the DNR study. The Village of Plover closed on the purchase of 120 acres. Approximately 90 acres will be converted from irrigated cropland to a grassland conservation area, with a retention pond being considered. The Village of Plover is negotiating with a landowner on property at the headwaters to convert irrigated land to a wetland restoration project. The Village is looking for property to swap as the landowner needs to maintain a level of production. Del Monte reported they have returned 83% of their wastewater and noncontact cooling water back to the watershed.

8. Discussion/Possible Action – Wildlife Damage Program 2013 Crop Prices

Benson distributed copies of the 2013 Crop Price Proposal. Crops having claims are highlighted. The LCC set prices as follows: alfalfa - \$250.00 per ton, field corn - \$5.50 per bushel; soybeans - \$13.00 per bushel; sweet corn - \$110.00 per ton. Motion by Erickson, second by O'Brien to approve the 2013 crop prices. Motion carried by voice vote.

9. Wildlife Damage Program Update

Benson stated there has been an increase in deer damage in the last couple of years and it is expected to continue. The DNR Deer Biologist estimates in 2-3 years, depending on the severity of winters, the Wisconsin deer population could be over two million, the highest ever. There was discussion on baiting practices in northern Wisconsin. Benson expects as deer damage increases, more participants will move from ag tags to claims. He reported a wolf killed a calf in the Town of Buena Vista. It was determined it was a lone wolf passing through. According to the latest wolf harvest report, no wolves have been harvested in Portage County, but eight were harvested and two trapped in Adams County. Benson will present the Cooperative Agreement and budget at the December LCC meeting.

10. Discussion/Possible Action – Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to Increase Lake Level and Baseflow Monitoring in Central Wisconsin

Bradley reported the county conservationists met with the DNR and provided updates. Counties have been working with volunteers taking samples. The future of the project was discussed. Bradley stated he will be passing on the coordinator role to either the UWSP or Golden Sands RC&D this winter. Schmidt has recruited three volunteers so far and will ask Groundwater Citizens Advisory Committee members at their meeting Thursday, November 7. Training will be provided by UWSP staff, teaching volunteers how to use the equipment, take and record readings, and input into the DNR database. The flow meter being used by Portage County has been repaired and recalibrated. Schmidt said the information collected will be added to current groundwater and stream flow models, taking into consideration precipitation and climate, put together, and analyzed at the UW-Madison. Bradley said A.J. Bussan, UW-Madison, attended the meeting and said he can provide volunteers if needed. Jacowski said the LCC has concerns regarding the integrity of the readings. Schmidt said Jess Hawke, UWSP, has been involved with stream monitoring throughout the Central Sands area for several years. This project will monitor flow readings at additional locations either upstream or downstream on streams Hawke has been working on. She will spot check 10% of the readings reported by volunteers within a week. The data will also be checked by County staff. Jacowski asked what the data will be used for. Schmidt said the hope is to put information such as flow and groundwater data, the amount of water plants, trees, and crops pull from the groundwater into a computer model. Scenarios may be created to show expectations on the effects to the groundwater and streams when, i.e., a new irrigation well is installed, different crop rotations are used, or exceptional rainfall is received. O'Brien asked if precipitation is measured at each site, because it can vary greatly. Schmidt replied a volunteer precipitation monitoring network is being considered. There was discussion regarding who will take on the coordinator role. Jacowski asked if the LCC will have a role in the decision. Bradley said the counties, DNR, and UWSP have to decide what their needs are in regard to funding, people, a coordinator, etc. It may be a simple matter of DNR funding Hawke's time for providing quality assurance. If there are bigger issues, such as needing a coordinator for volunteers or if a grant needs to be written, RC&D may have a role. Glad said if a grant is to be written, they need to know soon. Before a decision is made, the LCC would like to be contacted. Bradley will keep the LCC informed. Jacowski asked if the MOU must be signed at this meeting in order for the project to continue. Bradley said the MOU document may be more critical for the other involved counties as they are using the DNR's equipment, while Portage County owns a flow meter. Schmidt said the Portage County project now includes 16 lake points and approximately 12 stream points. Another 20 stream points may be added. Volunteers from Wood and Waupaca Counties may do readings on points in Portage County near the county lines. Motion by Erickson, second by Bacon to approve the MOU contingent on the LCC chair's input and satisfaction with the working arrangement of the group. Motion carried by voice vote.

11. Discussion/Possible Action – Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plan Extension

Bradley stated Portage County’s LWRM Plan was revised in 2009. Motion by Bacon, second by Erickson to request a three year extension. Motion carried by voice vote.

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

Bradley reported the Area poster and speaking contests will be held February 21 in Wausau. The State contest will be held Monday, March 10 as part of the WLWCA Annual Conference. Benedict suggested holding the local contests as part of the February LCC meeting. O’Brien believes the WPVGA conference may conflict with the LCC meeting date. It was decided to wait until the December LCC meeting to decide on the contests date.

13. Discussion/Possible Action – Authorization to Submit a Youth Education Grant to Izaak Walton League-Bill Cook Chapter

Benedict asked the LCC to approve submitting a grant request in the amount of \$250 to supplement budgeted funds for the poster and speaking contests, stewardship program, and conservation camp scholarships. Motion by Bacon, second by Erickson to approve submitting a grant request. Motion carried by voice vote.

14. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – Bradley reported the Groshek manure pit should be complete by the end of the week. He added they installed robotic milkers in the barn. Bradley said it may be possible to tour their facilities after everything is up and running.

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

15. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 3 at 6:00 p.m.

16. Adjournment

Motion by O’Brien, second by Erickson 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 3, 2013 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 3, 2013

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

Others present: Barry Benson, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services; Kaycie Stushek, Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development; Rhett Krzykowski; Shannon Rohde; Project Manager, 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 6:03 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 November 5, 2013

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

3. Correspondence

No correspondence.

4. Review Vouchers, Purchases and Procurement Card

Voucher approval numbers 20130889, 20130919, purchases, and procurement card charges for Rohde in the amount of \$352.61 were reviewed.

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 - Erickson – No report.

b. Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) - Haga/Bacon – No report.

c. North Central Land & Water Conservation Assn - (NCLWCA) - Jacowski/DeDeker-Alternate – No report.

d. Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership Group (CWWP) – Jacowski/Erickson-Alternate – The next meeting is Monday, December 9 at 9:30 a.m. in Hancock. Rohde provided a year end report on CWWP activities. He reported approximately 12 miles of windbreaks were installed. He noted he had over the goal of 15.5 miles sold in the spring, but a couple of customers backed out and two landowners did not complete site preparation in the spring. Rohde planned to install those windbreaks in the fall, but the sites still were not prepared. He hopes to plant them next spring. He explained about 5,000 trees and shrubs

were replanted in the spring due to previous years' drought conditions. The replanting took about five weeks and used a majority of the LTE budget. Because of the budget issues, Rohde worked alone since July on windbreak maintenance, weeding, mowing, and site evaluations. He reported the survival rate for the 2011, 2012, and 2013 sites is pretty good. He estimates 1,800 replants for next spring. He did some replanting recently with leftover stock. He has been contacting and encouraging eligible customers to sign up for Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) funds. Rohde believed the deadline to be December 15 (the actual deadline is December 20). Final invoices have been sent to customers. Jacowski mentioned Golden Sands RC&D's proposal to have Rohde become an RC&D employee and asked for Rohde's opinion. Rohde replied he feels RC&D should have approached him first. He does not see the benefit to the CWWP program and stated he is not interested in becoming an RC&D employee. He questioned where the funds for the proposed incentives would come from. He stated he is satisfied being a Portage County employee. Jacowski thanked Rohde. The CWWP Board will act on the proposal at their December 9 meeting.

e. Portage County Drainage District - O'Brien/Bacon-Alternate – O'Brien reported the Annual Meeting took place on November 21. Good responses were received on the bus tour. Past projects and future plans were discussed. The same contractor will be used for ditch maintenance. Chemical treatments are planned to control canary grass. Jacowski encouraged anyone that has not attended a Drainage District tour to do so.

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

g. Little Plover River - Haga/DeDeker-Alternate – No report.

8. Discussion/Possible Action – USDA-APHIS Cooperative Service Agreement and Resolution

Bradley noted Corporation Counsel reviewed the agreement and resolution. Motion by O'Brien, second by DeDeker to approve the service agreement. Motion carried by voice vote. The resolution will be forwarded to the County Board for the December 17 meeting. Benson will attend to answer questions.

9. Discussion/Possible Action – Wildlife Damage Program Proposed 2014 Budget

Benson distributed copies of the County Budget/Financial Plan for Portage County. The total budget amount is \$33,709.86. He explained DNR's funding comes from \$12 bonus tag fees and a \$2 surcharge on hunting licenses. He noted the budget is higher than last year because he expects more damage claims. Motion by O'Brien, second by Bacon to approve the Wildlife Damage Program budget. Motion carried by voice vote.

10. Discussion/Possible Action – Conservation Awareness Poster and Speaking Contest Date

The speaking contest will be held during the LCC meeting on Tuesday, February 11, at 6:00 p.m. Posters will be judged ahead of time and will be displayed at the meeting.

11. Presentation – Golden Sands RC&D Aquatic Invasive Species Update – Kaycie Stushek

Stushek has been involved with the lakes and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) programs through a DNR grant with RC&D since 2007, working with Paul Skawinski and Amy Thorstenson. They rotate working in one of five counties each year – Portage, Waushara, Wood, Marathon, and Waupaca. Recently, Green Lake and Marquette have been added. An inventory of Portage County lakes was done in 2012. Species found are reported to the State. They work with lake landowners, providing education on species identification and suggesting solutions. She distributed a handout and summarized RC&D's work on AIS projects. Purple loosestrife biological control is being conducted. Students from the Wisconsin River Academy harvested purple loosestrife rootstocks in the Okray Wildlife Management Area. The rootstocks were used to raise over 41,000 beetles, which were released to feed on purple loosestrife in Portage and Marathon counties. Stushek noted the beetles reproduce naturally and feed only

on purple loosestrife. She stated anyone interested can volunteer to raise beetles. Equipment is provided free from RC&D or the DNR.

Stushek said RC&D hosts an area at the Friends of the Little Plover River Kids Day. They educate students in the identification of AIS and proper cleaning of boats to prevent the spread of AIS.

Lime Lake was treated a couple of years ago for Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). Some hand pulling was done last year, and again this year. Volunteers can identify and maintain EWM in the future. On Lake Emily, EWM reoccurs and is scattered throughout the lake. Bradley said chemical treatment was tried, but did not work. Stushek said there is a research bay that has not been chemically treated. Because of this, there is a constant source of EWM and the DNR has decided they will issue one last permit for treatment. According to the DNR, spot treatment is no longer an option. Treating the entire lake requires obtaining a license and would likely mean hiring a professional. Stushek clarified that RC&D has had ongoing testing using weevils in the research bay, but told the lake group a couple of years ago that the research bay could be included if they decided to chemically treat the entire lake. They would learn what the effect is on the weevils. Pickerel Lake was chemically treated and is now EWM free. However, fragmites, a tall invasive reed grass, was found. RC&D is working with Camp Helen Brockman to incorporate AIS education and monitoring in their camp activities. Maps of all of the lakes surveyed will be updated on the RC&D website.

A fundraiser was held at Trigs for AIS. Money raised will be used as matching funds for the grant.

A number of removal events were held. Volunteers and landowners are trained how to remove small patches of various types of AIS. Stream monitoring for AIS is also being done. Manual removal of EWM in the Rocky Run Wetland resulted in a "believed eradicated" status in DNR records. This is the only instance occurring in Wisconsin.

Students were educated on reed canary grass removal at the Boston School Forest. RC&D was present at the Lake Fair celebration in Amherst. Education on removing Japanese knotweed was provided at a number of lakes and ponds. SPASH National Honor Society students and the members of the nonprofit organization Cancer Awareness and Research Enrichment (CARE) helped remove invasive species on the Green Circle Trail.

Bradley asked if boat inspection education was done only for McDill Pond. Stushek replied a refresher on Clean Boats/Clean Water was also done at Tree Lake. She added training is available through the UWSP. Volunteers are needed, or lake groups may hire someone to staff boat landings.

Stushek stated she applied for a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant in the amount of \$37,000 for a two year terrestrial invasive species project in Portage and three other counties. She would work with high school students to remove invasive species in county parks.

Jacowski asked Rhett Krzykowski his purpose for attending the meeting. Krzkowski stated he is working on a merit badge and asked for a volunteer to interview after the meeting regarding a problem in the community and how people can help. Stushek agreed to do the interview.

12. Watershed Projects

a. Updates – No update.

b. Review/Approval - Cost Share Contracts – Bradley stated there are 2013 Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) cost share funds in the amount of \$23,550 not expended that must be extended to 2014. Cost share contracts have not been completed yet. Extension requests and cost share contracts must be submitted to DATCP by December 31. Motion by O'Brien, second by Haga to approve extending the funds to 2014. Motion carried by voice vote.

13. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 6, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

14. Adjournment

Motion by Haga, second by O'Brien to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/Patty Benedict/

Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at January 14, 1014 Land Conservation Committee meeting.

/Barry Jacowski/

Barry Jacowski, Chair

/Bo DeDeker/

Bo DeDeker, Secretary