

**ENVIRONMENT AND LAND USE COMMITTEE**  
**Department of Land Management**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**July 1st, 2009 8:45 AM**  
**COUNTY BOARD ROOM**

Chairman Halderson called the meeting to order at 8:45 AM.

Committee members present: Paul Halderson, Gerry Van Tassel, Chuck Zauner, Dick Kiekhoefer and Roland Thompson. David Quarne, Michelle Haines, and Rick Geske were not in attendance.

Staff/Advisors present: Kevin Lien and Virginette Gamroth. Vickie Stalheim was present for only part of the meeting.

Others present: Deloras Vind.

Halderson stated that the Open Meeting Law had been complied with through notifications and posting.

**Approval of Agenda** –Kiekhoefer made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, Zauner seconded, motion carried unopposed.

**Approval of Minutes** – Zauner made a motion to approve the June 10th, 2009 regular session meeting minutes, Thompson seconded, motion carried unopposed.

**Election of Treasurer** – After some discussion, the Committee consensus was, since there were three people with signatory powers on the E & LU checkbook account, that a Treasurer need not be elected at this time. Zauner made a motion not to elect a Treasurer, Kiekhoefer seconded, motion carried unopposed.

**Planning Update** – Lien stated he met with the Town of Hale last week regarding their Comprehensive Plan and the meeting went well. Town of Ettrick held their public hearing for the Comprehensive Plan on June 30<sup>th</sup> and that meeting went well. Town of Ettrick will probably adopt the Plan at their next meeting and they would be the first to do so. Lien is on the agenda to attend meetings at Albion, Gale, Caledonia and Trempealeau. Lien stated he hoped all the town plans will be adopted by Fall, so that the Comprehensive Plan can be put together , adopted and in compliance by 2010.

**Surveying Update** – County Surveyor, Joe Nelsen presented two survey reports; one for T21-8 and one for T21-9. Nelsen reported the T21-8 project report is very similar to last month. Time has been spent setting monuments and tying up government corners, so far 59 corners are in the ground. Nelsen referred Committee members to a map within the report showing the progress. Halderson questioned how many corners Nelson could complete in a month. Nelson responded it varies from two to four corners a day depending on how much time it takes to find the original marker. Nelson stated in T21-9 secondary GPS work is taking place. All the initial GPS work is done, data has been compiled and now Nelson is going back out and measuring into additional occupation for 40 corners. Secondary GPS takes the search area that might be 40 X 40 feet and defines it down to perhaps 4 X 4 feet. Discussion followed. Van Tassel made a motion to approve the two survey bills as presented, Kiekhoefer seconded, motion carried with no opposition.

**Director's Report** – Lien stated to the Committee that he and Stalheim will be working on budgets in the next month.

Lien informed the Committee that he had received word that nothing was vetoed out of the Governor's budget, so everything that had been proposed for staffing grants went through for 2010.

Lien updated the Committee on a Board of Adjustment variance issue in the Town of Caledonia. Lien stated he has been working with landowners, Russell and Diane Ford over the past few weeks. The Fords' have decided to pull permits for a new site down the road, about 400 feet from where they were going to build. Fords' have been granted a variance from the Mississippi Valley Conservancy to build on the new site. Fords' plan to "shore up" what is there, pull new permits, dig a new basement and move the whole, current structure down to the new site and then tear out the existing basement at the old site. Lien added he and Mark Carlson had gone down to the site and took a series of "shots" and staked the bluff line for Fords'. A new site which is compliant has been agreed upon. Discussion followed.

Discussion took place regarding a landowner and neighbor dispute in the Town of Gale. The office has received numerous complaints from the landowner regarding the neighbor. Lien provided the Committee with digital photos which were taken the day before of the property in question. Lien stated the landowner had complaints about debris on the neighbor's property and that the neighbor was running a business out of his home. Lien stated he has looked at the situation and read the Zoning Ordinance and Lien feels the neighbor is in compliance. Discussion followed with Lien reviewing specific sections of the Zoning Ordinance pertaining to this particular situation.

Lien informed the Committee on the situation at the Paul and Cecil Wier property. Lien advised the Committee that Corporation Counsel had sent a letter to Wiers' stating no further citations would be issued if significant progress toward cleanup was made by December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008, with further progress by February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 and May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 and final clean-up must be done by July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. Since that date, Wiers' have made progress regarding clean-up, as Lien received several mailings of copies of receipts from a salvage company in Holmen, but it has been very slow. Lien shared digital photos of the property which were taken the previous day showing junk and debris still on the property. Discussion followed and Lien read aloud sections of the Zoning Ordinance pertaining to this situation. Lien wanted direction from the Committee on how to proceed with this matter. Van Tassel voiced her opinion that she didn't see the point in issuing citations when it doesn't help the matter. The Committee advised Lien to consult with Corporation Counsel to see what possibly can be done, get the Judge involved and get the site cleaned up.

**Next Regular Meeting Date** was confirmed as Wednesday, August 12th, 2009 at 8:45 AM in the County Board Room.

Zauner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 AM, Van Tassel seconded, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Virginette Gamroth, Recording Secretary

Michelle Haines  
Secretary