

ENVIRONMENT AND LAND USE COMMITTEE
Department of Land Management
MEETING MINUTES
September 24, 2008 9:30 AM
COUNTY BOARD ROOM

Chairman Halderson called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM.

Committee members present: Paul Halderson, Gary Monson, Gerry Van Tassel, Chuck Zauner. Dave Quarne. Richard Kiekhoefer, Michelle Haines Todd McRoberts were absent.

Staff/Advisors present: Kevin Lien, Virginette Gamroth, Andrea Sveen, Vickie Stalheim. Judy Betker was present for only part of the meeting.

Others present: Duane Snobl, Deloras Vind, Sheree Nelson, Personnel Director Jami Kabus,

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

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

Approval of Minutes – Van Tassel made a motion to approve the August 27th, 2008 regular meeting minutes as presented, Monson seconded, motion carried unopposed. Motion was made by Monson to approve the August 27th, 2008 Joint meeting with Personnel/Bargaining minutes, seconded by Zauner, motion carried unopposed.

Wildlife Damage & Abatement Program Presentation (APHIS) - Duane Snobl - Duane Snobl introduced himself to the Committee. Snobl presented the Committee with copies of the USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services Wisconsin Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program – 2007 Summary Report (Attached and made a part of these minutes). Snobl gave the Committee an overview of the Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims and Deer Donation programs. Snobl gave a PowerPoint presentation showing the crop damage made by different animals in areas of the State.

2008 Farmland Preservation Agreement Applications – Judy Betker presented a list of fourteen Farmland Preservation Agreement applicants for 2008. Betker stated that there were approximately 38 expiring contracts and most of those did not file new applications because they had sold off parcels, or did not meet the requirements so it would not have been beneficial for them to apply. Van Tassel questioned if the new enrollees have been advised of the annual fee that will be assessed. Betker advised the Committee that it is written into the County Farmland Preservation standards and the new enrollees are also made aware of that annual fee by Betker. Discussion followed about the fees that have been collected so far in 2008. Discussion also took place about those landowners who had not paid the annual fee. Betker was advised by the Committee to talk to Corporation Counsel on how to proceed in collecting unpaid fees. Van Tassel made a motion to send the presented Farmland Preservation Agreement applications on to County Board for approval, Quarne seconded, motion carried unopposed. Betker informed the Committee that she is planning to attend a meeting on September 29th in Stevens Point on a new program entitled Working Lands Initiative which is set to replace the Farmland Preservation Program in the future.

Conservation Aid Applications – Stalheim reported that applications for Conservation Aid money had been sent out to all County Conservation Clubs. Two clubs submitted applications by the September 1st

deadline requesting money from this program. Elk Rod and Gun Club, Independence requested money for a trout habitat and improvement along a section of Traverse Valley Creek and the Blair Sportsman's Club for Lake Henry fish enhancement. Stalheim contacted DNR Fish Biologist, Dan Hatleli at Black River Falls to ask what was the best way to rank these projects. Hatleli was very familiar with both projects and he ranked the Traverse Valley project as being top priority, Lake Henry project second, that being his recommendation to the Committee. Stalheim stated that both projects could be done. Monson commented on how nice the Bruce Valley project looks. Discussion followed. Zauner made a motion to approve the Elk Rod and Gun Club project for Conservation Aid and to forward a resolution on to County Board, Van Tassel seconded, motion carried unopposed. Quarne made a motion to refer the Blair Sportsman's Club Lake Henry fish enhancement request to Badger Mining for payment. If needed, Blair Sportsman's Club can reapply next year, seconded by Monson, motion carried with no opposition. Stalheim stated she would notify both clubs of the status of their requests and prepare a resolution for County Board. Stalheim was instructed to send a letter to the Blair Sportsman's Club explaining the denial of their request at this time.

Dept of Land Management Annual Tour – Lien informed the Committee that staff worked together to come up with tour sites which will be mostly South, however, the tour will include the Bruce Valley trout project as Monson had suggested. Monson added that Bob Pietrek, President of the Elk Rod & Gun Club stated that he would be present at the Bruce Valley site to explain the project to the Committee if he was requested to do so. Lien gave a brief overview of the sites on the tour. The tour is scheduled for October 8th following the E & LU Committee meeting.

Director of Land Management Job Description – Personnel Director Jami Kabus was present and handed out a copy of the 2007/2008 Director of Land Management job description and a new “draft” job description with some changes on it. Kabus and the Committee compared the two job descriptions and Kabus noted what the specific changes were. Kabus stated that the current Land Management Plan is always changing so the position will have to evolve as the environment, etc. changes. Discussion followed about the development of meeting agendas. The Committee requested it be specified in the job description that the Chair be consulted about the agenda prior to any meeting. Van Tassel stated she felt the job performance needs to be regularly evaluated. Kabus stated the County is working on a formal evaluation process. Halderson stated his opinion that a director needs to be put in place to assist in arranging the final structure. Discussion took place as to the certifications required for the position. The Committee decided to take time to review the final job description and make a decision at the October 8th meeting.

LWRM Projects/Contracts/Pay Requests – Stalheim presented the following LWRM requests for approval.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Roger Byom	Contract	\$4,672.50
Roger Byom	Pay Request	\$4,672.50
Larry Loken	Contract	\$4,060.00
Larry Loken	Pay Request	\$4,060.00

Monson made a motion to approve, Quarne seconded, motion carried unopposed.

Resolution regarding UDC and Zoning position - Lien informed the Committee that at a meeting with Executive/Finance Committee concerns about the segregation of income from the UDC Inspector position were mentioned because it was created with the intention that the position would be paid for by inspections. Lien provided copies of the current UDC inspector job description dated June 2004 and

also “draft” job description from 2007 to the Committee. The purpose of the position is listed as “administer State mandated Uniform Dwelling Code inspections and County Zoning codes.” Lien stated for 2008 all budgets had been combined and it gave the UDC inspector some comfort in knowing that his job was not contingent upon the economy/permits. Lien stated that he told the Exec./Finance Committee if they still wanted to segregate the UDC income, then the Department would be forced to reduce the inspector’s work hours and then hire someone to do the additional zoning duties which that position is currently doing. Monson stated if the town’s and cities have to find their own inspector it will cost a lot more than the system in place now. Lien expressed concern about the 2009 budget that inspection revenue in the budget is to high. Monson made a motion directing Lien to draft a resolution to go to County Board to bring the UDC inspector position fully into the Department of Land Management budget, Van Tassel seconded, motion carried with no opposition.

Surveyors Update - Lien informed the Committee that Nelson is still working in Township 21-8, which is near completion. Remonumentation is on schedule for completion in 2012. Motion was made by Van Tassel to approve payment of the Surveyor’s bill as presented, seconded by Quarne, motion carried with no opposition.

Planning Update - Sveen reminded the Committee that the Public Hearing for both Unity and Albion’s Land Use plans is set for October 2nd, 2008 at 7:00 PM at the Albion Town Hall. Sveen stated Sumner is done with their revision and ready for a public hearing. Sveen stated Sumner has done major revisions to their plan and would like their public hearing soon. Sveen asked for direction on whether to wait for Chimney Rock to be done and have a joint public hearing with Sumner. The Committee decided that they would determine a public hearing date for Sumner at the October 8th E & LU Committee meeting. Sveen added she worked with the Village of Ettrick on their Comprehensive Plan. Sveen is making Ettrick’s Zoning and Land Use maps on the computer because they only have a paper copy. Lien stated he and Sveen had attended the Town of Dodge meeting regarding their Land Use plan. Some issues are pending in that township which were of great concern to the citizens in attendance and how those issues would be affected by the Land Use plan and its implementation.

Staff Reports – Lien referred the Committee to a copy of a letter in their folder that Lien and Carla Doelle had worked together on. The letter was sent to Attorney Glen Stoddard containing questions regarding the Livestock Ordinance. Stoddard had responded to Lien’s letter and quoted a flat \$500 fee for his legal opinion on the items in the letter. Lien had contacted Chairman Halderson regarding this matter and Halderson tentatively approved the fee for Stoddard. Van Tassel made a motion to approve Halderson’s decision to hire Stoddard for the \$500.00 fee, Monson seconded, motion carried with no opposition.

Stalheim informed the Committee that the 5 year service contract with APHIS for the Wildlife Damage and Claims program is up for renewal. Stalheim has forwarded the contract up to Corporation Counsel for review and at the E & LU November meeting Duane Snobl will be here to answer any questions the Committee may have about renewing the contract.

Lien stated that there has been a lot of controversy over people coming in and stating they are building storage sheds and then the Dept. later finds out that these are dwellings which require sanitary permits, etc.

Stalheim informed the Committee that Greg Leonard has been taken off the signature card for the E & LU checkbook. Van Tassel and Monson currently have signatory powers for that account.

Stalheim added the Dept. should be notified by October 7th as to whether or not any of the 10 TRM contracts submitted have been approved.

Next Regular Meeting Date was set for Wednesday, October 8th, 2008 at 9:15 AM in the County Board room. Meeting dates for November 5th at 9:30 AM and December 3rd at 10:00 AM were set due to conflicts with the holidays in those months.

Monson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 AM, Quarne seconded, motion carried unopposed.

Respectfully submitted,
Virginette Gamroth, Recording Secretary

Michelle Haines
Secretary