

Chippewa County Land Conservation
Committee Meeting
March 15, 2007

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, P. Michels, at 3:30 p.m. Members present were D. Boettcher, J. Dahl, M. Holte, P. Licht, L. Marquardt, P. Michels, and L. Willkom.

Agency staff present at times throughout the meeting were D. Masterpole, J.T. Jensen, L. Richardson, H. Weiland, R. Yohnk, and J. Schemenauer - Recorder (LCD).

Item #1 -Minutes/Bills/Plans/Contracts/Agreements.

The minutes from the 2/15/07 meeting were presented. Motion to approve the 2/15/07 minutes, as presented: Boettcher/Dahl. Motion carried.

The LCD program bills, grant funded project bills, and recycling program bills were presented. Motion to approve bills: Holte/Dahl. Motion carried.

Staff presented and the LCC reviewed a table titled: Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Contracts, Completed by LCD for Approval in March, 2007, (LCD 3/15/07). The table shows the location of the field plan(s) developed by landowners to meet the requirements of State and Federal administrative rules, under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). They are as follows:

<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Tract</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>NR151 Eval.</u>
C. Bowe	T3467	T29N	R9W	29	8.0	REV BAS	No
C. Scheidler	T6829	T30N	R5W	4	5.5	REV BAS	No
C. Scheidler	T4941	T30N	R6W	36	16.8	REV BAS	No

Motion to approve CREP field plans: Willkom/Licht. Motion carried.

Item #2 - Consider Application for Variance Under Chippewa County Farmland Preservation Standards to Construct a Livestock Crossing; T28N, R5W, Section 3; A. Martin, FLP Agreement #14437.

L. Richardson distributed and the Committee reviewed a staff report titled: An Evaluation of an Application for Variance Under V.C.3 of the Chippewa County Soil and Water Standards to Construct a Stream and Riparian Wetland Crossing for Livestock, T28N, R5W, Sec. 3, A. Martin, FLP Agreement #14437, (LCD 3/15/07 on file). The report contains factual information, which has been compiled to be considered as part of a variance process under Section V.C.3 of the Chippewa County Soil and Water Standards.

The general structure and content of the report are as follows:

•Background

- Applicant is now pasturing approximately 30 heifers of breeding age on approximately 6.5 acres of upland, located adjacent a riparian wetland in the floodplain of an unnamed tributary to the Wolf River.
- Applicant seeks permits and necessary authorization to place fill to construct a cattle crossing through the riparian wetland.

•Applicable Standards and Permitting Authority.

- Chippewa Co. Soil and Water Standards, WI Stats., Chapter 91.
- Section 404, US Clean Water Act; 33 CFR Part 328.
- NR151, NR102, WI Administrative Code.

•Site Investigation.

-Conducted 2/9/07 by LCD, DNR, and COE.

•Findings.

-LCD, DNR, and COE concurred that the area in question is a wetland, and that the access lane can not be located outside of the wetland.

-DNR and COE determined that the stream, at the point of the proposed crossing (T28N, R5W, Sec. 3, NW1/4 of SE1/4), was non-navigable and therefore, not subject to state or county jurisdiction under NR115, Shoreland Zoning.

-DNR and COE clarified that Section 404 CWA and NR102 allow placement of fill for a cattle crossing, if technical specifications are followed.

•LCD Follow-up Action.

-LCD has completed a preliminary design for a stream crossing and access lane which will minimize the adverse impacts upon the natural functions of the wetland. The design meets USDA-NRCS technical specifications.

-LCD has determined that the current stocking density (30 heifers; seasonal access) will maintain adequate sod cover and self-sustaining vegetative cover as needed to meet requirements of NR151.08(5).

•Options.

1. Grant the variance with the following conditions:
 - A. The access lane and stream crossing are designed by LCD engineering staff to meet technical standards.
 - B. The access lane and stream crossing will be constructed to meet the design.
 - C. LCD staff provide oversight during construction.
 - D. If the stocking density prevents adequate sod cover or self-sustaining vegetative cover or shows signs of erosion, then the stock density must be decreased.
2. Do not grant the variance.

L. Richardson presented a PowerPoint report (on file). The report contains an air photo which illustrates the location of the proposed livestock crossing in proximity to the wetland and farmstead, and photos which illustrate site conditions.

There was general discussion. Discussion focused on:

1. The criteria which must be met to issue a variance under Sec. V.C.3 of the County Soil and Water Standards.
2. The location and layout of the livestock facility.
3. The proposed design of the access lane and crossing.

Motion to grant the variance using Option 1, with the conditions as established in the staff report: Willkom/Dahl. Motion carried.

Staff will inform the landowner of the variance, as authorized, and provide technical assistance to facilitate the project.

Item #3 - Consider Application for 2008 Recycling Efficiency Incentive (REI) Grant.

R. Yohnk distributed and the Committee reviewed a proposal titled: 2008 Recycling Efficiency Incentive (REI) Grant Proposal Between Chippewa County, City of Cornell, and Village of New Auburn, (LCC 3/15/07). The general structure and content of the proposal are as follows:

•Purpose of Grant

To reward responsible units (RU's) that have made efforts to improve the efficiency of their recycling programs through intermunicipal cooperation.

•Issue

During the years 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006, the LCC has sought and received annual REI grants. The LCC has applied these grants to offset the County tax levy, historically used to fund the County Recycling Program. The LCC did so with the recommendation to the current and future Finance Committees that if the REI grant was not awarded, the tax levy should return to the historic level which was in place prior to the decision to offset the levy with the DNR REI grants.

•Proposal

Seek and apply for a REI grant for the year 2008. Chippewa County, City of Cornell, and the Village of New Auburn would enter a cooperative agreement to allow the City of Cornell and Village of New Auburn's residents to use the Chippewa County's special recycling programs. The City of Cornell and Village of New Auburn would provide a site for the event.

There was general discussion regarding past REI grants and the 2008 REI proposal.

Discussion focused on the risks associated with relying on a series of temporary REI incentive grants to finance local recycling programs.

Motion to authorize staff to pursue negotiations with the City of Cornell and Village of New Auburn and to submit a Year 2008 REI grant: Boettcher/Licht. Motion carried.

Motion to apply the 2008 grant revenue (if received), to temporarily offset the 2008 County tax levy, with the understanding that if this grant is not received in 2008, the tax levy will be returned to the historic levy allocation used to fund the recycling program before it was first deferred using REI grants in 2003: Willkom/Marquardt. Motion carried.

Item #4 - Report on Status of Recycling Service Contract Status and Contracted Activities.

R. Yohnk presented a PowerPoint report (3/15/07 on file). The report contains a summary of the process followed to solicit an independent contractor to provide services in support of the Chippewa County Recycling Program, and an outline of the services that will be provided.

R. Yohnk introduced H. Weiland, the Recycling Consultant, who was selected through the RFP process to provide this service.

There was general discussion. Discussion focused on the activities that will be conducted under contract in 2007.

Item #5 - Benchmark Report on the Status of Chippewa County Groundwater Inventory Project.

J.T. Jensen distributed and the Committee reviewed the following material:

1. Report titled: Benchmark Report on the Status of the Chippewa County Groundwater Inventory, (3/15/07). The report contains a schedule of activities that is being used to implement the groundwater inventory project.
2. Flowchart titled: 2007 Groundwater Inventory, Chippewa County Land Conservation Department Implementation Strategy. The flowchart illustrates the process that is being used to select the sample points and to record, compile, and distribute sample results.
3. Map titled: Chippewa County LCD 2007 Groundwater Inventory, (LCD 3/12/07). The map shows the location of selected sampling points and the sampling status of each.

There was general discussion. Discussion focused on the progress to date and extent of public interest in the project.

Item #6 - Review and Take Action on Truck Fleet Recommendation.

D. Masterpole distributed and the Committee reviewed the following material:

1. Overview titled: An Overview - Land Conservation Department Truck Allocations as Recommended by the Fleet Committee, (LCD 3/15/07). The overview outlines the current and proposed vehicle allocation for the LCD including vehicle number, truck description, mileage, and staff assignment.
2. Correspondence to P. Mohr (Highway Dept.) from D. Masterpole (LCD), (2/6/07). The correspondence conveys the LCD truck needs and recommends that the Fleet Committee consider acquiring a light hybrid or E85 truck to test the feasibility of using and servicing this type of utility vehicle.

There was general discussion. Discussion focused on:

1. The number and condition of trucks currently assigned to the LCD.
2. The Fleet Committee recommendation to reduce the LCD allocation by one and to provide access to a pool truck.
3. The general fuel efficiency of vehicles operated by Chippewa County.

Motion to:

1. Concur with the Fleet Committee recommendations regarding the allocation and replacement of trucks for the LCD, and
2. Recommend that the Fleet Committee actively pursue fuel efficient vehicles for demonstration purposes and general public benefit: Dahl/Boettcher. Motion carried.

Item #7 - Review Draft 2006 Annual Report.

D. Masterpole presented a brief report on the state of the 2005-2006 LCC annual report. The report is being compiled and will be distributed in April.

Item #7 - Committee Communication.

D. Masterpole distributed and the Committee reviewed a handout titled: Suggested Input for Submittal to Administrative Committee for Consideration in Selecting a County Administrator, (LCD 3/15/07 on file). The handout contains recommendations which might be considered in the recruitment and selection of a County Administrator, as requested by the County Board Officers on 2/13/07.

There was general agreement that the suggested input be forwarded to the County Board Officers for consideration by the County Administrative Committee.

J. Dahl requested an update on the Annual Interagency Meeting, sponsored by the LCD on 3/13/07, to review the status of activities which are being implemented under the Chippewa County Land and Water Management Plan.

D. Masterpole provided a brief update on the results of that meeting.

Item #8 - Public Wishing to be Heard.

There was no public wishing to be heard.

The next regularly scheduled LCC meeting was scheduled for Thursday, April 19, 2007, at 3:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn: Boettcher/Holte.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:25 p.m.