

Chippewa County Land Conservation
Committee Meeting
October 18, 2007

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

Members absent were D. Boettcher.

L. Marquardt joined the meeting at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Agency staff present at times throughout the meeting were W. Reynolds (Administrator), R. Brown (Land Records), D. Clary (Zoning), A. Dane (UWEX), M. Dahlby, D. Masterpole, D. Nashold, and J. Schemenauer - Recorder (LCD).

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

The minutes from the 9/20/07 meeting were presented. Motion to approve the 9/20/07 minutes: Holte/Willkom. Motion carried.

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

Staff presented and the LCC reviewed a table titled: Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Contracts, Completed by LCD for Approval in October, 2007, (LCD 10/18/07). 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>Eval.</u>	NR151
BCB Farms, Inc.	T49206	T31N	R6W	24	7.1	RES CON	No	
BCB Farms, Inc.	T49207	T31N	R6W	24	2.4	RES CON	No	

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

Item #2 - Review Institutional Framework Used to Support the Land Conservation Efforts of Land Trusts and Nonprofit Conservation Organizations in Chippewa County.

M. Dahlby distributed and the Committee reviewed the following material:

1. Diagram titled: Institutional Framework Used to Support the Land Conservation Efforts of Land Trusts and Nonprofit Conservation Organizations (NCO's) in Chippewa County, (LCD). The diagram shows the funding sources and programs that are now administered in Chippewa County to assist landowners to preserve land through use of land donations, conservation easements, or fee title transfers.

2. An accompanying report titled: Review of Institutional Framework Used to Support the Land Conservation Efforts of Land Trusts and Nonprofit Conservation Organizations (NCO's) in Chippewa County, (LCD 10/18/07). Key points from that report are as follows:

- An institutional framework now exists in Chippewa County which is used by the County and nonprofit conservation organizations (NCO's) to assist landowners to preserve land.
- Several land preservation projects have been sponsored by NCO's which have contributed significantly to the land preservation efforts in Chippewa County.
- There are several factors that inherently limit the number of land preservation projects, which can be pursued under the existing framework. These include:
 - The extent of landowner interest.
 - The capacity of public agencies and NCO's to support landowner efforts.
 - The amount of funding available to compensate landowners for preserving land.

There was general discussion. Discussion focused on:

1. The role of the County in assisting landowners and NCO's in preserving land.
2. The appraisal processes used to determine the value of land and conservation easements.
3. Circumstances where preserved parcels should be transferred to public ownership vs. circumstances where parcels should remain in private ownership and be protected through use of conservation easements.

Item #3 - Overview of Comprehensive Planning and County Planning Project Design.

D. Clary (Zoning) provided an oral report which summarized the status of the Chippewa County comprehensive planning project. The status is as follows:

1. The Zoning Dept. has developed a project design and budget
2. The Zoning Dept. has prepared a Request for Proposals (RFP) and has formally contacted the municipalities to solicit their interest in participating in a joint multi-jurisdictional planning project. Under this approach, the County and each municipality will use a common planning process, select their own planning consultant, and will develop a free-standing comprehensive plan for their respective jurisdictions.
3. The County has adopted Resolution #40-07. The resolution authorizes the County to participate in a "regional grant application", to be submitted by the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCRPC) to the State of Wisconsin (Dept. of Administration). If awarded, grant funds will be used to assist each of the participating counties and municipalities to develop a comprehensive plan for their jurisdiction.

D. Clary concluded that the County will defer direct planning activity until receiving notice of the outcome of the WCRPC grant application. In the interim, the County will conduct pre-planning activities and will attempt to provide planning support to municipalities that intend to do comprehensive planning, independent of the County process.

R. Brown (Land Records) distributed and the Committee reviewed the following material:

1. Diagram titled: Overall Planning Process Flowchart. The diagram illustrates components of a regional planning process submitted under the state grant application, completed by the West Central Regional Planning Commission (WCRPC).
2. Table titled: County & Local Comprehensive Plan Development Timeline. The table outlines the project activity and the agency/municipality responsibilities under the state grant application submitted by the WCRPC.
3. Table titled: Proposed Timeline for Local & County Comprehensive Land Use Plans (Based on Plan Process Outlined in WCRPC Grant Proposal and Resolution passed by County Board). The table outlines the project activities and the timeline that will be used by the municipalities that choose to participate in the regional planning effort, if the state grant is awarded.
4. Table titled: Proposed Timeline for Local and County Comprehensive Land Use Plans (Based on original 8 Month Plan Process without Grant Proposal). The table outlines the project activities and the timeline that will be used by the County, if the state grant is not awarded.

There was general discussion. Discussion focused on:

1. Differences in the planning process design under the two grant scenarios (with and without the planning grant award).
2. The type and extent of planning and technical support that the County will provide to:
 - A. Municipalities who have opted not to join in the grant application.
 - B. Municipalities that have chosen to pursue planning efforts independent of the County's multi-jurisdiction planning design.

Item #4 - Overview of Livestock Industry Status and Planned Expansions in Chippewa County.

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

1. Tables from the "Wisconsin 2006 Agricultural Statistics" as follows:
 - Number of Milk Cow Herds by Months, Wisconsin, 2003-2006 1/.
 - Wisconsin Milk Cow Herds by Type of Milk Produced, Number and Percent, by County 1/.
 - Milk Cows: Production Per Cow and Total Milk Production, by Counties, Wisconsin, 2004-2005.
2. Map of Wisconsin titled: Total Herds by County, (Wisconsin 2006 Agricultural Statistics). The map shows the State of Wisconsin and the number of dairy herds in each county, based on data from the Dairy Producer License list as of 4/1/06.

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

1. Map of Chippewa County titled: Manure Storage Facilities and Land Under Nutrient Management Plans, (LCD 10/18/07). The map illustrates the location of the following:
 - Manure storage structures installed from 1986 to the present.
 - Manure storage structures that will be installed in 2008.
 - Nutrient management tracts meeting the State 590 standard, as implemented from 1986 to present.
 - Nutrient management tracts that will be implemented in 2008.
 - Tracts meeting County Soil and Water Conservation Standards.
 - Tracts meeting NR151 runoff standards.
2. Table titled: Land Conservation Engineering - 2007 Design Projects - Update, (LCD 10/16/07). The table outlines the status of agricultural-related engineering projects that the Land Conservation Department is conducting and overseeing in 2007.

D. Nashold provided an Arc View map presentation titled: Manure Storage Facilities and Land Under Nutrient Management Plans, (on file, LCD 10/18/07).

There was general discussion regarding the importance of agriculture to the economy and the capital investments being made by livestock producers in Chippewa County.

Item #5 - Introduce UWEX Bio Energy Initiative and Discuss Potential Linkages to State Working Lands Proposals and County Farmland Preservation Protection Efforts.

D. Masterpole distributed and the Committee reviewed a written report titled: A Conceptual Overview of State and Federal Bio Fuels and Agricultural Land Initiatives and Suggested Linkages to County Farmland Protection Efforts, (LCD 10/18/07).

The report:

1. Outlines direct linkages between agricultural land use, environmental quality, energy production, and economic viability in Chippewa County.
2. References a series of state, federal, and international reports that reinforce the linkages described.
3. References state and federal legislation that is being created to:
 - Encourage bio energy production to meet future energy demand.
 - Set standards for carbon emission reduction.
 - Upgrade the state's farmland protection program and provide new tools to encourage counties to define and protect "working lands" for long-term agricultural production (via ag planning, zoning, ag enterprise zones, PDR).

The report concludes that:

1. Agriculture and forestry are economically viable industries in Chippewa County.
2. It is in the public's interest for Chippewa County to be proactive and actively support these land-based industries as part of the County's long-term economic development, natural resource management, and growth management strategy.

A. Dane (UWEX) distributed and the Committee reviewed a brochure titled: Earth, Wind, & Fire: Preparing for Bio-Energy Opportunities in Wisconsin, A Collaborative Project Organized by the University of Wisconsin - Extension. The brochure provides an overview of the project and outlines its desired outcomes.

The project is intended to:

1. Increase understanding of both the opportunities and the constraints for bio-energy development.
2. Better position the County and region to capitalize on its assets.
3. Prepare the community for sound decision making, as opportunities emerge.

There was general discussion. Discuss focused on the UWEX project and the role of agriculture in a bio-energy based economy.

Item #6 - Committee Communication.

P. Michels reported that he received several thank you notes from students that had participated in the conservation speaking and poster contest, co-sponsored by the Chippewa County Extension Office and the Land Conservation Department.

There was no further committee communication.

Item #7 - Public Wishing to be Heard.

There was no public wishing to be heard.

The next LCC meeting was scheduled for Thursday, November 15, 2007, at 3:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn: Willkom/Dahl.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:20 p.m.