

Chippewa County Land Conservation
Committee Meeting
May 21, 2008

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, L. Willkom, at 8:00 a.m. Members present were D. Boettcher, J. Brost, M. Goettl, S. Lane, P. Licht, E. Rineck, and L. Willkom.

L. Willkom recognized J. Brost as the Vice-Chair.

Agency staff present at times throughout the meeting were W. H. Reynolds (Co. Administrator), M. Dahlby, D. Masterpole, J.T. Jensen, R. Yohnk, and J. Schemenauer - Recorder (LCD).

Other County Board Supervisors present were L. McIlquham.

Item #1 – Approve Minutes. Review Summary of Plans/Contracts/Agreements.

The minutes from the 3/20/08 meeting were presented. Motion to approve the 3/20/08 minutes: Goettl/Brost. Motion carried.

There were no plans, contracts, or agreements presented.

Item #2 – Introduce Proposed Process and Activities for Committee Orientation.

D. Masterpole distributed and the Committee reviewed a table titled: Proposed Process and Schedule of Activities for Land Conservation Committee Orientation, (LCD 5/20/08). The table outlines a stepped process and the materials that could be used for Committee orientation.

There was general discussion. Discussion focused on:

1. Using regularly scheduled mailings and monthly meetings as a basis for orientation.
2. The content of the materials package.
3. The use of a summer field tour to view issues of conservation interest.

There was general agreement that the proposed process and schedule be used.

Item #3 – Review Wis. Stats. 33.28; Consider Land Conservation Committee Appointment to the Lower Long Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District.

D. Masterpole reported that:

1. As part of County Board reorganization, Chippewa County is required by statutes to appoint a person to the Lower Long Lake Protection District Board of Commissioners.
2. J. Dahl, who has recently served in that capacity, has completed his term and has indicated that he would decline nomination for reappointment.

The Committee reviewed Wis. Stats. 33.28(2). The statute states that the Lake District Board of Commissioners shall consist of: “One person appointed by the county board who is a member of the county land conservation committee or is nominated by the county land conservation committee and appointed by the county board”.

There was general discussion regarding the responsibilities of the LLLPRD, and its efforts to develop a lake management plan and to advance lake management efforts in Chippewa County.

Additional discussion focused on appointment options and the advantages/disadvantages of each. The options discussed were:

1. Appoint a LCC member.
2. Nominate a County Board member.
3. Appoint a citizen from the Long Lake area to the LLLPRD District Board with a strong commitment to conservation and lake protection to serve in a liaison capacity between the LCC, County Board, and Lake District.

Motion to work with the Lower Long Lake District Board to nominate a person from the Lower Long Lake area with a strong commitment to conservation and lake protection to serve as a District Board member in a liaison capacity: Licht/Lane. Motion carried.

Item #4 – Review Resolution #25-06; Seek Land Conservation Committee Representative to Serve in an Advisory Capacity to Administer the Living Land Endowment Fund.

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

1. Copy of resolution titled: Resolution No. 25-06 – Resolution to Authorize Members of the Land Conservation Committee to Serve in an Advisory Capacity to the Community Foundation of Chippewa County, Inc., (7/11/06) The resolution provides that three (3) members of the Land Conservation Committee serve on an Advisory Committee to assist the Community Foundation to administer the “Living Land Endowment”.
2. A section of a document titled: A Proposal to Establish the Living Land Endowment Fund and the Current Project Pass-Through Fund to Preserve Land and Natural Areas, (LCC 6/6/06). This section outlines the roles and responsibilities of the Community Foundation Board and those of the Advisory Committee.

There was general discussion. Discussion focused on:

1. The purpose of the “Living Land Endowment”; that being to receive charitable contributions that will be distributed to preserve land and natural areas in Chippewa County.
2. The role of the Community Foundation Board and that of the Advisory Committee.

Motion to recommend that J. Brost, M. Goettl, and L. Willkom be appointed by the County Board Chair to serve in an advisory capacity to the Community Foundation of Chippewa County, Inc., as authorized through Resolution #25-06: Boettcher/Licht. Motion carried.

Item #5 –Review Resolution #34-07; Consider Proposal to Pursue Higher Fuel Efficiency Demonstration Vehicle as Part of Scheduled Truck Fleet Replacement.

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

1. Copy of resolution titled: Resolution #34-07 – Resolution to Authorize Appropriate Expenditure of Arrowhead-Weston Transmission Line Restricted Environmental Impact Fee Funding Received from the Wisconsin Department of Administration. The resolution authorizes the expenditure of \$7,019 (from the \$107,019 Arrowhead-Weston Transmission Line Environmental Impact Fee), to be used toward the purchase of a high fuel efficiency vehicle.
2. Table titled: Conceptual Options and Limitations to Consider in Exploring Higher Fuel Efficiency Vehicles, (LCD 5/20/08). The table outlines the vehicle options that are available (standard higher efficiency vehicles, bio-fuel vehicles, electric hybrid, and plug-in electric vehicles), and the limitations that impede their immediate use.

Discussion focused on:

1. The Board directive.
2. The administrative process of researching and procuring a high fuel efficiency vehicle.
3. The added value which could be gained if the high fuel efficiency vehicle was used to gather data and demonstrate its fuel efficiency and utility.

Motion to:

1. Support and advance the earlier Board directive to use \$7,019 toward the purchase of a high fuel efficiency demonstration vehicle.
2. Recommend that the LCD communicate a willingness to help test and demonstrate the utility of this vehicle through fleet operations: Boettcher/Lane. Motion carried.

Item #6 – Review Chippewa County Land Conservation Committee Report of Activities, 2006-2007; Discuss Process for Advancing Report to County Board.

The Committee reviewed the following material (distributed through the 5/16/08 mailing):

1. Report titled: Chippewa County Land Conservation Committee, A Report of Activities 2006-2007, (LCD 3/20/08). The report summarizes the work completed by the LCC and LCD in 2006-2007. The report content is as follows:
 - Committee Duties.
 - Conservation Planning and Policy Initiatives.
 - Conservation Services.
 - Unique Areas Protection.
 - Stream Corridor and Wetland Buffers.
 - Agricultural Runoff Control.
 - Urban Storm Water Runoff Control.
 - Surface Mined Land Reclamation.
 - Recycling.
 - Interagency Coordination.

2. Report titled: 2007 Annual Report of Recycling Activities Conducted by Municipalities in Chippewa County, (LCD-Recycling Program, 4/08). The report summarizes the work done by the LCC and municipalities through recycling programs in 2007. The content is as follows:
 - Introduction and Background.
 - Overview of Municipal Recycling Programs and Activities.
 - Overview of County Recycling Programs and Activities.

Discussion focused on:

1. With respect to the general Land Conservation Committee report, the importance of further clarifying the type of public uses that are permitted when reporting public access on select properties.
2. The procedure for forwarding and presenting the reports to the County Board.

Item #7 – Overview of 2008 LCC Budgets, Revenues, and 2008-09 Projections.

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

1. Memorandum to W. Reynolds (Co. Administrator), from D. Masterpole (LCD), (5/12/08). The memo reports that all 1st quarter expenses are within budget and that 2008 revenue projections remain valid as projected. No budget overruns are anticipated.
2. Summary table titled: Draft 2008 Budget Summaries, Chippewa County Land Conservation Department (8/16/07), (distributed through the 5/16/08 mailing). The table is a spreadsheet which shows line item expenses and revenues for the following proposed LCD budgets:

- #100-52-57410 Land Conservation Department
- #100-52-57412 Farmland Preservation
- #100-52-57420 Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Grants
- #100-52-57417 SWRM
- #100-52-57423 Gravel Pits
- #100-52-57424 Farmer's Fund
- #100-52-57425 CREP Fund
- #100-52-57414 Plan/Zone Project
- #100-52-57422 Urban Stormwater

3. Summary table titled: Chippewa County Land Conservation Department, Recycling Program - 2008 Budget Summaries, (8/22/07), (distributed through the 5/16/08 mailing). The table is a spreadsheet which shows line item expenses and revenues for the following budgets:

- #100-17-54810 - Solid Waste
- #100-17-54815 - Tire Facility
- #100-17-54822 - Household Clean Sweep Program
- #100-17-54825 – Recycling

4. Pie chart titled: Chippewa County 2007 Tax Levy Distribution, (5/08). The chart illustrates the distribution of 2007 County levy funds to County Departments.

5. A set of pie charts as follows:

1. Chart titled: Funding for Conservation Services, (LCD 5/08).
2. Chart titled: Funding for Conservation Practice Installation by Landowners, (LCD 5/08).
3. Chart titled: Funding for Recycling Services, (LCD 5/08).
4. Chart titled: State Grant Distribution, (LCD 5/08).

This set of charts shows the different sources of funds used to support LCC programs and the general distribution of LCC program costs.

6. Diagram titled: Diagram Illustrating Implementation of 5 Year Staff Transition Plan Land Conservation Department, (LCD 6/8/06). The diagram illustrates the number of LCD staff funded through county levy, service fees, and state grants from 1990 – 2006.

There was general discussion.

Discussion focused on the budget information, as presented, and on State and County fiscal challenges.

Item #8 – Set Land Conservation Committee Meeting Time and Schedule.

There was general discussion regarding the LCC meeting schedule.

There was general agreement that:

1. The June, July, and August LCC meetings will be held at 7:30 a.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.
2. The fall/winter schedule will be established at a future LCC meeting.

Item #9 – Committee Communication.

D. Masterpole reported that, per the Committee's request (3/20/08), he had inquired about the funding sources used by Eau Claire County to sponsor training sessions for nutrient management planning. Eau Claire County has applied a portion of its state (92.14) block grant funding for this program and has dedicated LCD and UWEX staff to implement the program.

Item #10 – Public Wishing to be Heard.

There was no public wishing to be heard.

Motion to adjourn: Boettcher/Goettl. Motion carried..

The meeting was adjourned at approximately at 10:10 a.m.