

Chippewa County Land Conservation
Committee Meeting
June 18, 2008

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, L. Willkom, at 7:30 a.m. Members present were D. Boettcher, J. Brost, M. Goettl, S. Lane, P. Licht, E. Rineck, and L. Willkom.

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

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

The minutes from the 5/21/08 meeting were presented. Motion to approve the 5/21/08 minutes: Boettcher/Lane. Motion carried.

There were no plans, contracts, or agreements presented.

Item #2 – Review Committee Authority, Assigned Responsibility, and Scope of Program and Service Delivery.

The Committee reviewed the following material (distributed through the 6/13/08 mailing):

1. Handout titled: Duties of the Chippewa County Land Conservation Committee. The handout outlines the duties and responsibilities of the LCC in Chippewa County.
2. Sections 92.06, 92.07, and 92.09 of Wisconsin Statutes, Chapter 92 titled: Soil and Water Conservation and Animal Waste Management, (2005-06).

There was general discussion. Discussion focused on:

1. The Committee membership, as outlined in Section 92.06(b), and the authority to appoint members who are not members of the County Board, as established in 92.06(1)(b)4.
2. The scope of the statutory powers of the Committee, as established in 92.07(1-15).

Item #3 – Review Resource Management Issues and 2008 LCC Work Plan.

The Committee reviewed a table titled: Schedule of Activities to Implement Plan, (LCD 8/16/06), (distributed through the 6/13/08 mailing).

The table contains a quarterly schedule of activities that is being systematically implemented to pursue program objectives established in the Chippewa County Land and Water Resource Management Plan, (12/15/04), and in the 2008 LCC work plan.

The Committee reviewed a list of activities and projects that have been designated as priorities in 2008. They are as follows:

1. Evaluate the effectiveness and deficiencies of the County's existing Farmland Preservation approach.
2. Systematically review and provide policy input into the natural and cultural resource and land use elements of the County Comprehensive Plan.
3. Implement joint stormwater management program for the Chippewa Falls Urban Area by meeting obligations under the proposed Chapter 66.03 intermunicipal agreement.
4. Complete the update to the 1985 Chippewa County Groundwater Inventory.
5. Review the current policy and facilitate the acquisition of select land and/or conservation easements through use of the Chippewa County Stewardship Fund Program.
6. Develop a project to purchase land or rights of first refusal from landowners owning parcels situated adjacent to an existing county parcel, or other parcels with high value for outdoor recreational use.

There was general discussion. Discussion focused on:

1. How the status of projects is tracked and the thresholds of progress or completion are measured.
2. The use of staff work plans to accomplish priority activities and projects.

Item #4 – Overview of 2008-09 Municipal Recycling Grant Projections and Distribution Schedule. Introduce Recycling Program Study Proposals.

R. Yohnk presented a PowerPoint report (on file). The report:

1. Summarizes the roles and responsibilities of Chippewa County and those of local municipalities, as established under Intergovernmental Recycling Agreements.
2. Introduces a proposed study to determine the effectiveness of the household recycling programs in Chippewa County, and the current cost effectiveness and viability of local material recovery facilities (MFR's).

There was general discussion. Discussion focused on:

1. The amount of the state recycling grant, as awarded to Chippewa County serving as the Responsible Unit (RU), and its proportional distribution to the local municipalities.
2. The wide-range of per capita household recycling rates, as documented for the local municipalities.
3. The current and anticipated costs of household recycling collection services in incorporated and unincorporated areas of Chippewa County.
4. The increasing value of recyclable materials.

Based on this discussion, staff will prepare and present options for the 2009 grant distribution and study proposal as part of the 2009 budget process.

Item #5 – Review Current Expansion of Non-Metallic Mine Industry. Discuss Implications on the Resource Base and County Reclamation and environmental Services.

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

1. Map titled: Western Chippewa County: Working Map of Sandstone Formations, Chippewa County Land Conservation Dept., (6/13/08), (distributed through 6/13/08 mailing). The map illustrates the location of Jordan and Wonewoc soils in the western part of Chippewa County.
2. Chart titled: Review Authorities for Sandstone Mine – Robert Schindler Property, (LCD 6/18/08). The chart lists the different authorities having regulatory jurisdiction that may apply to a proposed non-metallic mine in the Town of Howard.
3. Chart titled: Worksheet to Address Potential Impacts of Sandstone Mine – Robert Schindler Property, (LCD, 6/18/08). The chart outlines the type of impacts that are generally associated with non-metallic mine operations, and the extent of the County's authority to address these impacts under the nonmetallic mining reclamation ordinance.

There was general discussion. Discussion focused on:

1. The non-metallic mine application and review process.
2. The social, environmental, and reclamation issues that are associated with mining operations.

Based on this discussion, staff will process any sandstone mine permit applications received following established procedures.

Item #6 – Review Status of Comprehensive Planning Process and Requirements of the Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Element. Introduce Proposed Public Participation Approach to Assure Input from Stakeholders.

R. Brown distributed and the Committee reviewed a handout titled: Section 2: Contents of a Comprehensive Plan – 9 Elements; Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Element. The handout is a checklist that can be used to compile the objectives, policies, goals, maps, and programs for the conservation, promotion, and effective management of natural resources in Chippewa County, as required for the agricultural, natural, and cultural resources element of the County's comprehensive plan.

There was general discussion. Discussion focused on the status of the County's comprehensive planning process, and the role of the Land Conservation Department in compiling existing information.

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

1. Handout titled: Public Participation Plan to Support the Town of Cleveland Comprehensive Planning Process, (12/6/07). The handout provides an example of a public participation process and explains the levels of public participation that can be achieved through use of different techniques and activities.
2. Handout titled: Outline of Ad Hoc Advisory Committee Charge; Chippewa County Land and Water Resource Management Plan Revision, (LCD 6/11/03). The handout outlines the duties and responsibilities of a stakeholders group that was convened in 2003, to assist the Land Conservation Committee and Department to revise the Chippewa County Land and Water Resource Management Plan.

There was general discussion. Discussion focused on:

1. The status of the Chippewa County Land and Water Resource Management Plan and the County's obligation to review and revise the plan before 12/31/09.
2. The value of reconvening the stakeholders group to assist the LCD to update the 2004 Chippewa County Land and Water Resource Management Plan to:
 - A. Determine if the goals and objectives, as stated in the plan, are still valid and can be used in the agricultural element of the comprehensive plan.
 - B. Update and upgrade the Chippewa County Land and Water Resource Management Plan to meet local needs and State requirements.

Based upon the discussion, there was general agreement that staff should contact the stakeholder groups that had been previously represented, to determine their interest in participating in the planning process.

Item #7 – Committee Communication.

D. Masterpole introduced correspondence submitted to D. Clary (Planning & Zoning), from D. Masterpole (LCD), (5/15/08). The correspondence informs the Planning and Zoning Department that the LCD will conduct public inspections as needed to verify that a swine facility, permitted under the Chippewa County Animal Waste Storage Ordinance, will be constructed as designed in accordance with standards of the ordinance, irrespective of its permit status under the Wisconsin WPDES permitting process.

Item #8 – Public Wishing to be Heard.

There was no public wishing to be heard.

The next LCC meeting is scheduled for 7/16/08 at 7:30 a.m.

Motion to adjourn: Lane/Rineck. Motion carried..

The meeting was adjourned at approximately at 10:05 a.m.