

Chippewa County Land Conservation
Committee Meeting
October 15, 2008

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

Members absent were M. Goettl.

Agency staff present at times throughout the meeting were R. Brown (Planning & Zoning), M. Dahlby, D. Masterpole, J.T. Jensen, and J. Schemenauer - Recorder (LCD).

Item #1 – Public Wishing to be Heard.

There was no public wishing to be heard.

Item #2 – Approve Minutes. Review Summary of Conservation Plans/Contracts/Agreements.

The minutes from the 9/17/08 meeting were presented. Motion to approve the 9/17/08 minutes: Rineck/Brost. Motion carried.

Staff presented and the LCC reviewed a table titled: Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Contracts, Completed for Approval in October, 2008, (LCD 10/15/08). 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
E. & O. Siolkowski	T31	T32N	R9W	14 & 15	12.7	REV BAS	No	

Motion to accept CREP field plans: Rineck/Lane. Motion carried.

Item #3 – Consider Joint Meeting with Planning and Zoning Committee to Discuss Proposed Changes to WI Stats. 91 and Activities Related to Farmland Protection in Chippewa County.

D. Masterpole presented an oral report on activities related to farmland protection in Chippewa County.

The report highlighted the following points:

1. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP), is now reviewing the recommendations of the Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative. The agency is considering possible amendments to WI Stats., Chapter 91 and changes to the WI Farmland Preservation Program.
2. DATCP and the American Farmland Trust are now holding workshops throughout the state as a way of encouraging discussion on farmland protection strategies.
3. The LCC and Planning and Zoning Committee have each discussed these developments and the need to evaluate and update farmland protection strategies in Chippewa County.

There was general discussion. Discussion focused on:

1. The recommendations of the Chippewa County Agricultural Ad Hoc Committee Report, (1/29/08).
2. The status of the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program and the current level of participation in Chippewa County.
3. State budget shortfalls and the effects that these shortfalls may have on proposals to accelerate farmland protection efforts.

D. Boettcher joined the meeting at 8:45 a.m.

There was general agreement that an effort should be made to arrange a joint meeting between the LCC and the Planning & Zoning Committee to discuss farmland protection strategies.

Item #4 – Report of Preliminary Results; 2007 Chippewa County Groundwater Inventory.

J. T. Jensen presented a PowerPoint report (on file). The report:

1. Explains the purpose of the Chippewa County Groundwater Inventory project.
2. Outlines the methods used in selecting the wells that were sampled through the project.
3. Provides the (Part 1) Preliminary Results of the study. Part 1 results focus on:
 - Current chemistry, as represented by select chemical parameters (pH, cond., NO₃-N, Cl).
 - Changes in groundwater chemistry since 1985.
 - The observed relationships between groundwater chemistry, geographic location, and land use.

There was general discussion. Discussion focused on:

1. The observed changes in water chemistry from 1985 to 2007.
2. The relationships between groundwater chemistry and site geology.

Part II of the report will be presented as further results are compiled.

Item #5 – Review Process to Solicit Stakeholder and Agency Input to Evaluate the Issue and Natural Resource Management Goal Statements in the Chippewa County Land and Water Resource Management Plan.

The Committee reviewed the following material (mailed 10/10/08):

1. Sections of the Chippewa County Land and Water Resource Management Plan, (LCD 12/04).
 - A. Section 4.3 - Land and Water Issues of Priority Concern.
 - B. Section 4.4 – Resource Management Goals and Policies.
 - i. Land Management Objectives.
 - ii. Surface Water Management Objectives.
 - iii. Groundwater Management Objectives.
 - iv. Wetland Management Objectives.
 2. Handout titled: Process to Solicit Stakeholder and Agency Input to Evaluate Issue and Goal Statements; Chippewa County Land and Water Resource Management, (LCD 10/10/08). The handout is a planning exercise developed to provide structured input toward revision of the Chippewa County Land and Water Resource Management Plan.
 3. Handout titled: Key Land and Conservation Issues Facing Chippewa County, (LCD 7/3/08). The handout was prepared by the LCD and submitted as input to the County strategic planning process.
- D. Masterpole provided an oral report. The report explained the process that will be used to:
1. Evaluate and update the core resource management issue statements, as contained in the Chippewa County Land and Water Resource Management Plan.
 2. Validate and, if necessary, clarify Land and Natural Resource Management Goal Statements, as drawn from other public planning documents, as contained in the Chippewa County Land and Water Resource Management Plan.

An Ad Hoc Citizen’s Committee has been formed. The group will be responsible for reviewing the content of the plan and for providing structured feedback on the plan goals, objectives, and proposed activities.

The LCC and ad hoc advisory committee will work in parallel, with each reviewing and providing input on the same material through the course of the planning process.

R. Brown provided an oral report. The report focused on the schedule for completing the Chippewa County Comprehensive Plan.

There was general discussion. Discussion focused on:

1. The schedule for the ad hoc advisory committee meetings.
2. The importance of completing the resource management goals and policy statements in a timely fashion so that they may be considered in the Agricultural and Natural Resource Element of the County Comprehensive Plan.

Item #6 – Introduce Local Policy and Management Issues to Address Through a Revised Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Contract.

M. Dahlby distributed and the Committee reviewed a report titled: Management Issues to Address Through Revised Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Contract, (LCD)(on file). The report:

1. Outlines program accomplishments to date:

No.	Contracts	Acres	Incentive Paid (\$)	Cost-Share Paid (\$)
69	Agreements (15-years)	860	79,356.87	
102	<u>Easements (perpetual)</u>	<u>1505</u>	<u>965,290.69</u>	
171	Total	2365	1,044,647.56	297,845.59

2. Summarizes lessons learned:

- A. CREP can be productive when all agencies (County/DATCP/USDA) commit the resources necessary to implement the program.
- B. CREP works well to install buffers in select landscapes and under select circumstances.
- C. The CREP program can be of direct benefit to landowners and offers significant environmental benefits for participants, but has direct and administrative costs to the County.
- D. There are several program-based constraints that limit the effectiveness of the program.

3. Short-term and long-term recommendations as follows:

Short-term Approach

Continue to use existing CREP where appropriate but reduce opportunity cost by avoiding “Square peg for a round hole” scenarios.

Long-term Approach

Maintain CREP as a priority under 2009-2013 Land & Water Resource Management Plan; work with the state and federal agencies to:

- 1. Overcome program constraints.
- 2. Emphasize permanent contracts.
- 3. Proactively recruit select projects in priority areas.
- 4. Dovetail CREP into other programs.
- 5. Explore opportunities through the new Farm Bill to facilitate public access on CREP projects from willing participants.

There was general discussion. Discussion focused on:

- 1. The challenges of multi-agency program administration.
- 2. The environmental benefits of stream and wetland buffers.

Item #7 – Review Process to Inventory and Inspect Storm Water Facilities Under WPDES Permit #WI-S050121-1; Introduce Public Policy and Management Issues Associated with Private Ownership and Maintenance of Storm Water Facilities.

J.T. Jensen presented a PowerPoint report (on file). The report:

1. Explains the process now being used by the LCD to inventory and inspect storm water facilities in the Chippewa Falls urban area.
2. Illustrates the utility of a custom software package now being used by the LCD to inventory and track the storm water facilities and outfalls.

There was general discussion. Discussion focused:

1. WPDES storm water permit requirements as they affect Chippewa County, the Village of Lake Hallie, and the Towns of Eagle Point and Lafayette.
2. Private ownership and public inspection of the storm water facilities.

S. Lane left the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Item #8 –Committee Communication.

There was no correspondence or communication with other committees.

The next regularly scheduled LCC meeting is set for 11/19/08 at 8:00 a.m.

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately at 10:20 a.m.