

Chippewa County Land Conservation
Committee Meeting
February 18, 2009

The meeting was called to order by the Vice-Chair, J. Brost, at approximately 8:05 a.m. Members present were D. Boettcher, M. Goettl, E. Rineck, P. Licht.

A member absent was S. Lane.

Agency staff present at times throughout the meeting were W. H. Reynolds, County Administrator, M. Dahlby, D. Masterpole, D. Nashold, R. Yohnk, and J.T. Jensen, LCD.

Others present were C. Cronquest, Chippewa County FSA member.

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 01/21/09 meeting were presented. Motion to approve the 01/21/09 minutes: Rineck/Boettcher. Motion carried.

There were no plans, contracts, or agreements presented.

The Chair, L. Willkom, joined the meeting.

L. Willkom presented P. Licht a Certificate of Appreciation. The certificate was presented in recognition of her community contributions to the future of agriculture and the conservation of natural resources in Chippewa County, made as the FSA member of the LCC from 2001-2009.

Item #3 – Establish Annual 2009 Match Grant Criteria; Chippewa County Stewardship Fund.

M. Dahlby distributed and the Committee reviewed a handout titled: Annual Criteria for Evaluating and Selecting Projects Submitted to the Chippewa County Stewardship Fund Local Match Grant Program in 2009, (LCD 2/18/09, mailed 2/13/09).

It was noted that the Year 2009 grant criteria, as proposed, were the same as the Year 2008 grant criteria.

There was general discussion. Discussion focused on:

1. Applying the 2009 annual criteria to encourage (and place a priority on) grant requests that are below the allocation caps established in the Chippewa County Stewardship Fund Policy and Procedures for Program Management, (12/7/99).
2. The advantages/disadvantages of restricting the number of applications that could be submitted by an eligible municipality or sponsor to one (1) per calendar year.
3. The existing fund balance and the stability of County and outside funding sources.
4. The public conservation benefits that have been achieved, and the value that has been gained by using the County Stewardship Fund to gain access (and leverage) to outside funding sources (5:1 return).

Motion to adopt the proposed 2009 annual criteria for evaluating and selecting applications made to the Chippewa County Stewardship Fund Local Match Grant Program, as presented: Boettcher/Goettl. Motion carried.

D. Masterpole informed the Committee that Chippewa County had been nominated by two local nonprofit conservation organizations for recognition of the Chippewa County Stewardship Fund under the Conservation Leadership Award Program (NACo/TPL).

The County has received notice of its status as a finalist for program recognition.

Item #4 – Review 2009 DATCP Staffing and Recycling Grant Awards; Discuss 2010 Revenue Projections.

D. Masterpole reported on the status of the 2009 State 92.14 joint allocation plan and 2009 DATCP and DNR grant awards. The status is as follows:

1. In response to current State budget shortfalls, DATCP and DNR have notified the County that the 2009 State joint staffing allocation plan (normally adopted by November 1), may not be adopted before 3/31/09. The agencies have issued a memo (1/15/09), cautioning the counties to avoid costs that may not be recovered in the event that anticipated grant awards are reduced.
2. DNR has notified the County that the 2009 Household Clean Sweep and Agricultural Clean Sweep awards will likely not be announced before 2/20/09.

In response to this circumstance, the LCD has prepared a contingency plan that will be used in the event grants are eliminated or reduced. Under this plan, the LCD will delay or defer the recruitment of seasonal LTE and intern positions and be prepared to curtail scheduled program activities.

R. Yohnk presented and the Committee reviewed the 2009 LCC budget recommendations (8/29/08), for Agricultural and Household Clean Sweep events. The recommendation clarifies that:

1. In the event state funding is not awarded in 2009 for the Agricultural Clean Sweep, the event would be cancelled.
2. In the event State funding is not awarded for the general Clean Sweep, recycling nonlapsing funds will be used to fund the event. Farmers would be able to bring their pesticides, herbicides, etc. to the Clean Sweep but commercial vendors would need to find another venue to dispose of wastes.

There was general discussion. Discussion focused on:

1. The lack of alternative disposal options for hazardous wastes, now available to the public.
2. The 8/29/08 Committee recommendation and the current balance of recycling nonlapsing funds.

Motion to recommend the Department:

1. Use recycling nonlapsing funds to hold the Household Clean Sweep event, as planned in 2009.
2. Immediately cancel the Agricultural Clean Sweep event, as planned in 2009.
3. Inform the public that State funding for hazardous waste special recycling collection events may be eliminated, and that there are no assurances that such events will be held in the future.

Brost/Licht. Motion carried.

D. Masterpole provided a brief overview of the 2010 State grant revenue projections, as drawn from the Governor's 2010-2011 budget address, released 2/17/09.

Item #5 – Introduce Policy Guidance; Plan Content and Engineering Requirements for Non-Metallic Mine Construction in Bedrock.

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

1. Administrative guidance titled: Plan Content, Specifications and Engineering Requirements for Non-Metallic Mine Construction in Rock, (LCD 2/13/09). The guidance has been developed to clarify the content and design requirements of reclamation plans submitted for non-metallic mines that are subject to the Chippewa County Non-Metallic Mining Ordinance. The content is as follows:
 - Purpose of guidance.
 - Site Design and Engineering requirements.
 - Plan Contents and Specifications.
 - Groundwater Management.
 - Surface Water and Storm Water Management.
 - Soil and Overburden Management.
 - Slope Reconstruction.
 - Topsoil Reestablishment.
 - Site Revegetation.
 - Long-Term Slope Stability (Function of Slope % and Slope Length).
 - Monitoring and Reporting Requirements.
2. Staff overview titled: Explanation and Rational for Issuing Planning Guidance for Non-Metallic Mines to be Developed in Bedrock, (LCD 2/17/09). The overview outlines the purpose and need for the guidance.

M. Goettl left the meeting at 8:50 a.m.

D. Nashold presented an oral report. The report:

1. Showed the location of sand, gravel, and marketable sandstone and rock deposits in the County.
2. Illustrated two approaches and mine configurations that can be used to excavate and reclaim a bedrock controlled landscape (internally drained mine/externally drained mine).
3. The water management issues that are associated with each approach.

There was general discussion. Discussion focused on:

1. The plan guidance and need for that guidance.
2. The responsibilities of the Department and the Committee in drafting and adopting a public policy.

The Department will refine the guidance titled: Plan Content, Specifications and Engineering Requirements for Non-Metallic Mine Construction in Rock, (LD 2/13/09), and will submit it to the Committee for consideration.

Item #6 – Review Stakeholder Advisory Input; Program Goals and Objectives; Chippewa County Land and Water Resource Management Plan.

D. Masterpole distributed and the Committee reviewed a revised draft of “Section 5.3 – Program Goals and Objectives”, Chippewa County Land and Water Resource Management Plan, (LCD 2/13/09). The revised draft highlights key points of consideration, and contains feedback on select objectives, as recommended by the Citizen’s Advisory Committee (2/9/09 meeting).

Program goals and objectives have been established under the following categories:

5.31 Energy Conservation and Waste Reduction

5.32 Land Conservation and Sustainability

5.34 Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Control

5.35 Planning and Environmental Regulation

D. Masterpole reported that the Citizen’s Advisory Committee of stakeholders had met four (4) times since October, as planned, and has finished their core committee charge. The Ad Hoc Committee members have been asked to:

1. Share the results with their respective constituent groups.
2. Continue to participate in the public participation process.

There was general discussion on the proposed Program Goals and Objectives.

Discussion focused on bio-fuels production, water conservation, energy conservation, and biodiversity. The plan for the next 5 to 10 years is to plant more trees, pond more water, and keep as many cows on the landscape as possible.

Item #7 – Committee Communication.

A thank you letter was received from the West Wisconsin Land Trust for the County Stewardship matching grant award to the Cedar Creek Wetland (Hawk Metals) project.

A thank you letter was received from Pheasants Forever for the County Stewardship matching grant award for the Melville - Hallie Marsh Wildlife Area project.

The next regularly scheduled LCC meeting is set for 3/18/09 at 8:00 a.m.

Motion to adjourn: Boettcher/Brost. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately at 10:15 a.m.