

AMENDED

Chippewa County Land Conservation
Committee Meeting
March 18, 2009

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

Agency staff present at times throughout the meeting were W. H. Reynolds (County Administrator), T. Lindsay (NRCS), J. Myers (FSA), M. Dahlby, D. Masterpole, J.T. Jensen, R. Yohnk, and J. Schemenauer – Recorder, (LCD).

Others present were P. Andress, Lower Long Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District.

The Chair informed the Committee that Agenda Item #3 would be deferred due to a change in circumstances that has affected the sale and transfer of the property under consideration.

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 02/18/09 meeting were presented. Motion to approve the 02/18/09 minutes: Brost/Boettcher. Motion carried.

Staff presented and the LCC reviewed a table titled: Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Contracts Completed for Approval in March, 2009, (LCD 3/09). 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>Type</u>	NR151 <u>Eval.</u>
T. & V. Goettl	T2696	T30N	R8W	29	7.0	Easement	No

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

Item #3 – Consider Staff Recommendation; Options Toward Pursuing Right of First Refusal and/or Amendment to Conservation Easement; S/ Lewis, T32N, R9W, Section 35.

This agenda item was deferred.

Item #4 – Consider Opportunity to Apply 2009 NAWCA Grant Credit Toward County Stewardship Fund.

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

1. Report titled: Opportunity to Apply 2009 United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) – North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) to County Stewardship Program, (LCD 3/18/09). The report (on file) summarizes the eligibility requirements that must be met to qualify for a USFWS NAWCA grant, and outlines a proposal to work through the West Wisconsin Land Trust (WWLT) to seek grant funding for wetland conservation projects in Chippewa County.

The core content of the report is as follows:

•Policy contained in the Chippewa County Stewardship Fund Policy and Procedures for Program Administration, (12/7/9), authorizes the LCC to use the County Stewardship Fund to gain access to state and federal matching grants.

•On 12/31/08, the County, acting through the LCC, received a donation of a perpetual conservation easement from the J.W. & J.A. Lane Revocable Trust. The LCC obtained a full appraisal of the easement so that the donated value could be credited and used as “local match” for subsequent grant applications.

•On 3/6/09, the WWLT solicited the County’s interest in participating in a NAWCA application grant titled: “Lower Chippewa River Wetland Protection Partnership – Phase III”.

Under the Phase III partnership application, the County would commit the value of the donated easement as “local match”. If awarded, the LCC will gain access to \$200,000 in federal grant funds allocated to conserve wetlands and adjacent upland properties.

2. Partner Contribution Form titled: North American Wetlands Conservation Act Proposal Partner Contribution Form, Chippewa County Land Conservancy. The form has been developed by the WWLT to secure commitments from municipalities and nonprofit conservation organizations, who have an interest in participating in the 2009 NAWCA grant applicant.

There was general information. Discussion focused on:

1. The appraised value of the donated easement, and the concept of using the Chippewa County Stewardship Fund to pursue additional grant funding.
2. The purpose and limitations of the USFWS wetland conservation grant allocation.

Motion to:

1. Authorize staff to execute the NAWCA Partner Contribution Form: “Lower Chippewa River Wetland Protection Partnership – Phase III”, and
2. Require LCC authorization to accept the grant, if awarded:

Goettl/Brost. Motion carried.

Item #5 – Consider Opportunity to Pursue USDA CREP/Floodplain Easement Service Contract.

M. Dahlby distributed and the Committee reviewed a report titled: Potential Contribution Agreement Between the County and the USDA-NRCS for 2009 Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Technical Services, (LCD 3/17/09). The report (on file) outlines the purpose of a technical service agreement between Chippewa County and the USDA, and the County's technical and administrative responsibilities under the agreement.

There was general discussion. Discussion focused on:

1. The public benefits gained through three (3) previous CREP service agreements between the USDA and Chippewa County.
2. The scope of services provided by the County and the associated rate of reimbursement.
3. The economic opportunities available to eligible landowners through the CREP Program.

Motion to:

1. Authorize staff to negotiate a 2009 contribution agreement with the USDA-NRCS to provide technical services to CREP program, and
2. Authorize the appropriate administrative authority to execute the agreement:

Lane/Brost. Motion carried.

Item #6 – Review Schedule and Public Participation Process; Chippewa County Land and Water Resource Management Plan Revision.

J.T. Jensen presented and the Committee viewed a schedule titled: Chippewa County Land & Water Resource Management Plan, Schedule of Activities, 2008-2009. The schedule outlines the planning and public participation process that is being used to revise the Chippewa County Land and Water Resource Management Plan.

There was general discussion.

Discussion focused on:

1. The results of four (4) stakeholders meetings that were held to systematically revise the core elements of the Chippewa County Land and Water Resource Management Plan, (10/20/09, 1/12/09/ 1/26/09, and 2/9/09).
2. The results of three (3) open houses held to present the core elements, (2/24/09 and 3/18/09).
3. The remaining sequence of public meetings and hearings that have been scheduled to complete the planning process.

Item #7 – Review Changes in Recycling Program Staffing and Associated Program Adjustments, 2009/2010.

R. Yohnk provided an oral report. The report outlined administrative changes that have been made to eliminate an independent service contract and increase staff hours allotted under the County Recycling Program, effective 9/1/09.

R. Yohnk distributed and the Committee reviewed the following material (on file):

1. Draft table titled: Transition to Eliminate Contractor in 2010, (LCD 3/17/09). The table illustrates the recycling project areas affected by the changes and the actions and product deliverables that will be used to accomplish the transition.
2. Analysis titled: Analysis of Costs by Increasing Hours from Low End of ¾ Time to High End of ¾ Time to Full Time for Recycling Coordinator, (LCD 3/18/09). The analysis shows the cost savings gained by eliminating the 0.5 FTE contract and increasing the Recycling Coordinator's hours from ¾ time minimum (28.5 hours) to ¾ time maximum (36.5 hours).

There was general discussion. Discussion focused on:

1. The transition and shift in program responsibilities.
2. Enforcement of the County Recycling Ordinance.

Item #8 – Introduce Process, Committee Role, and Schedule for Program Review.

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

1. Summary titled: Chippewa County Strategic Planning, Revised 3/6/09 from Results of 3/3/09 Planning Session. The summary lists the strategic goals and associated objectives, as developed by the County Board through a strategic planning process.
2. Worksheet titled: Program Review 2009. The worksheet is to be completed by all County departments as a basis for program evaluation.

There was general discussion. Discussion focused on:

1. The process for evaluating programs and services.
2. The criteria used in ranking programs.

A special LCC meeting was scheduled for Friday, 4/24/09, at 8:00 a.m. to review the department's program evaluations and to obtain LCC input in ranking land and water resource programs administered through the LCC.

S. Lane left the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

Item #9- Activities Report; Lower Long Lake Rehabilitation and Protection District.

P. Address, Chippewa County Board liaison for the Lower Long Lake District, provided an oral report. The report summarized:

1. The current status of the Lower Long Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District (LLLPRD) management activities.
2. Information provided to other lake associations and organizations regarding funding sources and program development.
3. Efforts to control aquatic invasive species in Chippewa County.

P. Address distributed and the Committee reviewed the following material:

1. Publication titled: Water Plants, A Case for Preserving Wisconsin's Aquatic Plants, (DNR WT-897).
2. Article from "Lower Long Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District Winter 2009 Newsletter" honoring J. Dahl, former district and LCC member.

Item #10 – Committee Communication.

D. Masterpole read email correspondence from W.H. Reynolds to D. Masterpole and D. Richards.

The correspondence informs the departments that the Committee requests to carry over 2008 funds will not be approved due to uncertainty in County revenues and the general state of the economy.

The next regularly scheduled LCC meeting is set for 4/15/09 at 8:00 a.m.

Motion to adjourn: Goettl/Boettcher. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately at 9:45 a.m.