



GREEN LAKE COUNTY

Land Conservation Department

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Land Conservation Committee Meeting Notice

Date: July 14, 2016 Time: 9:00 AM
Committee Room #0903, Green Lake County Government Center
571 County Rd A, Green Lake WI

AGENDA

Committee Members

*David Richter,
Chair*
*Katie Mehn
Vice-Chair*
Patricia Garro
Joanne Guden
Robert Schweder
*Arnold Dahlke,
FSA Member*

1. Call to Order
2. Certification of Open Meeting Law
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of June 9, 2016 Minutes
6. Public Comments (3 min limit)
7. Appearances
8. Monthly Staff Report & Upcoming Projects
9. Lake and River Report
10. DATCP/County Cost-Share Contracts
11. 2017 Budget
12. Plat Books
13. Department Re-Classification
14. Clean Sweep
15. Farmland Preservation Program
16. High Capacity Well Discussion
17. Office Tour
18. Vouchers
19. Correspondence
20. Committee Discussion
 - Future Meeting Dates: August 11, 2016 at 9:00 AM
 - Future Agenda items for action & discussion
21. Adjourn

Kindly arrange to be present, if unable to do so, please notify our office.
All line items are subject to any and all action by this committee, unless noted.

Please note: Meeting area is accessible to the physically disabled. Anyone planning to attend who needs visual or audio assistance should contact the Land Conservation Office at 294-4051 not later than Noon on the day preceding the meeting.

"Our highest responsibility is to protect and enhance land and water resources that will sustain current and future generations."

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LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
June 9, 2016 - MINUTES

The meeting of the Green Lake County Land Conservation Committee was called to order by Chairman Michael Stoddard at 9:00 AM on June 9, 2016 in the Committee Room #0903 of the Green Lake County Government Center in Green Lake, WI. The requirements of the open meeting law were certified as being met. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: David Richter, Chair
Katie Mehn
Patti Garro
Joanne Guden
Robert Schweder
Arnold Dahlke, Jr., FSA Member

Excused:

Staff Present: Paul Gunderson
Heidi Weishaar

Others Present: Krista Kamke
Jasmine Wyant

AGENDA

Motion/second (Garro/Guden) to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

MINUTES

Motion/second (Guden/Garro) to approve and file the May 12, 2016 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

APPEARANCES

Jasmine Wyant gave a PowerPoint presentation on Boat Wash Stations. The 2 boat landings being proposed for these washing stations are Sunset Beach Park and Dodge Memorial County Park. Jasmine showed examples of the water options and equipment cost comparisons. Krista Kamke gave an update of her various meetings and current projects relating to AIS education and outreach.

MONTHLY STAFF REPORT & UPCOMING PROJECTS

Written report was reviewed.

LAKE AND RIVER REPORT

Written report was reviewed.

SWRM Grant Contract

Gunderson explained how LCD receives funding from the state to cover percentages of staff wages. Since the 2017 application was recently due, he updated/informed the committee of facts and figures.

DATCP/COUNTY COST-SHARE CONTRACTS

GRAFF

Motion/second (Garro/Schweder) to approve cost-share contracts. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT MERGING DISCUSSION

Gunderson reported that the Zoning committee was in agreement with the LCC committee to not merge the departments.

DEPARTMENT VACANCY

There were 22 applicants for the Soil Conservationist I job, 4 interviewed, and Jordan Dornfeld was chosen as the best candidate for the job.

DEPARTMENT RE-CLASSIFICATION RESOLUTION

Motion/Second (Guden/Garro) to approve resolution as presented and pass it on to County Board.

CLEAN SWEEP

Gunderson gave an update on progress, e-waste pricing and upcoming advertising.

VOUCHERS

Motion/second (Guden/Garro) to approve vouchers totaling \$ 36,104.90 as presented. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Card from the Girl Scout Berlin Daisy Troop #6032 thanking us for a donation of Red Pine trees to help their troop honor Earth Day.

Letter from Sophie Bartel thanking Derek and Todd for allowing her to job shadow them and stating the experience gave her a better perception of the career choice she wants to pursue.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

- Future Meeting Dates: July 14, 2016 at 9:00 AM in the Committee Room #0903 of the Green Lake County Government Center in Green Lake.
- Future Agenda items for action & discussion
 - Office tour to discuss filling in the doorway between Land Conservation and Zoning.

ADJOURN

Motion/second (Mehn/Schweder) to adjourn at 10:28 AM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Weishaar
Recorder

Land Conservation Committee
July 14, 2016 Monthly Staff Report

June/July 2016 Projects

1. Completed design for tile outlet terraces – 2.
2. Work on design for grade stabilization structure.
3. Reconstruct Vegetated Treatment Area.
4. Work on preliminary design for barnyard runoff system.
5. Work on design for waste treatment system and vegetated treatment area.
6. Assist Drainage Board with activities. Public Hearing held to set annual assessments.
7. Compiled landowners, subfarms, and fields into SnapPlus for Rock River TMDL.
8. Contacted several more landowners within Big and Little Twin Lakes watershed for fall soil sampling project.
9. Created ArcMap of Big and Little Twin Lake watershed to depict sample areas containing adequate funding.
10. Use GPS to identify corner markers of Oakwood Avenue Public access with Derek for future gully repair project.
11. Complete design of Meyers waterway near Dalton.
12. Continue to fill in TMDL template for Rock River Watershed project.
13. Make contact with remaining landowners within Big and Little Twin Lakes and Spring Lake regarding soil sampling project this fall.
14. Run Big and Little Twin Lakes and Spring Lake watersheds through the EVAAL tool on ArcMap.
15. Run the previously compiled data through SnapPlus with assistance of Todd.
16. Evaluate inquiries, land disturbance sites, land and conditional use permits, and rezone and variance approvals for CSEC&SWM permit applicability.
17. Discuss, review, issue and monitor CSEC&SWM permits including Salemsville Cheese Factory and their ridge & furrow wastewater treatment system expansion.
18. FPP record keeping, compliance discussions, 2016 farm inspections list and files gathering.
19. Assist landowner with varmint control potentials.
20. Provide Soil Survey book to landowner.
21. Assist with Clean Sweep registrations.
22. Prepare for and conduct annual cropland survey of crop, yield, tillage (“transect survey”).

Lake and River Report

Lake Puckaway - Presented History of aquatic plants at the 1st Lake Management Planning Meeting. Attended 2nd Lake Management Planning Meeting. Planning meetings will be held throughout the summer.

BGL – Several grants have been received for Best Management Practices, and Lake Impairment Studies. Assisted with Carp Removal. Meet with landowners to discuss correct of a very large gully eroding into

Green Lake. Design work and surveys underway.

Twin Lakes – Water monitoring is continuing on Big and Little Twin Lakes. Watershed mapping has been completed. Most landowners in the watershed have agreed to participate in the soil sampling project this fall.

Spring Lake - Water monitoring is continuing on Spring Lake. Watershed mapping has been completed. Most landowners in the watershed have agreed to participate in the soil sampling project this fall.

Fox River – Met with City of Princeton for Stabilizing shoreline at city park. Designs/permits completed.

Grand Lake - Water monitoring is continuing on Grand Lake.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Coordinator with Golden Sands RC&D

Update will be given at meeting

Environmentalists: High-Capacity Wells are Draining Wisconsin's Lakes

June 8, 2016

Environmentalists say many of Wisconsin's small, clean streams are drying up because of high-capacity wells used to provide water for huge factory farms. (USGS-WI)

COLOMA, Wis. - As some of the lakes and streams in central Wisconsin are being drawn down or even disappearing, environmentalists are urging the Department of Natural Resources to exercise caution in approving high-capacity wells.

The wells typically are used to provide water for the large factory farms that are beginning to proliferate in Wisconsin.

Bob Clarke is board president of Friends of the Central Sands. He says high-capacity wells are causing huge changes in the surface water, with lakes and streams disappearing.

"That's the kind of thing that is happening around lakes in the central sands: Long Lake, Huron Lake, Fish Lake, even our lake, Pleasant Lake, our lake is down several feet," says Clarke. "Some lakes are virtually gone as a result of all the increase of high-capacity wells."

Clarke takes particular issue with a recent Attorney General's Opinion, which Clarke says limits the authority of the DNR to apply more stringent tests before a high-capacity well can be permitted.

The Attorney General says the DNR does not have to consider the impact of pumping-induced changes to lake and stream levels, because it's not written into Wisconsin law.

Clarke and others say natural resources cannot be managed if the cumulative impact of high-capacity wells is not taken into account.

Clarke and others believe the DNR should have the authority to limit the wells under state doctrine that says the DNR is a guardian of the public trust. He says it's all about balancing the needs of commerce with the rights of individuals.

"There has to be a balance with existing farms and existing property rights; property rights of owners around water bodies - lakes, wetlands, streams," Clarke says. "There is a number of issues at stake here, in terms of how the DNR approves high-capacity wells across the state."

Clarke says the Attorney General's Opinion is silent on the issue of balance, and that water resources in many parts of the state are already stressed by existing high-capacity wells.

He says permitting new wells with no regard to their overall impact will make the problem worse.

Review of High Capacity Wells and Groundwater

Definition:

Section NR 812.07(53) [exit DNR], Wisconsin Administrative Code defines a high capacity well system as one or more wells, drillholes or mine shafts on a property that have a combined approved pump capacity of 70 or more gallons per minute. A property is defined as contiguous or adjacent land having the same owner.

Facts:

These high capacity wells are capable of pumping over 100,000 gal/day.

From 2012 data, there were 11,868 high capacity wells in Wisconsin. Today there are over 13,770.

From the same 2012 data, Green Lake County had 172 high capacity wells. Today?

The top 5 Counties in 2012 were: Portage (1,106), Adams (790), Waushara (733), Waukesha (501), and Dane (339).

Green Lake County ranks 33rd out of the 72 counties. From the 2012 data, the range is as high as 1,106 in Portage County to as low as 2 in Forest County.

DNR's High Capacity Well Application Review Procedure:

On May 10, 2016 Wisconsin's Attorney General issued [a formal opinion on the Department's review authority of high capacity well applications \[exit DNR\]](#). Two key conclusions from the Attorney General's opinion are:

- DNR may impose conditions or requirements on high capacity well approvals only if the agency has explicit permission or an explicit requirement to do so in statute or rule; and
- DNR does not have explicit authority to consider cumulative impacts or to impose monitoring requirements on high capacity well approvals.

As a result of the opinion, in addition to determining whether the proposed well meets well construction requirements, the DNR will review each high capacity well application to determine whether the proposed high capacity well:

- is within a groundwater protection area (within 1,200 feet of a class 1, 2 or 3 trout stream or a designated outstanding or exceptional resource water);
- may impact springs with flow greater or equal to one cubic foot per second;
- will result in water loss greater than 95 percent;
- will result in 10 or more feet of water level drawdown in the public utility well based on 30 days of continuous pumping from the proposed high capacity well or well system; and
- will degrade safe drinking water and the groundwater resource or impact public safety.

The applications that meet the criteria listed above will be subject to an environmental review process and any approval will include conditions to ensure the well does not result in significant adverse environmental impacts and may require preparation of an environmental impact statement. In addition, if any of these conditions is met, the DNR may include specific conditions in the high capacity well approval, which may include conditions as to location, depth, pumping capacity, rate of flow and ultimate use.

Conclusion:

Green Lake County should be concerned about the quantity and quality of our groundwater.

As groundwater bills are brought forward and modified accordingly, any that serve the purpose of protecting this precious resource should be supported. Generally, the WI Land and Water Association would put together a resolution and ask for support from the counties. We are stronger and more effective if we work through the WI Land and Water Association.