

CAC MEETING NOTES
September 11, 2006
Farmington Town Hall

Meeting called to order at 7:31 p.m.

Attendees:

Mike Becker
Andy Holschbach
Bill Miller

Mike DeMaster
Brian Huiras

Jim Dieringer
Rose Hass Leider

DNR Attendees:

Dale Katsma Bobbi Winebar

UW-Extension Attendee:

Dan Wilson

Guests:

Brian Bausch (Co. Board Supervisor Dist. 11)
Chris Elbe (Farmington)
Vickie Hall (Glacial Lakes Conservancy)

Jill Hapner e-mailed Dan Wilson asking that the Board approve her resignation. It was approved.

Dan Lynch has retired and Andy Holschbach will be asking Betsy Gillen to take his place on the Board.

Eric Rathke e-mailed Dan Wilson informing him that he would not be able to attend the meeting, but wanted to present the idea of having the Board send information and updates via e-mail. The idea was approved.

No changes were made to the meeting notes for March 13, 2006.

UPDATES AND REVIEWS OF PARCELS RECENTLY PURCHASED (Dale Katsma)

Dale Katsma presented an updated map of the North Branch of the Milwaukee River and Farming Heritage Area. Recent purchases include:

The Stemper property (~200 acres) has been purchased as an Option for Easement and that the property was appraised as two separate parcels. This property is close to state land and backs up to a natural area. Federal (Farm & Ranch Land Protection Program) cost sharing funds were used for ½ of the purchase.

The Winter property (~100 acres) has been purchased with 77 acres as Fee Title and 23.5 acres as development rights easement. There is a 40 acre parcel owned by Ozaukee County that borders this parcel on the south side. The Winter purchase doesn't include public access (it does include access for DNR), we are working with Ozaukee County Planning Office and Highway

Dept. to obtain public access privileges for hunters and bird watchers (part of Beekeeper's Bog Natural Area). This parcel and part and the county land is identified as part of the county park and open space plan and natural areas plan.

PRESENT & FUTURE FUNDING (Dale Katsma)

About half of the state stewardship funds for this year and next have gone into purchasing large parcels of land in Northern Wisconsin which has cut our budget in half for the next couple of years.

PRESENT INTEREST IN PROGRAM (Dale Katsma)

Currently working on 3 properties (1 small parcel, 2 large parcels) that we are working on in the NBMR. We may be able to use Fisheries Management funds toward the purchase of the small parcel.

There are 17 landowners that are currently interested in the program, 5 are for Fee Title and 12 for Easements.

The next newsletter will present the funding situation.

USE OF PRIORITY RANKINGS (Dale Katsma)

Priority ranking sheets were handed out as a reminder of how the properties are ranked. High rankings include: riparian areas, risk of development, and interest by other purchasers (check with county planning office and town clerk for this information).

We will look into other funding sources including Sheboygan County Stewardship and Land Trust funding.

REVIEW OF EPA GRANT PROJECT (Dale Katsma)

An EPA Grant for \$20,000 was available so a proposal was submitted and accepted. This grant was used to hire Earth Tech to evaluate the wetland restoration potential in the North Branch of the Milwaukee River and Farming Heritage Area. A map of the results of the project was presented and a summary sheet was handed out. Results of field checks were used to verify the accuracy of GIS. We hope to use the information from this report will to apply for grants for land acquisition and wetland restoration. It was discussed whether or not to put the map on the website. It should be put on the website.

CONTINUED INTEREST BY OTHER GROUPS IN THIS PROJECT

Dale Katsma: - was asked to be on a panel on Sept. 20th as part of a legislative seminar put on by the State Bar. Interest in the purchase of development rights seems to be growing.

Dan Wilson: Washington County has a lot of interest in development rights. This shows that there are opportunities for multiple partners working toward the same interest and cause.

Wanted to know if open membership positions should be filled. It was decided that Dan Lynch's position should be filled (possibly by Betsy Gillen) but not Jill Hapner's.

Vickie Hall: Congress has just passed an increase in deductions on easements on farmlands through 2007 (working lands-100%; non-working lands-50%). Glacial Lakes Conservancy - Land Trust is currently not purchasing easements.

Brian Bausch: Encouraged a farmer to get in contact with Dale about the program and he did. Was informed about the funding situation, but will try again in the future. Also wanted clarification on ranking for pollution reduction to a body of water.

NEXT MEETING:

Tentatively scheduled for March 12, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. at the Farmington Town Hall

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.