

Lafayette County Conservation and Zoning Office



1900 Ervin Johnson Drive
Darlington, WI 53530-9271
Phone: (608) 776-3836

* These minutes are subject to the approval of the Land Conservation Committee on 8/3/2016 *

MINUTES MEETING OF THE LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE USDA AG CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM Tuesday, July 5, 2016 at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairman Leon Wolfe. Others present: Bahr, Bartels, Hammer, James, Marion, Sauer, Wang, Brandt, Lange, Loeffelholz, and Larson. Also present: See attached list.
Excused: Bartz

Larson stated that the agenda was posted in the USDA Service Center, by the County Clerk's Office, the Darlington Municipal Building, the Darlington Post Office, on the Lafayette County Webpage; and was sent to the press, WEKZ, the DNR, and DATCP. It was also sent to Hart, UWEX Geologist; Moris, Environmental Health, & Palzkill

Motion was made by Hammer and second by Bartels to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried.

Motion made by Hammer and second by Bartels to approve the minutes of the 6/7/16 as presented. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Ludlum – He is here because of two issues. 1. Elk Grove & Belmont were invited to a meeting regarding the S. Galena Road building. Feels it is too close to the road. 2. House additions larger than the original house. Wondered about the 1 house per 35 acre rule

Loeffelholz stated he had been to the site with Town Chair Kettler. It is ag-use and exempt from permitting. It also measured outside the 33' from centerline, being at 35'.

Palzkill said he had 3 problems: 1. Dead chickens and calves. They need a plan for disposal and to be responsible. This is 3-4 farms only, but the township gets the calls. 2. Septics – There are 3 that he asked for a response to on June 18. He has not yet received the response. There is also another one on hold that is near a pond. One was put up without the 35 acre rule. The Township told him to cease, but he was given permission here. It was zoned single-family. Wolfe stated that these are Zoning issues, and should be taken to that meeting.

Loeffelholz stated that the septic & zoning issues should go to the Planning & Zoning Committee.

In regard to the chickens and calves: This office was not contacted about the calves. For the incident regarding chickens, a compost building was built. The UW has a composter system that works for sows, and composting should work with the calves. Coyotes may also be a problem. Sauer stated that these landowners have no equipment to dig a hole for burial, and the dead truck won't pick them up.

Lafayette County Conservation and Zoning Office



1900 Ervin Johnson Drive
Darlington, WI 53530-9271
Phone: (608) 776-3836

In regard to housing size: State statute states only “more than 5 unrelated family members”. Sewer system sizes are based on the number of bedrooms, not the number of people.

Ludlum stated that he always recommends solving a problem at the lowest government level possible.

Bahr commented on the South Galena building. He feels this is more than a 20% expansion; they are adding their 4th free-stall barn. And that they are probably over the 750 animal units (au) that triggers the Livestock Licensing Ordinance. It is also a traffic hazard. Loeffelholz said he spoke with the landowner. This facility is for a holding pen and dry cows. The numbers he was given worked out to be 721 au. A recommendation was made to put counting of livestock on the next agenda.

Well Testing – Troy Moris, Environmental Health: Sauer asked about water testing that LCD does. Those are nitrate tests only, and are used as a baseline. High levels can be an indicator of further problems. If the test reads more than 10 ppm, the water should not be used by pregnant women, or children less than a year old. There is no fee for this test. In regard to the Kieler well test, Sauer had asked the Health Department to do the sampling. They test for bacteria and nitrates. Moris stated that if coliform is present, it is usually a problem in sampling or something wrong with the well. E-coli can be either human or animal. To determine if it is human or bovine, would cost approximately \$1,800/test. It is also recommended that a well driller inspect the well itself. Private wells are not regulated. UWEX does partner with DNR to test places like churches and campgrounds. DNR does regulate for the churches.

Kieler stated they are working on getting sampling with the County, but neighbors are afraid to test because they believe someone will tell them to drill a new well. Moris stressed that it is to their benefit to test for nitrates and bacteria. Tests run about \$27/test. It is somewhat less expensive through the UW-Stevens Point. Marion said that we need to educate people on this. Iowa County did a great job through Stevens Point.

Kieler felt that someone from this Committee should go to Kewaunee County. The EPA sued there and forced them to act. 34% of the wells had bacteria.

Bahr asked why the human/bovine test costs so much. Moris replied that it is a complicated & long test to run. The homeowner’s package is \$200. It also includes heavy metals, etc.

Carpenter said he had his well checked following the last meeting. It was 50 years old, 120’ deep, and the casing was cracked. A new 300’ well and pump would be about \$10,000, not the \$60,000 to \$90,000 that Kieler had mentioned at the last meeting.

Sauer asked Moris to contact Stevens Point for more information. We will put it on for an agenda item at the next meeting.

Karst Feature – Dr. Dave Hart, UWEX, Geological & Natural History Survey:

Karst is formed from easily dissolved rock. Minnesota has a lot of the same rock as WI does. There isn’t as much in Lafayette County as in some others. Door County has little soil. It is difficult to figure where the water flows. Bahr asked if it was impossible to trace. Not always impossible, but can take a long time and difficult to find; even with dye. It is very time

Lafayette County Conservation and Zoning Office



1900 Ervin Johnson Drive
Darlington, WI 53530-9271
Phone: (608) 776-3836

consuming and that makes it expensive. MN does a lot of dye tracing, but WI DNR is very particular about what you put in wells.

Sink holes and caves are signs of karst, but some in Lafayette County are from mining. A sink hole is surface slump, and relatively slow. In Madison, one was taken care of by using reverse grading over 2-3 years. This stops the sediment from moving. In WI, most are 5' to 10' deep. We also have fractures and swallets which can be seen in air photos.

Lafayette County is mostly dolomite, but does also have St. Peter's sandstone (which won't form fractures) in the valleys. Areas with thin soils have more problems and a higher karst potential. Good soils help to filter the water.

Information was based on the 2007 Protecting Wisconsin Groundwater. Dolomite rock is at a higher risk, and also shale. Platteville is Dolomite, and also has thin soils. Belmont south does have thicker soils. There were some sinkholes after the road was put in, and also horizontal & vertical fractures. Fracture traces in a field are indications of soil & water moving through.

Nitrate testing can give an indication of ground water susceptibility. The health standard is less than 10 ppm. Dane County is approaching 10. Lafayette County ranges from 2-10 ppm, 1-2 ppm being naturally occurring. If the test is less than 5 you probably don't need to do anything. If it is 10+, you will need to fix the problems. Bahr asked about flowrate. It is about 1 yard per day in sandstone; and can be up to 1 mile per day in some karst features. Lafayette County tests go to UW Stevens Point. Over 20% of the wells tested by them have bacteria.

CAFO's – Lafayette County currently has 6 and Kewaunee County has 16. Siting of the facility and the land spreading are very important. In Lafayette County the sites are on the best siting areas. Be aware of karst features and groundwater issues.

WI karst and sinkholes – There are no easy solutions, but education needs to play a very big part in it. Kieler commented that it is not just the big dairies, but can be the small ones too. A personal well is the luck of the cracks in the karst features. Most problems come from within 500' to 1,000'. Wells are recharged by the last 1-2 years of rainfall. Drill wells in a high spot, not a low one.

Kieler asked about revisiting the manure storage ordinance so all the small pits can't be built on bedrock. The engineer said as long as it was lined with clay on 4 sides. Loeffelholz stated he would get the information for next month. All storages are documented for 2' of clay. If it is 3-sides, it would have to be a discharge to the stream. Then both DNR and Conservation & Zoning would be involved. Bahr stated that 1 was built in December or January. Loeffelholz or Brandt has documented them. Some sites have had to over-excavate to meet. Peterson stated that the Manure Storage Ordinance should be for less than 5,000 cubic feet of storage too, in order to protect the quality of the groundwater. This will be added to the next agenda. They would like to see the documents for 2 locations: 1) Daniel Lapp and 2) site on Town Line Road where construction was in mid-January.

Following the meeting Dr. Hart will go out the alleged karst feature in Kendall Township. All are invited to join him there for discussion.

Lafayette County Conservation and Zoning Office



1900 Ervin Johnson Drive
Darlington, WI 53530-9271
Phone: (608) 776-3836

CREP Variance to Graze – Todd Palzkill - Discussion & Possible Action: Palzkill is on the Lafayette County Farm Service Agency Committee. He bought a property which lies in Iowa and Lafayette Counties with a CREP contract on it. He wishes to terminate the CREP contract, and began working on it September of last year. This is one of 12 such contracts in the County. He has never received any of the CRP payments, but has paid off 4.3 acres of the contract that lies in Iowa County. Lafayette County has .7 of an acre. The farm had belonged to his great-great uncle, but was sold to a doctor who enrolled it in a Perpetual Easement. He would like to run cows there to square up the farm, and would be walking the cows through. He spoke with Brian Loeffelholz of DATCP, who gave him a list of approved BMP variances for the easement. He must have a grazing plan, and an approved cattle crossing for the area. Palzkill is already putting up boundary fences. Palzkill had been working with McCaulley & Len Olson in Iowa County, but must also have a release for the Lafayette County portion.

Next he contacted the SW Badger Grazing Broker, Robert Bauer. Bauer reported in a letter, (see copy) that Palzkill's CREP easement is not a compatible use for a grazing plan because it is too environmentally sensitive. Palzkill is asking that we approve the release here, and move it on to Brian Loeffelholz at DATCP.

Motion by Hammer and second by Bartels to approve the recommendation for a CREP amendment option for grazing on a very limited use for the farm #9236, tract 5859 of .7 acres of the Palzkill CREP easement from Lafayette County; to which Mr. Palzkill has agreed to follow the standards written by DATCP, if needed; and for the Committee to send the request on to Brian Loeffelholz, DATCP. Motion carried.

Technician II Position – Discussion & Possible Action: This position would be someone to monitor 590 plans, help NRCS and LCD with Survey and Installation, and work with the new software to data input older records. This would be a new position. Sauer commented that with \$93,000 being requested by Land Records for staffing and new software. He doesn't see where it will come from. The County can borrow, but not for positions.

Marion suggested we table it to see where the figures come in, but she feels the position would be important.

Wolfe said it would need to be looked at in a couple of other committees yet too. If compliance is more than voluntary we need to look at it. We need compliance.

Sauer stated that if we don't move it on from here, it won't go any further.

Bartels said he thinks it requires more study.

James said it will be difficult. Is there a possibility of user fees? Hammer commented that we can look at it, but will taxpayers want higher fees? James said they talk with a lot of landowners. Maybe there could be a fee if a landowner requests a visit. You want to have them open.

Motion by Hammer and second by Marion to proceed with the request for a Technician II Position for Conservation & Zoning. Motion carried.

Add to next agenda for further discussion.

Lafayette County Conservation and Zoning Office



1900 Ervin Johnson Drive
Darlington, WI 53530-9271
Phone: (608) 776-3836

Voluntary Notice of Non-Compliance: Lange received a Voluntary Notice of Non-compliance from Virgil Flannery. A voluntary notice waives the right to claim the Farmland Preservation tax credit. Department of Revenue will block the affected parcels from receiving the credit. If they choose to come into compliance later, they can get a Certificate of Compliance later and be eligible.

Motion by Hammer and second by Bartels to accept the Voluntary Notice of Non-Compliance from Virgil Flannery. Motion carried.

SAA Tour Report: Hammer & Loeffelholz spoke about Shake Rag Alley, Merry Christmas Hill & Mine, and Reclamation. Disappointed they didn't see much of the before for the restoration though. Lafayette also has many mines here, and reclamation projects.

Gollon's Fish Farm – Has 11 employees, stock most of the game fish in WI, and haul to other states as well.

Nick Engelbert's Grandview – Hollandale. Site for education and art. Benefits the school there.

Brandt also attended the Specialty Crops Tour at Baraboo. Site visits included:

- Mushroom growing operation
- Farm raising Belted Galloway cattle
- Tilapia fish farming operation. Recycled water for hydroponics.
- Herbs for eating & healing – Four Elements
- Strawberry & blueberry Pick-Your-Own operation
- Hops Farm

Conservation Observance Day – August 26, 2016: We need to know who will be attending by the next meeting. Conservation Observance Day will be held at the David Meuer Farm in Calumet County. Mr. Meuer was selected as the State Conservation farmer of the Year.

Field Staff & Department Head Report:

Field staff report was given by Loeffelholz. Brandt is finishing at the Cox site and starting the Siegenthaler manure storage abandonment project. They are waiting for contractors for the Rielly project.

Loeffelholz also reported that he had received a complaint concerning the spreading of manure from the Cox farm. They are spreading on an old mine tailings site, trying to build the soil so the site can be reclaimed. After the explanation, the person with the complaint was understanding of the situation.

Darlington Ridge – Loeffelholz discussed the runoff on Hwy. 126 with them. They are including more no-till in the plans, and on-the contour planting.

Packets included the Tech report from Lange. He has been working on status reviews and Certificates of Compliance. He took several pictures during the last storm event, and is working on a display for the Fair.

Lafayette County Conservation and Zoning Office



1900 Ervin Johnson Drive
Darlington, WI 53530-9271
Phone: (608) 776-3836

USDA Programs: A report from Bartz was included in the meeting packet. (See copy) Includes changes to the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

Other Agency Reports: None

In Correspondence: None

Approval of Vouchers: Bartels felt the work on Lange's truck seemed expensive. He felt we should look for somewhere cheaper. Motion by Bartels and second by Hammer to approve the vouchers. Motion carried.

Future Agenda Items: 1) Information from Moris on the cost of water testing with Stevens Point, 2) Counting Livestock by the Department, 3) Link to WI Karst & Sinkholes presentations, 4) Technician II position, 5) Conservation Observance Day numbers, 6) Cost comparison for oil change, rotors, pads, and drums

The next meeting of the LCC will be August 2, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. (Due to conflict it was later changed to Wed., August 3, 2016 at 9:30 a.m.)

Motion by Hammer and second by James to adjourn the meeting at 12:02 p.m. Motion carried.

Recorded By

Nikki Larson
For Leon Wolfe
LCC Secretary

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
