

Minutes of December 20, 2005 Meeting

The monthly LCC meeting was called to order by Chuck Zenner at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was held in the UW Extension Meeting Room, County-USDA Service Center, Medford, Wisconsin. Members present were David Bizer, Donald Purvis, Wayne Lato, and Charles Zenner, Chair. Tim Peterson was absent. Others present were Deb Esselmann, FSA County Executive Director; Bob Plawski, NRCS District Conservationist; Chris Borden, Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D Coordinator; Lanice Szomi, Pri-Ru-Ta RC & D Program Manager; Ed Zydzik, USDA-APHIS; Steve Oberle, County Conservationist; and Cathy Mauer, LCD Conservation Assistant.

MOTION by Bizer/Purvis to approve the agenda as distributed and posted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Bizer/Purvis to approve the October 2005 LCC meeting minutes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

October/November bills were circulated for review, and the October budget analysis was distributed. **MOTION** by Lato/Bizer to approve the bills and budget analysis as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

2006 Tree Sale update: Sales are ahead of last year's sales. The LCD is cooperating with Price County in purchasing plants.

LCD Resource Conservationist position: Applications are being taken until December 30. Fifteen applications have been received so far.

Conservation Assistance Program extensions: Four projects are being extended to 2006: Penny Fencl – pit closure; Joe Tomandl – heavy use area protection; Greg Ganz – heavy use area protection; and Steve Kakes – fencing.

Steve Oberle, LCD, reported: Resolutions presented at the annual WLWCA Conference, held December 7-9, included several proposing structural changes in the WLWCA Board and one proposing increased local control of USDA funding programs. Attendance at the conference was down.

Bob Plawski, NRCS, reported: The EQIP sign-up period runs through December 21; sixteen applications have been received so far. The initial allocation is \$91,000; last year's expenditures were about \$349,000. Additional funds will be available through the area NRCS. Sign-ups have been slow area- and statewide this year. The majority of those applying are graziers; Pri-Ru-Ta Grazing Specialist Adam Abel has been promoting the program. Included in the applications are requests for four pit closures, three barnyards, and one waterway, totaling \$150,000 - \$175,000. Many projects will include piggybacking of funds with the LCD.

Four public informational meetings were held to promote the Conservation Security Program (CSP), which includes the Rib River Watershed as part of the Lake DuBay CSP area. 190 people attended the meetings. Plawski had contacted about twelve people; ten of those attended. The sign-up period has not been announced but will probably be in mid-January. If three or four people enroll, that would be good. The amount of funds for 2006 is not yet known.

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) restoration on the Georgeson property has been completed. Additional enhancements may be done in the future.

A Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is being planned for the Rib River. The project includes the installation of fish barbs. A Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources permit will be required.

Deb Esselmann, FSA, reported: The MILC program was approved by the US House of Representatives and the US Senate. There will be a DCP program for 2006. FSA is caught up with LDPs; prices have been going down.

FSA will have new color photos as base maps for section mapping. The section maps will include location, acreage, and other information. There will be a limit on what information can be included on maps given to the public and other agencies, e.g. no HEL information on neighboring properties can be included.

Ed Zydzik, USDA-APHIS, reported: As of December 1, Hickory Nutz had processed forty deer and Jump River Slaughterhouse had processed eleven deer for the venison donation program. Donations are off about 40% statewide from last year.

A wolf killed a beef calf in Rusk County. Wolf kill permits for 2006 are being discussed. APHIS is likely to get permits but how many is not known. Hybrid wolf/dogs are not included in the permits; it is likely that the animals involved in Price County, where over ten were killed, were hybrids.

Turkeys have been a problem in ginseng beds. One Marathon County producer lost a whole bed in about two weeks. Many wildlife managers have not been issuing enough permits to properly address the issue; APHIS may get authority to issue permits. The Wild Turkey Federation is concerned and is looking at the possibility of relocating problem turkeys.

Proposed crop payments based on the current year average are: Alfalfa - \$1.32/ton; Hay - \$1.07/ton; Corn - \$2.08/bushel; Oats - \$1.65/bushel; Soybeans - \$5.24/bushel; and Straw - \$0.85/ton. **MOTION** by Lato /Bizer to approve payment rates as proposed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Several shooting permit holders have not yet filled their permit requirements. No exemptions are likely to be made this year.

Lanice Szomi, Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D, reported: Pri-Ru-Ta has been awarded a GLCI (Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative) grant for Technical Assistance (\$32,500) and Education/Demonstration (\$14,758) for grazing programs. The grant will fund the grazing specialist position, currently held by Adam Abel, through 2007. In addition to local groups, Abel has assisted the northwest grazing group [Northwest Wisconsin Graziers Network], which has also received a grant. That group will now be hiring a specialist. ABDI (Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, and Iron Counties Land Conservation Department) also applied for and received a grant and will probably be funding a specialist. Abel will help with training for those specialists. The next round of grants from GLCI will require some county support.

Pri-Ru-Ta and the LCD are working together on refining soil data products for a variety of users. Training sessions will be offered.

Steve Oberle, NWLCA, reported: The state speech contest winner was from the Northwest Area. Kay McKenzie, who is the Northwest representative on the WLWCA board, discussed the possibility of staff attending WLWCA board meetings as advisors/consultants.

2006 Conservation Assistance Program: Twenty-seven applications have been received so far, totaling more than \$400,000 in estimated projects. The application period is open until December 30. Some people have applied two or three times. The department has less than \$61,000 to award. NRCS is expecting to get about the same amount as they received in 2005.

2006 Land Conservation Committee Schedule: The LCC will meet February 21, April 18, June 20, August 15, October 17, and December 19. Because a County Board meeting is also scheduled for April 18, the LCC will probably reschedule the April meeting.

Correspondence: Listening Sessions Invitation, WLWCA Annual Progress Report, Water Test Maps

Future meetings/events: **MOTION** by Lato/Purvis to approve all meetings below.
MOTION CARRIED.

Next LCC Meeting **February 21, 2006**
WALCE Annual Meeting (All) (Madison) March 1-3

MOTION by Purvis/Bizer to adjourn the LCC meeting at 12:00 noon. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Minutes of October 18, 2005 Meeting

The monthly LCC meeting was called to order by Chuck Zenner at 10:05 a.m. The meeting was held in the UW Extension Meeting Room, County-USDA Service Center, Medford, Wisconsin. Members present were David Bizer, Donald Purvis, Wayne Lato (until 12:00 noon), and Charles Zenner, Chair. Tim Peterson was absent. Others present were Deb Esselmann, FSA County Executive Director; Bob Plawski, NRCS District Conservationist; Lanice Szomi, Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D Program Manager; Ed Zydzik, USDA-APHIS (after 10:30 a.m.); Steve Oberle, County Conservationist (after 10:45 a.m.); and Cathy Mauer, LCD Conservation Assistant.

MOTION by Lato/Bizer to approve the agenda as distributed and posted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Bizer/Lato to approve the August 16, 2005 LCC meeting minutes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

August and September bills were circulated for review, and the July/August budget analysis was distributed. **MOTION** by Lato/Bizer to approve the August and September bills and July/August budget analysis as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Taylor County Land and Water Resource Management Plan update: The Land and Water Plan was accepted by the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board on October 4. A resolution to be submitted to the County Board for approval of the plan at its October 26 meeting was signed by LCC members who were present.

2006 DATCP/DNR Joint Preliminary Allocation Plan: The proposed funding amount has changed since the department budget was approved. Oberle will prepare a resolution for the County Board for approval of the updated amount.

2005 Drinking Water Education/Testing Program: Approximately 120 households sampled their water during the program that was held this past week.. Most households did both the Homeowners and Metals Packages. An information and education program will be held in November. The exact dates have not yet been scheduled.

Bob Plawski, NRCS, reported:

- The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) sign-up period will be November 1 to December 31. No budget has yet been set for the program but Plawski expects approximately \$200,000 initially. \$14 million is available for the state of Wisconsin. This year's program distributed \$369,459 under seventeen contracts. Twenty contracts had been approved, but there were three cancellations. Contracts included \$9,015 for two grazing projects; \$9,508 for one organic project, which was also a grazing project; \$30,599 for one waste transfer, and \$101,967 for two manure storage projects that were funded through the statewide program.
- A change has been made to Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning (CNMP). There is now a CNMP - Comprehensive Livestock Farm Plan (CLFP).
- In 2005 there was one applicant approved in Taylor County for CNMP. Payments included \$10,000 for plans and \$1,000 for landowners. In 2006 payments will be up to \$10,000 for plans. Landowners are eligible for up to \$2,000 incentive. A total payment of \$19,400 per farm with CNMP-CLFP is possible. There may be two to three farms funded per county.
- The Local Work Group decided that EQIP funds would be allocated to different practices: 5% to organic, 30% to grazing, 5% to pit closures. The remaining 60% will be in the regular pool. Funds will be transferred to another pool if they are not used in their designated pool.

- A portion of the eastern part of Taylor County is in the Lake DuBay Watershed Conservation Security Program (CSP) area. Dates are not yet set for the sign-up; it will probably be in December or January. There are approximately six to twelve potential participants in Taylor County. In order to be eligible landowners need to have a nutrient management plan with soil tests less than four years old and pest management for at least two years. Either operator or landowner can sign up. At least 50% of their ag operation land needs to be within the watershed. There are three tiers of participation, with payments ranging from \$12,000 to over \$40,000 per year. Participants can enroll for five or ten years but can extend their enrollment period if they sign up for five years. Practices can be added in future years, which would increase the payment level.
- The Frank Jiran property, where a Wetland Reserve Program project is almost completed, has been sold to Chad Georgeson of Edgerton. Georgeson was not informed until the closing that the property was in WRP. Georgeson had hoped to develop the property. 122.2 acres are in the easement. The portion of the property that is not in the easement is in state Farmland Preservation Program, which also limits development.

Deb Esselmann, FSA, reported:

- FSA has started signing up new contracts for the 2006 DCP program. Advance payments will be made in December and January.
- Some FSA offices in the state may be closed. The Medford office is likely to stay open.

Ed Zyzdik, USDA-APHIS, reported: for 2006

- **MOTION** by Lato/Bizer to approve a new contract with USDA-APHIS for wildlife damage services for 2006. The contract amount is \$25,576. **MOTION CARRIED.**
- **MOTION** by Lato/Bizer to approve participation in the Venison Donation program. **MOTION CARRIED.** There is \$600,000 available statewide for the program.
- Most of the landowners who received shooting permits either have filled or are likely to fill their permit requirements.
- USDA-APHIS does not have a current permit for killing wolves.

Lanice Szomi, Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D, reported:

- Pri-Ru-Ta has received a 2005 Grazing Grant that will fund the grazing specialist position, now held by Adam Abel, until September 1, 2008.
- Pri-Ru-Ta has received a \$7500 grant from Temper of the Times to fund a SoilView users' manual.
- A Last Acre ceremony was held to observe the completion of the soil survey in the northwest ten counties.

2006 County Conservation Aids Program: **MOTION** by Bizer/Purvis to approve funding of an erosion control project near Beaver Creek and Chequamegon Waters Flowage through the 2006 County Conservation Aids program. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Future meetings/events: **MOTION** by Bizer/Purvis to approve all meetings below. **MOTION CARRIED.**

NWLCA (Oberle) (Hayward) November 4, 2005
 2005 WLWCA Annual Meeting (Oberle/LCC) (Eau Claire) December 7-9, 2005
Next LCC MeetingDecember 20, 2005

The meeting was adjourned at 12: 30 p.m..

August 16, 2005

The monthly LCC meeting was called to order by Chuck Zenner at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was held in the UW Extension Meeting Room, County-USDA Service Center, Medford, Wisconsin. Members present were David Bizer, Donald Purvis, Wayne Lato, Tim Peterson, and Charles Zenner, Chair. Others present were Deb Esselmann, FSA County Executive Director (after 10:30 a.m.); Bob Plawski, NRCS District Conservationist (after 10:10 a.m.); Lanice Szomi, Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D Project Manager; Ed Zydzik, USDA-APHIS (until 11:10 a.m.); Steve Oberle, County Conservationist; and Cathy Mauer, LCD Conservation Assistant.

MOTION by Lato/Bizer to approve the agenda as distributed and posted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Peterson/Lato to approve the July 19, 2005 LCC meeting minutes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

July bills were circulated for review. The June budget analysis was distributed with the agenda and minutes. **MOTION** by Lato/Peterson to approve the July bills and June budget analysis as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

There was no old business.

Steve Oberle, LCD, reported: Richard Riehle submitted a permit application for a manure pit closure. **MOTION** by Bizer/Purvis to approve the permit. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Bob Plawski, NRCS, reported:

- The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) was funded for \$369,069, including \$20,000 in recent additional funding. It may be possible to fund additional practices, beyond those originally proposed for funding. Status reviews on previous projects are being completed. The current expectation is that approvals for 2006 EQIP will be made by April 15. The sign-up period will start November 1 for the 2006 program. The Hulle barnyard project has been completed but manure piles need to be cleaned up before payment is made. The Wachuta barnyard project will be started this week.
- The Jiran Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) project will probably be done this year. The Hoffman WRP project needs appraisal and survey. There are no additional WRP projects planned at this time.
- The Conservation Security Program (CSP) has one additional approved applicant under last year's program. Part of Taylor County may be included in CSP next year; the Lake DuBay watershed includes the Rib River and Deer Creek. In order to be eligible, properties need to have a nutrient management plan completed or at least have soil tests done. A pest management plan is also required; many farmers already have these.
- No new programs have been announced.

Deb Esselmann, FSA, reported:

- September 9 is the ending date for the 2004 disaster program. The program may be extended to cover this year's drought.
- There are no MILC payments and no extension.
- FSA is reorganizing statewide and nationwide. Budget cuts for 2005 were about 16 percent.
- Soil rental rates may be raised. The rates currently range from \$14 to \$34. The proposed new rates would range from \$20 to \$47. The proposal, developed by FSA and NRCS, will go to the FSA committee.

Ed Zydzik, USDA-APHIS, reported:

- One landowner had problems with coyotes preying on sheep. He was trapping them.
- Richard Hamlin had a problem with deer climbing on a covered stack.
- A number of wolves were trapped and killed in Price and Rusk Counties.
- Limited budgets will affect travel.
- Bears have been reported in corn in Price County but not yet in Taylor County.
- No reports have yet been received on shooting permits. Some landowners may be having a problem getting rid of venison.
- Other calls included concern about hunting access.
- The quality of crops is being affected by drought. Landowners can get payment even if they don't take the hay off.
- While soybeans look okay, the beans are small.

Lanice Szomi, Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D, reported:

- Pri-Ru-Ta is pursuing support for groundwater mapping in the northwest ten counties.
- Pri-Ru-Ta has assisted with planning and funding of the North Central Land Stewardship programs, including the spring conference and the upcoming fall field days and chainsaw safety training.
- With completion of the soil survey in the northwest ten counties, efforts are being made to get the resulting soil information to landowners and others in an easily usable format.
- Staff has been meeting with county conservationists and Pri-Ru-Ta representatives, including Mary Williams and Al Beadles from Taylor County, to assess what Pri-Ru-Ta can do to assist local efforts.
- The grazing specialist position, currently held by Adam Abel, has been funded for another fifteen months. Abel has been working with eighteen new graziers in addition to existing graziers.

Land and Water Resource Management Plan approval: **MOTION** by Lato/Peterson to approve the Taylor County Land and Water Resource Management Plan as presented to the committee. **MOTION CARRIED.** After LCC approval and the public hearing tonight, the plan will be submitted to the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board for approval at the October 4 meeting in Madison and to the Taylor County Board for approval at the October 26 meeting.

2006 DATCP/DNR Joint Preliminary Allocation Plan: Reallocation of funds from closed watersheds has resulted in some increased staffing funding; however, there has been a decrease in cost share funding. With the 2006 allocation, the LCD will have brought over \$1 million into the county from 1998 to 2006 through DATCP/DNR allocations.

Resource Conservationist position: Discussion on whether filling this position, which has been authorized but not funded in recent years, requires approval of the Personnel Committee. **MOTION** by Lato/Purvis to fill the Resource Conservationist position as a Limited Term Employee position, contingent upon sufficient staffing funds being included in the 2006 DATCP/DNR Joint Final Allocation. **MOTION CARRIED** with Bizer and Zenner voting no.

2006 Land Conservation Department Budget: There is a thirteen percent decrease in discretionary expenditures in the proposed budget. **MOTION** by Bizer/Peterson to approve the budget as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Meeting schedule: The LCC will begin meeting bimonthly, with meetings held in the even months of October, December, February, April, June, and August. The next meeting will be October 18.

Taylor and Price County Forestry Field Days: Taylor and Price County LCDs and UWEX, Pri-Ru-Ta, and Wisconsin DNR in the two counties are co-sponsoring a Forestry Field Day on September 24 at the Medford School Forest, a Conservation Tour in Price County on October 8, and Chainsaw Safety Training in Price and Taylor Counties on October 22 and 29 respectively. These programs are follow-up programs to the joint Land Stewardship Conference held last spring in Rib Lake.

Correspondence: WLWCA agenda; Pri-Ru-Ta agenda and update; NPM Field Notes; CREP email

Future meetings/events: **MOTION** by Bizer/Zenner to approve all meetings below.
MOTION CARRIED.

Taylor County Land & Water Resource Management Plan Public Hearing 9:00 p.m., August 16, 2005
LCD Budget Review Session 2:00 p.m., September 15, 2005
Waterway Permit Workshop (Oberle) (Wausau) September 29, 2005
Next LCC Meeting October 18, 2005

MOTION by Bizer/Lato to adjourn the LCC meeting at 12:00 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED.**

July 19, 2005

The monthly LCC meeting was called to order by Chuck Zenner at 10:07 a.m. The meeting was held in the UW Extension Meeting Room, County-USDA Service Center, Medford, Wisconsin. Members present were David Bizer, Wayne Lato, and Charles Zenner, Chair. Donald Purvis and Tim Peterson were absent. Others present were Bob Plawski, NRCS District Conservationist; Ed Zydzik, USDA-APHIS; Steve Oberle, County Conservationist; and Cathy Mauer, LCD Conservation Assistant.

MOTION by Lato/Bizer to approve the agenda as distributed and posted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Bizer/Lato to approve the June LCC meeting minutes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

June bills were circulated for review, and the May budget analysis was distributed. **MOTION** by Lato/Bizer to approve the June bills and May budget analysis as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Land and Water Resource Management Plan update: The draft has been revised and completed after review by DATCP. A public hearing will be scheduled for August. Following expected approval by DATCP in September, the plan will be submitted to the County Board.

Steve Oberle, LCD, reported:

Cost-share projects for 2005 include:

- A manure pit with plastic liner has been installed at Rib River Livestock. Fencing and seeding still needs to be completed.
- Barnyards are planned for the Annie Hulle and Phil Wachuta properties.
- Two pit closures are planned for the Motte property. One pit is earthen; the other is concrete panel and is under the barn, which creates difficulties for removal. Dan Hoffman will probably be the contractor.
- A Wetland Reserve Program (under NRCS) project is likely for the Dan Hoffman property for next year.
- Several small projects are underway or have been completed.

Bob Plawski, NRCS, reported:

- Plawski is working on contracts for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and expects to have them completed next week. Projects include two manure storage facilities, which will probably be constructed next year and piggybacked for cost share funds with the county.
- Seven dams have been removed on the Darrin Kohls property, and a cattle crossing is to be installed. It is hoped that material from the dams can be used in construction of the crossing. DNR approval is needed for the crossing construction.
- There was one applicant for the Conservation Security Program (CSP), which has been extended from last year. Applications for the program are approved on the national level rather than locally. Applicants from 2004 have been paid. Five watersheds are proposed for 2006; the date that the selection of watersheds will be announced is not known.
- The Jiran WRP, which includes a permanent easement, will probably be constructed this year.
- A manure storage facility on the Matyka property may include \$15,000 in Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources funds in addition to NRCS and possible LCD funds.

Ed Zydzik, USDA-APHIS, reported:

Robert Capelle is receiving shooting permits for soybean and oat damage. Goodnoes will be issued 25 shooting permits covering over 600 acres. Kurt Staab considered signing up but did not due to the hunter access requirement. Gary Meyer has had crow damage on

balsams. The airport received permits that cover both antlered and antlerless deer. The governor's budget is restoring funds to wildlife damage and the deer donation program.

Northcentral Land Stewardship Fall Field Days and Chainsaw Training: Taylor and Price County LCD and UWEX, Pri-Ru-Ta, and WDNR are sponsoring a Fall Forestry Field Day at the Medford School Forest on September 24, a Conservation Tour in Price County on October 8, and Chainsaw Safety Training for Landowners later in October.

LCC Meeting Schedule: Discussion about holding meetings bimonthly starting after the August meeting.

Future meetings/events: **MOTION** by Lato/Bizer to approve all meetings below.
MOTION CARRIED.

- Taylor County Clean Sweep (Westboro, Taft) July 21, 2005
- Taylor County Fair..... August 4-7, 2005
- NWLCA (Oberle) August 5, 2005
- Next LCC Meeting August 16, 2005**

MOTION by Bizer/Lato to adjourn the LCC meeting at 11:30 a.m. **MOTION CARRIED.**

June 28, 2005

The monthly LCC meeting was called to order by Chuck Zenner at 10:00 a.m. This meeting was originally scheduled for June 21, 2005, but was postponed. The meeting was held in the UW Extension Meeting Room, County-USDA Service Center, Medford, Wisconsin. Members present were David Bizer, Donald Purvis, Tim Peterson, and Charles Zenner, Chair. Wayne Lato was absent. Others present were Chris Borden, Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D Coordinator; Ed Zydzik, USDA-APHIS; Steve Oberle, County Conservationist; Kyle Noonan, LCD Engineering Technician; and Cathy Mauer, LCD Conservation Assistant.

MOTION by Peterson/Purvis to approve the agenda as distributed and posted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Peterson/Bizer to approve the May 17, 2005 LCC meeting minutes as amended. **MOTION CARRIED.**

May bills were circulated for review, and the April budget analysis was distributed. **MOTION** by Bizer/Purvis to approve the May bills and April budget analysis as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Land and Water Resource Management Plan update: A revised version, completed in the middle of May, was sent to DATCP for review. John Easterly, Taylor County Land Information, is providing maps for the plan. Oberle expects to have a copy of the plan to the LCC by mid-July. After review by DATCP and the LCC, the plan will go to public hearings and then to the County Board and Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board.

Soil and Water Resource Management grant reimbursement : Reimbursement request form was presented for Zenner's signature.

Ed Zydzik, USDA-APHIS, reported:

- Sign-ups for wildlife damage included Pete Zach, Duane Goodnoe, Mike Brandner, Wayne Mann, and Bryan Nicks for deer damage to corn and/or beans plus Robert Pinsch for turkey damage in ginseng. On Darrin Kohls property there was minimal damage to first crop hay, which is typical, but damage to second and third crop is likely to be higher.
- Has received many complaints about wolves and bears and has been doing investigations.
- Shooting permits for goose damage are issued by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The application fee is \$100.

Chris Borden, Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D, reported:

- Pri-Ru-Ta is administering funds for three interns, including one person who is working at the community gardens in Medford and will also be assisting LCD and NRCS.
- The first grant for the grazing specialist position, now held by Adam Abel, is ending. Funds will be available from another grant for an additional fourteen months.
- The SoilView CD that is available with soil survey data and maps needs more user-friendly instructions. Pri-Ru-Ta, NRCS, and LCD staff are looking at ways to make the soil information more accessible to the public.

Steve Oberle, NWLCA, reported: All counties are concerned and complaining about issues surrounding working with other agencies.

Zoning Committee Resolution to support state efforts to address the non-native aquatic invasive species problem: MOTION by Peterson/Purvis to sign the resolution from the Zoning Committee. The resolution requests increasing the grant level for aquatic invasive species grants from the current 50% to 75%, the same level as lake grants, and to allow qualified lake associations and other not-for-profit conservation organizations to be eligible for the grants. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Conservation plans: MOTION by Peterson/Bizer to approve nutrient management plans for Matt Bunkelman, John Clark, Andrew Dums, Duane Goodnoe, Randy Holzl, Darrin Kohls, Gary Pernsteiner, Ray Sackmann, and DJR Smith Farms.

Correspondence: *Thursday Note*, June 3; email re CREP from Keith Foye (DATCP); email from Richard Castelnuovo (DATCP) re transfer of cost-share money between counties; thank-you letter from Jeremiah Johnson (mentoring student from MASH); Rock County; Wisconsin Strategy for Wildlife Species of Greatest Concern

Next LCC Meeting July 19, 2005

MOTION by Bizer/Peterson to adjourn the LCC meeting at 11:40 a.m. **MOTION CARRIED.**

May 17, 2005

The monthly LCC meeting was called to order by Chuck Zenner at 10:05 a.m. The meeting was held in the UW Extension Meeting Room, County-USDA Service Center, Medford, Wisconsin. Members present were David Bizer, Donald Purvis, and Charles Zenner, Chair. Wayne Lato and Tim Peterson were absent. Others present were Bob Plawski, NRCS District Conservationist; Chris Borden, Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D Coordinator; Steve Oberle, County Conservationist; and Cathy Mauer, LCD Conservation Assistant.

MOTION by Bizer/Purvis to approve the agenda as distributed and posted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Purvis/Bizer to approve the April 19, 2005 LCC meeting minutes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

April bills were circulated for review and the March 2005 budget analysis was distributed. **MOTION** by Bizer/Purvis to approve the April bills and March budget analysis as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

LCD Engineering Technician position update: The position was reopened and 15-20 applications were received. Two interviews were conducted. A decision on offering the position will probably be made today.

Land and Water Resource Management Plan update: Since the last LCC meeting, three more planning meetings have been held including two by the Technical Work Group and one by the Citizens Advisory Committee. The draft is expected to be completed by the end of May. It needs to go to the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board by October.

Steve Oberle, LCD, reported:

Oberle met with other members of the planning committee for the recent Land Stewardship Conference to review conference evaluations. The evaluations were overwhelmingly positive. Dates were selected for the follow-up fall programs. The field day at the Medford School Forest will be September 24. The fall tour in Price County will be October 8.

Bob Plawski, NRCS, reported:

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): Eleven individuals were approved for cost-sharing in the regular pool for a total of \$218,623. One individual was approved for organic practices for \$9506 and one for waste closure for \$13,873. Paul Malovrh, NRCS Technician, is working on plans, which they hope to have completed by the end of June. Most of the projects will be implemented in 2006. The projects include four barnyards, which will also include nutrient management planning, one grazing project, and one organic and grazing project. Some of the projects will be piggybacked with LCD cost-sharing. NRCS received requests for approximately \$290,000 and will be able to fund approximately \$250,000. Funds for next year are uncertain.
- The application period for waste storage facilities, which are funded on a state-wide basis, ended April 29. There were three applicants from Taylor County. One was submitted to the state. The ranking was in three sections; if the score was not forty-six or higher, the applications were not sent to state. Plawski will probably not know until the end of May if the project is approved. All other practices must already be implemented or being installed concurrently. The State Technical Committee and/or the

Wisconsin NRCS Office are responsible for the decision to allocate waste storage facility funds on a statewide basis rather than making the funds available on a local basis.

- One Wetland Reserve Program project, for Frank Jiran, is being worked on. Another has been approved, for Dan Hoffman, and will be surveyed soon.
- Several Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) requests have been received. A mailing will be sent out to Town of Deer Creek residents, who may be eligible for grassland CREP.
- Plawski is making Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and wetland determinations.
- The Conservation Security Program (CSP) sign-up ends May 27. This was a reopening of the Lower Chippewa River CSP from last year. There has been one applicant. The program is rather complicated, both the application process and the follow-up administration process.

Don Purvis, FSA, reported: FSA is still processing disaster payments.

Chris Borden, Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D, reported:

- Pri-Ru-Ta is trying to do things that land conservation departments do not do; they are also hoping to work more closely with the Northwest Land Conservation Association (NWLCA). Pri-Ru-Ta has applied for another grant to fund the grazing specialist position for another fifteen months, i.e. through 2006. Another round of grants is coming up that could fund the position through 2007.
- Three interns for community garden and other projects are being hired with funds being administered by Pri-Ru-Ta, including Ryan Beard, who will be working with the community gardens near the Northcentral Technical College building in Medford and also helping NRCS and the LCD with other soil conservation projects.
- Pri-Ru-Ta helped the school district of Shell Lake write a Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) grant to write a school forest plan. The school board had been thinking of selling the property, citing lack of use.
- The Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D Council may be changing some of its funding structure. Soil surveys will be coming out soon for the rest of the ten northwest counties. There needs to be a good way to get the surveys out to the public in a user-friendly format. There will be a soil survey celebration in Hayward on October 7, which would be an ideal time to promote the survey. Several products have been considered.
- **Plawski:** Several choices of hard copies of the soil maps for Taylor County are available. These include single-sided, unfolded (scale of 1:12,000 with four sections on each map; sets of 100, 300, or none of a map); double-sided, collated, folded, and shrink-wrapped into county sets (also scale of 1:12,000); and manuscript versions, either three-hole punched or with a glue binding (50 maximum free; 12 to go to UW, etc. and 38 to the field office.) There is also a CD available. It differs from the recently distributed Soilview CD.

Northern Wisconsin Drinking Water/Groundwater Testing Program: Twenty-four samples were taken in Taylor County; eight had high levels of arsenic. Some samples were high in zinc, copper, and lead. One sample had a lead content of 2000 parts per million; the safe standard is fifteen. Letters were sent to all those participating. An additional grant of \$150,000 for the next three years has been applied for. Rusk County may drop out. Radionuclide testing may be added.

Correspondence: Letter from lawyer concerning locating swine farm in the county and the permits required; Pri-Ru-Ta agenda and minutes; email from Christine Ostern re RC&Ds; email re CREP.

Future meetings/events: **MOTION** by Bizer/Purvis to approve all meetings below.
MOTION CARRIED.

NWLCA (Oberle)..... (Hayward) June 3, 2005
Forestry Invasives Training Program (Mauer)..... (Park Falls) June 15, 2005
Next LCC Meeting..... June 21, 2005

MOTION at 11:55 a.m. by Bizer/Purvis to move into closed session [per19.85(1)(c), Wis. Stats.] for Oberle evaluation. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION at 12:20 p.m. by Purvis/Bizer to move into open session. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Bizer/Purvis to adjourn the LCC meeting at 12:25 a.m. **MOTION CARRIED.**

April 26, 2005

The monthly LCC meeting was called to order by Chuck Zenner at 10:05 a.m. The meeting was held in the UW Extension Meeting Room, County-USDA Service Center, Medford, Wisconsin. Members present were David Bizer, Donald Purvis, Wayne Lato, Tim Peterson, and Charles Zenner, Chair. Others present were Deb Esselmann, FSA County Executive Director (until 11:30 a.m.); Ed Zydzik, USDA-APHIS; Steve Oberle, County Conservationist; and Cathy Mauer, LCD Conservation Assistant.

MOTION by Lato/Peterson to approve the agenda as distributed and posted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Peterson/Bizer to approve the March LCC meeting minutes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

March bills were circulated for review. The February budget analysis was distributed. **MOTION** by Lato/Bizer to approve the March bills and February budget analysis as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

LCD Engineering Technician Update: The position was reposted after the three candidates to whom the job was offered declined to accept the position.

Land & Water Plan survey/meeting update: Two Technical Work Group and one Citizens Advisory Committee meetings have been held. The groups are in the process of working the survey results into the goals and objectives of the plan. Almost 2000 surveys were sent out to randomly selected landowners and about 175 were returned. Local officials and agency staff were surveyed separately. Overall the responses were similar to those from the survey that was done five years ago for the previous plan. The Citizens Advisory Committee also discussed land use planning and its relation to the LWP. The next Technical Work Group meetings will be held May 4 at 1:00 p.m. and May 12 at 9:00 a.m. The next Citizens Advisory Committee meeting will be May 11 at 7:00 p.m.

Taylor County Farmland Preservation Program Soil and Water Conservation Standards: Proposed standards had previously been submitted to the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board, which revised and approved them. The next steps are to publish the standards and hold a public information meeting with the LCC (this will be scheduled for the June meeting); approval by the LCC (also at the June meeting); and approval by the County Board (at the July or August meeting).

Deb Esselmann, FSA, reported:

- An Animal Premises ID meeting is scheduled for April 27 at the Multipurpose Building on the Fairgrounds. The Animal Premises ID program is sponsored by a consortium of interested parties. Excluded animals include mink, rabbits, cats, and dogs. One rationale for not including mink is that it is thought that mink do not carry diseases that humans can get. Several ideas for publicizing the program have been proposed including through 4H (either a fair display or ahead of time and in Price County through phone contacts, internet, and mail. There will probably be a penalty, which is likely to range from \$2000 to \$5000, for not registering. It is likely that there will be a grace period following the November 1 deadline. Those who have not registered their premises will not be able to buy or sell animals.
- Disaster payments are being processed. A higher rate is paid to those who have crop insurance. Participants are required to buy crop insurance for the next two years. Some producers are receiving high payments and others are receiving little. There is an

\$80,000 cap. Zydzik said that some counties have requested field data for deer damage but APHIS will not be able to supply it.

- The DCP program runs through June 1.
- July 15 is the crop reporting deadline.
- The tract and field maps have been digitized and are back here waiting for CLU data. The maps with fields will eventually be available online.
- Crop reporting and the Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) program will be available online
- EAuth (EAuthentication) is now available online. This enables customers to do business with FSA online. 105 people have signed up in Taylor County and just over 400 statewide.

Ed Zydzik, USDA-APHIS, reported:

- Things have been pretty quiet so far this spring.
- Mike Brandner is adding additional acres. He will probably receive an additional twenty permits. He has received thirty so far.
- Wayne Mann has signed up and will get more permits.
- Darrin Kohls has also signed up but has received no permits because he is a new enrollee. Zydzik is putting up exclosures for comparison purposes. It is likely that Kohls will receive fifteen to twenty permits once damage is evident. There is heavy deer sign now.
- Jim Tlusty saw wolf tracks on his property. Evidence of a kill will be necessary before trapping can start.
- Several people in the Gilman area are interested in enrolling
- Bear management issues have arisen on a statewide basis.

Wisconsin Livestock Facility Siting Law update: Dave Bizer attended a recent information meeting. Taylor County does not have a law regulating size of operations so the proposed law would not apply here. The county would need to adopt regulations. Bizer is not in favor of regulating these facilities, which would apply to operations that have from 500 animal units (350 milking cows) to 999 animal units. The federal government regulates operations that have 1000 or more animal units.

Conservation plans: A nutrient management plan for Ray Sackman was presented. **MOTION** by Peterson/Purvis to approve the plan as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Future meetings/events: **MOTION** by Lato/Peterson to approve all meetings below. **MOTION CARRIED.**

WI Association of Lakes Conference (Mauer)..... (Green Bay) April 28-30, 2005
County Conservationist Meeting (Oberle)..... (Waupaca) April 28-29, 2005
Tree Sale Distribution (All)..... (Highway Grader Shed) May 5, 2005
Cooperative Weed Management Workshop (Mauer)..... (Ashland) May 9, 2005
Taylor County Clean Sweep..... (Village of Stetsonville/Cleveland Township) May 14, 2005
Next LCC Meeting..... May 17, 2005

MOTION by Peterson/Purvis to adjourn the LCC meeting at 11:45 a.m. **MOTION CARRIED.**

March 15, 2005

The monthly LCC meeting was called to order by Chuck Zenner at 10:05 a.m. The meeting was held in the UW Extension Meeting Room, County-USDA Service Center, Medford, Wisconsin. Members present were David Bizer, Donald Purvis, Wayne Lato, Tim Peterson (until 11:05 a.m.), and Charles Zenner, Chair. Others present were Bob Plawski, NRCS District Conservationist; Chris Borden, Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D Coordinator; Ed Zydzik, USDA-APHIS; Steve Oberle, County Conservationist; and Cathy Mauer, LCD Conservation Assistant.

MOTION by Peterson/Lato to approve the agenda as distributed and posted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Lato/Peterson to approve the February 15, 2005 LCC meeting minutes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

February bills were circulated for review. The January 2005 budget analysis was distributed with the agenda. **MOTION** by Lato/Peterson to approve the February bills and January budget analysis as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Northcentral Wisconsin Land Stewardship Conference: Pri-Ru-Ta RC& D has awarded a \$500 grant for the conference and a \$600 grant for the follow-up field days that are being planned for fall. The conference will be held April 9 at the Rib Lake High School.

LCD Engineering Technician: Thirty applications were received. Four candidates have been interviewed and three more are scheduled.

Steve Oberle, LCD, reported:

- The schedule for the Land and Water Resource Management Plan update has been revised.
- A proposed update of Farmland Preservation Program standards was submitted to DATCP last year, and comments from DATCP have been received. Procedures for updating plans and a strategy for implementation are needed. The new standards must be published and a public meeting or hearing scheduled. The county board must also approve the new standards. **MOTION** by Bizer/Peterson to approve the DATCP amendment, procedures, and implementation strategy. **MOTION CARRIED.**
- The arsenic situation in the county has received news coverage on television and radio and in the newspapers. The LCD is working with the Taylor County Health Department, which receive a grant to address the problem. The LCD is distributing twenty-four sample collection bottles. The other four counties (Florence, Lincoln, Price, and Rusk) are distributing 100 bottles per county. These counties have not previously done as much arsenic testing as Taylor County. Testing will also include other metals in addition to arsenic.
- WLWCA has produced a new informational brochure.

Bob Plawski, NRCS, reported:

- EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) – The application period ended March 4 with eighteen people applying. \$215,000 was available. There was one organic practice applicant with an estimate of \$9,506 (10% of the \$215,000 (\$21,500) had been set aside for organic practices) and one manure pit closure applicant with an estimate of \$13,873 (15% (\$32,250) had been set aside for pit closures). Unused funds from these two special pools were moved to the regular

pool, giving a total of \$191,621 available in the regular pool. There were sixteen applicants in the regular pool totaling \$266,673. The \$191,621 available allowed funding for eight of the sixteen applicants. Practices included four barnyards and trails and walkways. Plawski will request additional funds to cover the remaining eight applications.

Next year livestock producers will need to apply for Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP), which include feed management. This year \$1.1 million is available statewide for CNMP. This will cover ninety-four plans, of which Taylor County has been allotted two plans. CNMP includes an incentive payment of \$1000 per farmer to have a plan written. Implementation is not required. Letters notifying producers will be sent out next week. If storage is required, then they will need to meet other requirements, such as barnyards, first. There is a lack of certified plan writers.

Don Purvis, FSA, reported:

The disaster program is moving forward. It covers the last two years. Participants must buy crop insurance.

Ed Zydzik, USDA-APHIS, reported:

The funding situation for the wildlife damage program is not good. The governor's budget takes another \$1.5 million out of the program to pay for CWD (Chronic Wasting Disease) work. \$6.3 million had previously been taken from the wildlife damage program for CWD. If the license increase goes through, \$2.00 per regular license or \$4 per conservation patron license will go to the program. The projected additional \$1.1 million still leaves the program about \$400,000 short in the current budget on top of previous shortages. It is likely that damage payments will need to be pro-rated and that the deer donation program will be eliminated. The CWD control program is taking money and staff from other wildlife and natural resources programs.

Chris Borden, Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D, reported:

A contract with DATCP that is effective through August 2006 has been completed for the grazing specialist position, now held by Adam Abel. An additional grant is being applied for. Borden thanked Taylor County for support of the grazing position.

A digital version of the Taylor County soil survey is available, but users will need training and/or a user-friendly manual.

2005 Joint DATCP/DNR Nonpoint Source Grant Application: MOTION by Lato/Bizer to approve the application. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Future meetings/events: MOTION by Lato/Zenner to approve all meetings below. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Livestock Facility Siting Law (Bizer)..... (Mosinee) March 31, 2005
NWLCA (Oberle)..... (Hayward) April 1, 2005
Northcentral Wisconsin Land Stewardship Conference... (Rib Lake High School) April 9, 2005
Next LCC Meeting..... April 26, 2005

MOTION by Lato/Bizer to adjourn the LCC meeting at 12:03 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED.**

February 15, 2005

The monthly LCC meeting was called to order by Chuck Zenner at 9:58 a.m. The meeting was held in the UW Extension Meeting Room, County-USDA Service Center, Medford, Wisconsin. Members present were David Bizer, Donald Purvis, Wayne Lato (after 10:50 a.m.), Tim Peterson, and Charles Zenner, Chair. Others present were Deb Esselmann, FSA County Executive Director (until 11:40 a.m.); Bob Plawski, NRCS District Conservationist; Chris Borden, Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D Coordinator (after 10:30 a.m.); Ed Zydzik, USDA-APHIS (until 11:40 a.m.); Steve Oberle, County Conservationist; and Cathy Mauer, LCD Conservation Assistant.

MOTION by Peterson/Bizer to approve the agenda as distributed and posted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Peterson/Purvis to approve the January 18, 2005 LCC meeting minutes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

January bills were circulated for review. The December 2004 budget analysis was distributed with the agenda. **MOTION** by Peterson/Bizer to approve the January bills and December budget analysis as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

There was no old business.

Steve Oberle, LCD, reported:

- Oberle discussed the high projected costs for the LCD to obtain mailing information from the Real Property Lister's office. The department needs the data for distribution of surveys for the Land and Water Resource Management Plan and for sending information to prospective participants in various programs. The charge is \$0.50 per 25 kilobytes of data, with an estimate of \$400 to \$500 for full county coverage. The rationale for the charges is unknown. Zenner offered to discuss the situation with the Finance Committee and the Land Information Committee.
- Four people have signed up for the Nutrient Management Planning class in Medford, and six have signed up for the class in Phillips.
- The recent interagency meetings in Medford and Gilman were attended by a total of about twenty-five people. The meeting in Price County will be held March 10.
- A reporting form was sent to participants in the Farmland Preservation Program. Follow-up will include updates of owner information and a review of conservation planning needs, including writing of new plans and revision of existing plans, as needed.
- The Statewide County Conservationists and Counties Association meetings were held January 20. The possibility of a joint legislative committee was discussed. The steering committees for agriculture and land use can include both county board members and department employees.

Bob Plawski, NRCS, reported:

- NRCS is in the middle of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) sign-up period. So far there have been seven applications with four additional applications possible. So far the total proposed expenditure would be approximately \$90,000 out of the \$215,000 available.
- The state has received an additional \$1.1 million for the Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning (CNMP) program, which will include both feed management and nutrient management. Feed management is a three-year practice with an emphasis on phosphorus content. The goal is to enroll ninety-four participants in the state. Taylor

County has been allotted two of these. \$1000 is given to the individual participant as an incentive payment. The consultant writing the plan can receive up to \$10,000. There are no strings attached; the landowner is not required to follow the plan.

- There are several potential Wetland Reserve Program sites being considered.
- EQIP is being modified to add Technical Service Provider (TSP) costs for development of management plans.
- A list of potential CREP participants in Deer Creek is being developed.
- Oberle noted that applications for county cost-share dollars totaled approximately \$425,000, far in excess of the \$89,500 available, and county applicants are being encouraged to sign up for EQIP.

Deb Esselmann, FSA, reported:

- There is a current DCP sign-up.
- Animal premises registration has started and is required by November 1. All livestock, except mink, are included. There is no minimum number of animals. Fairgrounds and rodeo grounds are included. If animals are not registered by November 1, there will be a grace period and then fines will be levied. Also, it will be illegal to transport or sell unregistered animals. There is a problem with getting the word out about the registration program. If a property is leased, the animal owner is required to do the registration. A Wisconsin Animal Registration Consortium has been formed. At this time, premises are required to be registered, but in the future it is likely that a registration requirement will be extended to individual animals or flocks.
- FSA maps are supposed to be digitized this week. Common Land Units (CLU) will be on these maps. After digitizing, the photos will be available on the web, and additional layers, including soils, will be added. New photos will be flown this year.
- There is a goal of 449 acres for the CREP program in Taylor County; at this time only 223 acres are enrolled. Only property in the Town of Deer Creek is eligible for grasslands enrolment. Property in the Town of Taft is eligible for the riparian buffers program.

Ed Zydzik, USDA-APHIS, reported:

- Damage payments are as follows: Wayne Mann - \$4702.99 (a variance to the shooting requirement was given due to the Manns experiencing a house fire), Dan Hoffman - \$5008.01, Mike Brandner - \$4500.89, Dan Faber - \$2012.75, Whitney Reinhart - \$2368.84. Tom Judnik received no payment because, according to records, he did not meet his shooting requirement and Zydzik has not been able to contact him. Shooting permits for 2005 have been sent out. The number of permits (shooting requirements) has been going up for those receiving over \$1000. The minimum number of permits being issued is ten. Participants have until September 30 to shoot eighty percent of their requirement. Many don't make their requirement and are then not eligible for payment.
- A recent judiciary ruling has temporarily suspended trapping or euthanizing of wolves. The ruling is in effect nationwide, except for Minnesota.
- Starling control efforts are going to be made at Mike Brandner's. There is a \$500 flat fee, payable only if the effort is successful.

Chris Borden, Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D, reported:

- Borden summarized 2004 projects. Project costs totaled approximately \$100,000 and included support of two soil surveyors, a grazing specialist, and a project manager. Pri-Ru-Ta has approximately \$24,000 in the bank.
- President Bush's proposed federal budget includes program cuts that could have a severe negative impact on FSA, NRCS, and APHIS.

Animal Waste Permits: Two current permits include one to Pam Motte for closing an unused pit and one to Pat Kilsdonk for building a new pit.

Steve Oberle, NWLCA, reported: NWLCA met on January 21. The next meeting will be held April 1 in Hayward. The annual WLWCA meeting will be held December 7-9 in Eau Claire.

Engineering Technician position: Seven applications have been received so far. March 4 is the cut-off date. **MOTION** by Lato/Peterson to approve filling the position. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Land and Water Resource Management Plan: The department is working with Cheryl Clemens of Dragonfly Consulting. The landowner survey is almost ready.

Pri-Ru-Ta grant proposals: Three grant proposals were presented. One was a pre-proposal to look at potential resources, both financial and technical, for regional groundwater and geological mapping covering the northwest ten counties in Wisconsin. The other two proposals were requests for \$1000 each for the Land Stewardship Conference planned for April and a follow-up field tour or tours planned for fall. **MOTION** by Lato/Peterson to approve submission of the proposals to Pri-Ru-Ta. **MOTION CARRIED** with Bizer voting against.

Conservation plans: Nutrient management plans for Pat Pernsteiner and John Goebel II were presented. **MOTION** by Peterson/Purvis to approve the plans as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Correspondence: Conservation Lobby Day information; Working Agreement with other agencies; Minutes Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board; Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D agenda for February 25 meeting; announcement of Livestock Siting hearings.

Future meetings/events: **MOTION** by FORMTEXT Peterson/ FORMTEXT Lato to approve all meetings below. **MOTION CARRIED.**

2005 Conservation Lobby Day (Oberle).....(Madison) February 16, 2005

Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D (Oberle)..... (Siren, WI) February 25, 2005

Next LCC Meeting.....

MOTION by Bizer to adjourn the LCC meeting at 12:30 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED.**

January 18, 2005

The monthly LCC meeting was called to order by Chuck Zenner at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was held in the UW Extension Meeting Room, County-USDA Service Center, Medford, Wisconsin. Members present were David Bizer, Donald Purvis, Wayne Lato, Tim Peterson, and Charles Zenner, Chair. Others present were Deb Esselmann, FSA County Executive Director (until 11:00 a.m.); Bob Plawski, NRCS District Conservationist; Chris Borden, Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D Coordinator; Steve Oberle, County Conservationist; and Cathy Mauer, LCD Conservation Assistant.

MOTION by Bizer/Lato to approve the agenda as amended to include notice of department vacancy and discussion of refilling the position. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by Lato/Peterson to approve the December 21, 2004 LCC meeting minutes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

December 2004 bills were circulated for review. The November budget analysis was distributed. **MOTION** by Lato/Peterson to approve the December bills and November budget analysis as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Taylor County Arsenic Grant update: Oberle met in Phillips on January 10 with representatives from the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene and four other counties (Price, Rusk, Lincoln, and Langlade) to discuss a grant that will fund planning for a project to assess the degree of arsenic contamination of groundwater/drinking water. Other heavy metals and radioactivity, which are often found in deposits similar to those containing arsenic, may also be assessed. The four other counties will do approximately one hundred tests per county during the next month. The tests will be targeted, based on geologic indicators, to focus on locations that are likely to have arsenic. Taylor County already has baseline tests done through the annual Drinking Water Testing and Education Program. Patty Krug of the Taylor County Health Department will be writing a grant proposal for funds to implement the project. Approximately \$500,000 may be available. Activities during implementation may include biomonitoring for cancer and diabetes, which may be associated with arsenic, other heavy metals, or radioactivity.

Steve Oberle, LCD, reported:

- Oberle submitted a reimbursement form for the LCD staffing grant to Zenner for his signature.
- Oberle asked for committee input on staffing of office when regular staff are away, such as for the upcoming Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees Conference. Esselmann offered to have LCD phone calls forwarded to the FSA office during the conference.
- Animal Waste Ordinance Actions: Penny Fencil submitted an application for a manure pit closure.

Bob Plawski, NRCS, reported:

- NRCS is taking sign-ups for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) through March 4. So far, one person has signed up, and another is coming in. Plawski is getting phone calls requesting information about the program.
- NRCS now has an operating budget. However, it doesn't look good for hiring of additional staff.
- NRCS is again promoting the Wetlands Reserve Program. One project is in the works, and another is possible. They have also been asked to promote the Conservation

Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), which is available in only a few towns in Taylor County.

- By the end of February, Plawski expects to have the Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and wetland determinations completed for the common land use (CLU) photos. The photos should be out by April 2006.
- It is unlikely that funds designated for manure storage will be available at the county level; allocation will continue to be done at the state level. There is a federal mandate for waste storage. There have been proposals to allow counties to use their regular EQIP funds for waste storage; this is now prohibited. A resolution to allow such county funding was presented and supported at the 2004 WLWCA conference.

Deb Esselmann, FSA, reported:

- A new fact sheet and Powerpoint presentation are available to promote the CREP program.
- The Disaster Program may be available by late March. All crops from 2003 and 2004 will be eligible for possible payment.
- Many of the FSA filings and authorizations are or will be available on-line. This includes the DCP (Direct and Counter-cyclical Payments) Program, for which twenty-eight people had signed up as of last week. The sign-up is running slower than in some previous years.
- The Area Interagency meetings have been scheduled for January 31 in Gilman and February 8 in Medford; both meetings begin at 1:00 p.m. The meeting in Phillips is scheduled for March 10 at 1:30 p.m.

Chris Borden, Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D, reported:

- Borden is working on agreements to maintain the Grazing Specialist position, now filled by Adam Abel.
- Technical and financial assistance may be available for the Rural Landowners Conference.
- Technical assistance from LCDs may be available for various projects.
- The next meeting is in Siren at 10:00 a.m. on February 25. Small grant requests will be presented to the council. The schedule for the next year has been published.
- Abel is working with approximately thirty-eight producers; he covers a large area, ranging from Sawyer County in the north to Clark County in the south. A winter meeting of area graziers has been scheduled. Many producers need better records and better business planning; Pri-Ru-Ta may be able to provide assistance with that.

Engineering Technician Position: Quentin Smith, LCD Engineering Technician, is leaving the department in February for a position in Alaska with the US Forest Service. Committee consensus was to start advertising the position immediately.

Rural Landowners Conference: The Taylor and Price County LCD and UW-Extension staff are jointly planning a conference to be held April 9 at the Rib Lake High School. The target audience will be landowners of rural property in the two counties. Topics for breakout sessions will include forestry, wildlife, water, and legal issues.

Nutrient Management Planning Classes are scheduled for February and March. The registration deadline is January 27. The fee is \$40 for the basic class and \$80 for the advanced class, which will be computer-based using SNAP. The latter will be taught through the Northcentral Technical College.

Land and Water Resource Management Plan (LWRMP): LCD is contracting with Cheryl Clemens of Dragonfly Consulting to revise the LWRMP. An initial work group meeting

was held January 14. The next meeting is scheduled for March 16. The revision of the plan is expected to be completed by May or June. County board approval, public hearings, and submittal to the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board will follow. Oberle submitted the contract with Clemens to Zenner for his signature.

Correspondence: NWLCA minutes and agenda for the next meeting, which is January 21.
Thursday Note.

Future meetings/events: **MOTION** by Lato/peterson to approve all meetings below.
MOTION CARRIED.

Statewide Cty Conservationists/Wis. Counties Assc. Mtg (Oberle)..... (Stevens Point)
January 20, 2005
NWLCA (Oberle)..... January 21, 2005
WALCE (Oberle, Mauer)..... March 2-4, 2005
Next LCC Meeting..... February 15, 2005

MOTION by Bizer/Peterson to adjourn the LCC meeting at 11:33 a.m. **MOTION CARRIED.**