

## **TAYLOR COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE Minutes of December 16, 2008 Meeting**

The monthly LCC meeting was called to order by Dave Krug 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 Krug, Chairman, Scott Mildbrand, Tim Peterson, Donald Purvis, and Charles Zenner. Others present were Chris Borden, Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D Coordinator; Lanice Szomi, Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D Program Manager; Deb Esselman, FSA County Executive Director; Bob Plawski, NRCS District Conservationist; Ed Zydzik, USDA-APHIS; Steve Oberle, County Conservationist; Benjamin Wojahn, LCD Resource Conservationist; and Cathy Mauer, LCD Conservation Assistant.

**MOTION** by Mildbrand/Zenner to approve the agenda as distributed and posted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION** by Zenner/Mildbrand to approve the November 18, 2008 LCC meeting minutes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

December 2008 bills were circulated for review, and the November budget analysis was distributed. **MOTION** by Zenner/Peterson to approve the bills and budget analysis as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Oberle announced that Wojahn was taking a position in Vernon County starting in January and thanked him for his service to the department. Krug thanked him on behalf of the LCC. Wojahn stated that he had been pleased to work and live in Taylor County.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**2008 Drinking Water Education/Testing Program:** Oberle distributed handouts including a copy of an article from the *Star News* and maps showing distribution of homeowners package well testing, metals testing, and wells with arsenic. Oberle estimated that there are about 5,000 to 7,000 wells in the county. About 200 are tested each year through the Drinking Water Education/Testing Program. Oberle stated that there are not many duplicates of wells tested.

**2008-2009 Nutrient Management farmer education/scholarship and cost-share programs:** Sign-ups are still being taken for the NMP classes that are being offered in conjunction with NTC starting in January. Scholarships are available to cover the cost of the classes. Cost-sharing will be offered at \$28/acre for the first eighty acres. The \$28 covers a four-year period.

**2009 LCC Meeting schedule:** The committee agreed to stay with the meeting schedule that was approved at the November 18 meeting, i.e. the third Tuesday of odd-numbered months. The next meeting will be January 20.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Reports**

**Land Conservation Department – Steve Oberle, County Conservationist, reported:** Oberle is continuing to work with landowners in the Town of Little Black concerning North Breeze Dairy, a large dairy expecting to have 4,000 cows. The dairy will come under CAFO (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation) regulations, which apply to farms that exceed 1000 Animal Units. Oberle distributed copies of the initial site plan for the dairy; NR243 (state regulation that covers CAFOs), NR243 additional information, and NR243 proposed revisions; and Code 313, which deals

with Waste Storage Facilities. The dairy may be required to furnish an Environmental Impact Statement before a permit is issued by DNR. Public hearings will also need to be held. Because of concerns about the potential impact of the dairy's wells on water volume of neighboring wells, Brunner's Well Drilling will test existing wells (for a \$100 fee) to establish base data. The owners of North Breeze Dairy have offered to sponsor a bus trip for interested parties to tour Lake Breeze Dairy, their existing dairy in Fond du Lac County.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service – Bob Plawski, District Conservationist, reported:** The application period for EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) ends January 31 but may be extended as no rules have yet been issued for the program and no money has been released. Fourteen applications have been received so far; twenty-five to thirty are expected. The initial allocation will be down from last year and may be dependent on a continuing resolution from Congress. HEL and wetland determinations will begin again in spring. An Operational Agreement was signed in October signed by the LCD, LCC, County Board, and NRCS. Plawski distributed copies. The agreement will be reviewed annually.

**Farm Service Agency – Deb Esselmann, County Executive Director, reported:** No programs have been announced, rules published, nor forms made available. The local office is now also covering Rusk and Sawyer Counties.

**Wildlife Damage Program – Ed Zydzik, USDA-APHIS, reported:** Claims will be ready for the January meeting. Sufficient funds will be available to pay claims fully; there will be no need for pro-rating of payments. A new DNR computer program allow much improved access to information on participants in the Wildlife Damage Program.

**Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D – Chris Borden, Coordinator, or Lanice Szomi, Program Manager, reported:** Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D and NRCS are continuing to work on 590 (nutrient management) information and mapping. Maps of Soil and Water Quality Management Areas (SWQMAs) are available through the DATCP website.

**Farmland Preservation Program Agreement Applications:** **MOTION** by Mildbrand/Purvis to approve applications for Walter, Irene, and Terry Brooks, 200 acres, Section 17, Town of Jump River and for Walter and Irene Brooks, 253.8 acres, Sections 9, 16, and 17, Town of Jump River. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**LCD Resource Conservationist Position:** Mildbrand asked how much of the position funding is county levy money. Oberle responded that all the funding for the position is grant money. Discussion ensued about the position and various options. Oberle suggested the possibility of the position being fewer hours and the difference in pay going toward health benefits, which the position does not now include. He will also be looking at other options. **MOTION** by Zenner/Mildbrand to refill the position. **MOTION CARRIED.** Advertising will begin after January 1.

**Correspondence:** Conservation Priorities, email from John DuPlissis, Thursday Note, Nutrient Management Update, Pioneering Discoveries.

**Other New Business:** Krug signed a CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) amendment.

**Next LCC Meeting ..... January 20, 2009**

**MOTION** by Zenner/Peterson to adjourn at 11:50 a.m.

**TAYLOR COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
Minutes of November 18, 2008 Meeting**

The monthly LCC meeting was called to order by Dave Krug 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 Krug, Chairman, Scott Mildbrand, Donald Purvis, and Charles Zenner. Tim Peterson was absent. Others present were 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 Zenner/Mildbrand to approve the agenda as distributed and posted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION** by to Mildbrand/Zenner approve the September 16, 2008 LCC meeting minutes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

September - November 2008 bills were circulated for review, and the September budget analysis was distributed. **MOTION** by Zenner/Mildbrand to approve the bills and budget analysis as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**2008 Drinking Water Testing and Education Program:** About 140 wells were tested during the program that was held in late September/early October. Arsenic continues to be an issue in county wells, with over half the wells tested reporting some arsenic. In response through a question, Oberle responded that funding for the program comes through the county levy.

**2008-2009 Nutrient management farmer education/scholarship and cost-share programs:** New money has come through a DATCP grant to Taylor County for approximately \$30,000. Payments are based on four-year contracts for \$7/acres for the four years, with the \$28 paid up-front. Taylor County may cap coverage at 80 acres for one farmer. Farmers would need to pay for planning, including soil tests and manure analysis, on any additional acres they farm. They can write their own plan or work with a co-op. Training for farmers will be held through the Northcentral Technical College. The fee is \$130 but a grant has been received for scholarships for farmers from Clark and Taylor Counties; the grant will cover approximately twenty-five people per county. Priority may be given to those receiving cost-sharing under the Conservation Assistance Program who are required to have a nutrient management plan.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Reports**

**Wildlife Damage Program – Ed Zydzik, USDA-APHIS, reported:** Proposed payments for wildlife damage payments was presented: alfalfa hay \$131.85/ton; mixed alfalfa hay \$73.88/ton; corn \$5.28/bushel; oats \$3.01/bushel; and beans \$12.42/bushel. **MOTION** by Zenner/Mildbrand to approve the payment schedule as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.** A Service Agreement/Plan of Administration between USDA-APHIS and Taylor County was presented. **MOTION** by Purvis/Mildbrand to approve the agreement. **MOTION CARRIED.** The wildlife damage budget for 2009 was presented. **MOTION** by Mildbrand/Zenner to approve the budget. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Land Conservation Department – Steve Oberle, County Conservationist, reported:** Taylor County received a new TRM (Targeted Runoff Management) grant of \$56,700 for Everson Dairy Farm. **MOTION** by Zennner/Purvis to approve the Environmental Hazards Assessment and the Authorizing Resolution for the Everson TRM grant. **MOTION CARRIED.** The County also was part of a joint TRM grant with Clark

County of \$150,000 for Bovine Asset Management. **MOTION** by Mildbrand/Zenner to approve the Environmental Hazards Assessment and the Authorizing Resolution for the Bovine Asset Management grant. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D –Lanice Szomi, Program Manager, reported:** The Soil DVD has been updated with the 2008 NAIP photos as the base photos, and a new Department of Transportation roads file has been added. Szomi distributed a handout that highlights Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D activities for the year. The hiring process is underway for a beef production coordinator and a sales coordinator for the new beef marketing cooperative.

**2008 Conservation Poster Contest:** Two Taylor County students won awards at the area and state levels in the annual Conservation Poster Contest. Chelsi Webster of Gilman School District placed 1<sup>st</sup> at the area level and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state contest in the Junior Division. Asher Warmanen from Medford Area Elementary School placed 1<sup>st</sup> at the area level and 1<sup>st</sup> in the state contest in the Primary Division.

**Funding Allocations:** In response to a question by Mildbrand, Oberle explained that Nutrient Management Planning is now a state priority and that thirteen counties are scheduled to receive an additional \$10,000 for that purpose. According to Oberle, the money will come out of the general staffing allocation funds.

**LCC 2009 Meeting Schedule:** Oberle proposed continuing the current meeting schedule, i.e. the third Tuesday of odd months (January 20, March 17, May 19, July 21, September 15, and November 17). **MOTION** by Zenner/Mildbrand to approve the schedule. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Farmland Preservation Agreements:** Review of Farmland Preservation Agreement applications for Walter, Irene, and Terry Brooks, 200 acres, Section 17, Town of Jump River and for Walter and Irene Brooks, 253.8 acres, Sections 9, 16, and 17, Town of Jump River. Approval of Farmland Preservation Agreements for Bruce and Gina Denzin, 76.54 acres, Section 36, Town of Little Black and for Gary Paul Weber, 80 acres, Section 36, Town of Little Black. **MOTION** for approval by Zenner/Mildbrand. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**WLWCA Resolutions:** Oberle listed proposed WLWCA resolutions, for which the WLWCA Board recommended approval of all. **MOTION** by Mildbrand/Purvis to follow the WLWCA Board recommendations and to authorize Oberle to vote on behalf of the LCC. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Conservation plans:** **MOTION** by Zenner/Mildbrand to approve conservation plans for Doorknob Farms (Schwarzenberger) and for Joe and Renee Zenner as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Future meetings/events:** **MOTION** by Mildbrand/Zenner to approve meeting attendance as revised. Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D meeting was deleted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

2008 WLWCA Annual Conference (Oberle ..... (Appleton) December 10-12, 2008  
NWLCA (Oberle) ..... (Hayward) January 16, 2009  
**Next LCC Meeting ..... January 20, 2009**

**MOTION** by Zenner/Purvis to adjourn at 11:55 a.m.

**TAYLOR COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of September 9, 2008 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 Scott Mildbrand, Tim Peterson, Donald Purvis, and Charles Zenner. Dave Krug was absent. Others present were Lanice Szomi, Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D Program Manager; Deb Esselman, FSA County Executive Director; Bob Plawski, NRCS District Conservationist; Ed Zydzik, USDA-APHIS; Mary Williams, Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D Representative and 87<sup>th</sup> District Assemblywoman; Steve Oberle, County Conservationist; Kyle Noonan, LCD Engineering Technician; and Cathy Mauer, LCD Conservation Assistant.

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

**MOTION** by to Mildbrand/Purvis approve the July 15, 2008 LCC meeting minutes.  
**MOTION CARRIED.**

August 2008 bills were circulated for review, and the July 2008 budget analysis was distributed. **MOTION** by Purvis/Peterson to approve the bills and budget analysis as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

2008 Conservation Assistance Program Update: Noonan distributed a handout outlining the status of the projects in the program.

2009 DATCP Soil & Water Resource Management (SWRM) status: The staffing portion of the SWRM grants was increased and the cost-share portion was decreased. There will also be cost-share funds available for Nutrient Management.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Reports**

**Natural Resources Conservation Service – Bob Plawski, District Conservationist, reported:** There were fourteen contracts, totaling \$226,292 in the 2008 EQIP program. Six projects, totaling \$88,654 were completed. Four waste storage projects were also approved. The maximum for each of these is \$80,000; total of \$320,000. The pump and tank are an additional \$15,000 to \$22,000 for each waste storage facility. Two of the waste storage projects are likely to be completed in 2008; the other two will be carried over to 2009. In addition, several projects were carried over from previous years, including grazing and fencing projects. Project work is winding down for the season, but some dormant seeding or mulching (for seeding in spring) will likely be done. Fifty-seven HEL (highly erodible land) determinations have been completed. Eight tracts were completed for FSA compliance checks; all eight were found to be in compliance. HEL fields can have up to two times T (tolerable soil loss) and still be in compliance. State law requires farming to meet T. One landowner was over T but under two times T. A WRP (Wetland Reserve Program) project of twenty to twenty-five acres should be completed next week. Three CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) projects were enrolled; this includes one windbreak and two waterways, one of 2750 feet and one of 750 feet. They have been seeded and erosion controlled fabric has been applied. Both are looking good; the goal is to stop gully erosion. NRCS is waiting for program rules to be written.

**Farm Service Agency – Deb Esselmann, County Executive Director, reported:** The 2008 DCP did not cover those with less than a ten acre base, which may include over 40% of Taylor County; the status of that is uncertain. A new crop revenue

program, ACRE, is being developed. There are five new disaster programs; eligibility is dependent on being insured. The programs included SURE (crops), LIP (livestock), TAP (trees), ELAP (other including bees and fish), and LFP (pastures). There is a new MILC program, which will be based on Boston Class 1 and feed costs. No procedures for administering the programs have yet been released. A new agriculture program is being started at the Northcentral Technical College (NTC). The program will allow farmers to meet requirements for FSA farm loan programs. Social security numbers are going to be used for tracking eligibility for programs. The new phone system, which will replace the old system that was damaged by lightning in July, may be installed within a month or so.

**Wildlife Damage Program – Ed Zydzik, USDA-APHIS, reported:** The venison donation program will pay a maximum of \$50 per deer for processing. Hickory Nutz and Jump River Slaughterhouse are interested. **MOTION** by Peterson/Purvis to participate in the program. **MOTION CARRIED.** Mildbrand opposed. Act 82 affects hunter access under the wildlife damage program. Under the act a person who has only been issued a shooting permit for deer causing damage and who waives any eligibility to receive a wildlife damage claim payment for damage caused by deer is not required to have his property open to the public. The USDA-APHIS contract with the county is due next month (October) but will be taken care of in November because the LCC does not meet in October. Bear numbers are high; adjustments to control strategies will probably not occur until 2010. Less deer damage has been seen, and deer numbers may be coming down. Several cases of wolf depredation occurred.

**Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D – Lanice Szomi, Program Manager, reported:** Pri-Ru-Ta has contracted to provide leadership training. Three pasture walks have been scheduled for this week (September 8-14). Soil Quality Field Days will be held near Ashland on September 22 and near Catawba on September 23. The next Pri-Ru-Ta meeting is scheduled for September 26. Organization of the beef marketing cooperative is moving forward, with by-laws being developed and other organizational details being determined. Chris Borden, Pri-Ru-Ta Coordinator, will be speaking at the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association convention.

**MOTION** by Purvis/Mildbrand to approve an operational agreement between the LCD and NRCS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION** by Purvis/Mildbrand to approve Farmland Preservation Agreement for Brain H. and Cheryl L. Bolstad, 275.2 acres, Sections 3, 9, and 10, Town of Aurora and Section 34, Town of Pershing. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Reviewed Farmland Preservation Agreements** for Bruce and Gina Denzine, 76.54 acres, Section 36, Town of Little Black; Gary Paul Weber, 80 Acres, Section 36, Town of Little Black; Walter and Irene Brooks, 262.8 acres, Sections 9, 16, and 17, Town of Jump River; and Walter, Irene, and Terry Brooks, 200 acres, Section 17, Town of Jump River.

**2008 Drinking Water Testing and Education Program:** Bottle distribution will be held in Medford, Rib Lake, Gilman and Jump River during the week of September 29-October 3. The sampling date will be Monday, October 6.

**Nutrient Management Planning:** Clark, Lincoln, Marathon, Price, and Taylor Counties are working together to hold nutrient management planning classes. The LCDs are working in conjunction with the Northcentral Technical College and UW-Extension. A free introductory session will be held in October in Medford, Spencer, and Wausau. The sessions will include information on soil sampling. The rest of the classes will be held in January in Abbotsford, Loyal, Medford, Phillips, and Wausau.

**2009 LCD Budget:** The county levy portion (\$100,262) of the LCD budget is \$231 less than 2008. **MOTION** by Mildbrand/Purvis to approve the budget. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Conservation plans:** **MOTION** by Mildbrand/Purvis to approve conservation plans for Peter and Margaret Skille, Jeremy Goebel, and Richard Rau (operator)/David Rau (owner).  
**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Other New Business:** Oberle hopes to develop a list of 2008 NMP plans developed by LCD, NRCS, and private consultants. Lake Breeze Dairy is planning a 4,000 cow dairy in the Town of Little Black. Test wells are being drilled.

**Correspondence:** Soil Quality Field Days brochure; memo concerning Chelsea Lake culvert; Pfender email concerning NR 151, croplands, and livestock facilities; NRCS memo concerning Brandner farm.

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

LCD budget review (Oberle) ..... (Courthouse) September 19, 2008  
Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D (Oberle)..... (Hayward) September 26, 2008  
WCA Working Lands Initiative Educational Seminar (Oberle) ..... (Stevens Point) September 29, 2008  
Home Energy Conservation Workshop..... (Rib Lake High School) October 11, 2008  
**Next LCC Meeting ..... November 18, 2008**

**MOTION** by Mildbrand/Peterson to adjourn at 12:14 p.m..

**TAYLOR COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of July 15, 2008 Meeting**

The monthly LCC meeting was called to order by Dave Krug at 10:01 a.m. The meeting was held in the UW Extension Meeting Room, County-USDA Service Center, Medford, Wisconsin. Members present were David Krug, Chairman, Scott Mildbrand, Donald Purvis, and Charles Zenner. Tim Peterson was absent. Others present were Lanice Szomi, Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D Program Manager; Deb Esselman, FSA County Executive Director; Steve Oberle, County Conservationist; and Cathy Mauer, LCD Conservation Assistant.

**MOTION** by Zenner/Mildbrand to approve the agenda as distributed and posted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION** by to Mildbrand/Purvis approve the May 20, 2008 LCC meeting minutes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

May-June 2008 bills were circulated for review, and the May budget analysis was distributed. **MOTION** by Zenner/Mildbrand to approve the bills and budget analysis as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

2008 Conservation Assistance Program update: Barnyards are being completed for Peter and Margaret Skille and for Ardys Skille. A pit closure is being done for Joe Retterath. Another pit closure will probably be done for Bill Graf. An application has been received for another pit installation; technical assistance will be provided but there will be no cost-sharing.

2008 Nutrient Management Planning (NMP) update: The LCD has been cost-sharing NMP for about fifteen years, with funds coming from two grants. Approximately 5600 acres will be done this year through LCD and another 4000 acres through NRCS. There is currently more interest due to increasing fertilizer costs and state requirements. New state segregated (SEG) funds may be available for next year. Discussion followed on the question of cost-sharing for Taylor County landowners who farm property in two counties, such as Rusk and Taylor.

2008 WLWCA LCC supervisor training: Oberle distributed binders that he received at the training.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Reports**

**Land Conservation Department – Steve Oberle, County Conservationist, reported:**

- LTE positions, including the Resource Conservationist in the LCD, now will earn three days of vacation and two days of sick leave after a year probationary period.
- Oberle has prepared a fact sheet as part of work he has been doing with the Little Black Town Board and area residents related to a proposed 4000 cow dairy operation in the town. There have been many questions related to the Wisconsin livestock siting law, licensing ordinances, comprehensive land use plans, and health and safety issues. Area residents are concerned about water supply and other issues.
- A veal operation that has had problems with proper storage and handling of waste has a new owner who appears to be addressing some of the issues.
- Oberle presented a reimbursement request for the first six months of the LCD staffing grant for Krug's signature.

- Oberle submitted a request for a permit and variance for a pit to be constructed on the Malisheski property. A variance was requested because NRCS standards allow concrete-lined pits to be within 100 feet of a well, and the county ordinance requires a minimum of 250 feet. The pit will be within 250 feet but will still meet NRCS standards. **MOTION** by Purvis/Mildbrand to approve the variance. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Farm Service Agency – Deb Esselmann, County Executive Director, reported:**

- The crop reporting date has been extended to August 15. In the new Farm Bill DCPs will be the same as in previous years, except for those with less than ten acres, for which no payment will be made. There will be a 21% advance payment in August or full payment in October. A new program – ACRE – will provide a one-time benefit for large, grain-based farms. A change in maximum payments will be unlikely to affect many people, if any, in this area. Disaster payments will be made only if the producer has crop insurance.

**Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D – Lanice Szomi, Program Manager, reported:**

- The annual state RC&D conference will be held September 11-12; the theme is Going Green.
- There is a new grazing intern in Northwest Wisconsin, covering Washburn, Douglas, Polk, and Burnett counties.
- Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D is one of the sponsors of the Energy Workshop, which will be held October 11 in Rib Lake.
- The local grass-fed beef group has received a \$28,980 grant from the state. Beef marketed through the group will need to meet certain requirements: no antibiotics; all-grass, no corn; size; butchered to certain standards and by approved shops.

**Operational Agreement with NRCS:** Oberle presented an operational agreement with NRCS for review. The agreement will be put on the September agenda for approval.

**Farmland Preservation Applications:** An FPP application for Brian and Cheryl Bolstad was presented for review. The application will be put on the September agenda for approval.

**Conservation plans:** The LCD is in the process of standardizing a checklist to be used with the plans..

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

Taylor Clean Sweep..... (Rib Lake, Pershing) July 17, 2008  
 NWLCA (Oberle) ..... (Hayward) July 18, 2008  
**Next LCC Meeting ..... September 16, 2008**

**MOTION** by Zenner/Mildbrand to adjourn at 11:40 a.m.

**TAYLOR COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of May 20, 2008 Meeting**

The monthly LCC meeting was called to order by Dave Krug 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 Krug, Chairman, Scott Mildbrand, Donald Purvis, and Charles Zenner. Tim Peterson was absent. Others present were Chris Borden, Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D Coordinator; Lanice Szomi, Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D Program Manager; Deb Esselman, FSA County Executive Director; Bob Plawski, NRCS District Conservationist; Ed Zydzik, USDA-APHIS; Steve Oberle, County Conservationist; and Cathy Mauer, LCD Conservation Assistant.

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

**MOTION** by to Zenner/Purvis approve the March 18, 2008 LCC meeting minutes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

March-May 2008 bills were circulated for review, and the March - April budget analysis was distributed. **MOTION** by Zenner/Mildbrand to approve the bills and budget analysis as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

2008 Tree Sale: Mauer reported that almost 21,000 trees were sold and about 1,500 were donated to the schools.

2008 Land Stewardship Conference: Oberle reported that the conference was once again well-attended and that comments given by attendees in the evaluation were very positive.

**2008 and 2009 DATCP Soil and Water Resource Management Grant:** The LCD received \$139,227 in staffing funds and \$62,330 in cost-share funding. For 2009, Oberle applied for \$180,000 for staffing and \$300,000 for cost-share plus additional funds for nutrient management funding.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Reports**

**Land Conservation Department – Steve Oberle, County Conservationist, reported:** ♦Oberle submitted a signatory page for Krug's signature for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Upper Chippewa Invasive Species Cooperative. ♦He also submitted an MOU for Krug's signature that will allow NRCS to release a conservation plan for Peter and Margaret Skille to be used as part of the Farmland Preservation Program requirements. This will avoid the need for LCD to also develop a plan. ♦Oberle reviewed a permit application for the closure of a manure storage facility on the Joe Retterath property, and Krug signed the application.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service – Bob Plawski, District Conservationist, reported:** ♦Plawski reviewed the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program. Projects may include wetland restoration, grassed waterways, windbreaks, and living snowfences. One living snowfence, using white spruce, is being tried in this district. NRCS and LCD are considering a contribution agreement whereby LCD would provide technical assistance in exchange for payment. Five projects have been proposed for this year at \$600 per project. An agreement for continuous CRP would further the cooperative efforts of the two agencies beyond the Environmental Quality Incentives Program joint cost-sharing and technical work. The continuous CRP is a fairly simple program, with NRCS and LCD providing technical assistance and FSA providing administrative and financial services. ♦All contracts are in place for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Paul Malovrh, NRCS Technician, and Kyle Noonan, LCD Engineering Technician, are finishing designs. No construction has started yet. This is the first year of cost-sharing for grazing fence and watering lines and discrepancies in

the technical guidelines and specifications for the watering lines are creating problems. ♦National Resource Inventory (NRI) site assessments for 2007 were completed earlier this year and assessments for 2008 will be done later this year. The NRI, which started in the 1970s, includes approximately a hundred 160-acre sample sites in Taylor County as part of a nationwide effort to assess various natural resource conditions on an ongoing basis. The assessments are done using aerial photos. ♦The time frame for wetland determinations depends on if a visit is needed. If no visit is needed, such as for permission to clean ditches, a decision can be made immediately. If a determination is to be made for clearing of new land will be cleared or construction of new ditches, a visit will be necessary. If a determination has been made, the category will be shown on maps given to farmers. The base photos for the maps are 2005 NAIP photos.

**Wildlife Damage Program – Ed Zydzik, USDA-APHIS, reported:** ♦Zydzik removed wolf traps from a site in western Taylor County after having no success catching a wolf that had killed a calf. ♦There have been bear complaints, as well. ♦Deer permits were issued to Keith Skabroud. ♦Funds for wildlife damage are down due to fewer bonus tags being sold. (Wildlife damage claims are funded from \$1 for each hunting license sold and the \$12 bonus tag fees.) If there are not enough funds to cover damage claims, payments will be pro-rated. Wolf damage payments are from the Endangered Resources Fund. There may be changes so that those payments do not cover pets, including bear dogs, at least not at the \$2500 current rate.

**Farm Service Agency – Deb Esselmann, County Executive Director, reported:** ♦The Farm Bill, which has been passed, will probably be vetoed but will be overridden. ♦FSA is taking crop reports. ♦The new Farm Bill will be complicated to enact. It is likely that no programming will be in effect under the Farm Bill until Fiscal Year 2009. According to Borden, it is likely that the impact of the Farm Bill will be negative for wildlife but better for soil and water. Due to high prices no LDPs and DCPs are likely to be in effect but the structure will be there. There will still be a MILC program.

**Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D – Chris Borden, Coordinator, and Lanice Szomi, Program Manager, reported:** Borden reported that council projects have included identifying additional clients for the SoilView DVDs and working with crop consultants to identify their needs. One example is developing month by month manure spreading maps for crop consultants. ♦Szomi reported that Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D assisted with grant applications for a statewide grass-fed beef group to form a marketing cooperative that would promote labeling and marketing to groceries and restaurants. A Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin grant has been approved, but the exact amount of the funding is not yet available. A core group of producers is working on the formation of the cooperative and looking at standards that would be applied to the production, quality, and marketing of the meat.

**Oberle evaluation:** MOTION by Purvis/Zenner to move into closed session for Oberle's annual evaluation per 19.85(1)(c), WI Stats. at 11:55 a.m. **MOTION CARRIED.** Returned to open session at 12:10 p.m.

**2008 WLWCA LCC Supervisor Training:** Oberle announced that sessions would be held in Menomonie (June 12), Hayward (June 26), and Sparta (June 27).

**Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board (WLWCB) issues:** Oberle reported that there has been a move on the part of DATCP to decrease the power of the WLWCB, in part by changing the board to a commission. Also, there is an opening on the Board.

**Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D and NWLCA representatives:** MOTION by Mildebrand/Purvis to approve Mary Williams as the Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D Council, Inc. representative and Al Beadles as the alternate and Steve Oberle as the NWLCA representative. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Taylor County Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) permit issues:** There are reports that a 4,000 cow dairy to be sited in Taylor County is being planned. CAFO regulations require that operations proposing to become a CAFO must submit an

initial permit application twelve months prior to reaching CAFO size and a detailed application six months prior to reaching CAFO size.

**2009 Nutrient Management Grant Application:** Under the current grants used by the LCD nutrient management cost-sharing is at a 75% rate. Under the DATCP SEG grant for which Oberle applied, the cost-sharing would be at a rate of \$28 per acre for a four-year period.

**Conservation plans:** Conservation plans were presented for John Anderson (Gerald Thompson operator), Camby and Ginger Berry, Bryan and Cheryl Bolstad, William and Debra Kochevar, and Keith Skabroud. Nutrient management plans were presented for Camby and Ginger Berry, Mark Matyka, Jim Schley, and Keith Skabroud. **MOTION** by Mildbrand/Purvis to approve the plans as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Correspondence:** Farmland Preservation Program 2007 Summary, Wisconsin Groundwater Quality

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

2008 Northwest Lakes Conference (Oberle) ..... (Cable) June 19-20, 2008

Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D (Oberle)..... (Hayward) June 20, 2008

**Next LCC Meeting ..... July 15, 2008**

**MOTION** by Purvis/Mildbrand to adjourn at 12:40 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**TAYLOR COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of March 18, 2008 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 Krug, Donald Purvis, Wayne Lato, Tim Peterson, and Charles Zenner, Chairman. Others present were Chris Borden, Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D Coordinator; Lanice Szomi, Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D Program Manager; Deb Esselman, FSA County Executive Director; Bob Plawski, NRCS District Conservationist; Ed Zydzik, USDA-APHIS; Steve Oberle, County Conservationist; and Cathy Mauer, LCD Conservation Assistant.

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

**MOTION** by to Lato/Krug approve the January 15, 2008 LCC meeting minutes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

January - March 2008 bills were circulated for review, and the December 2007 budget analysis was distributed. **MOTION** by Lato/Krug to approve the bills and budget analysis as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

2008 Northcentral Wisconsin Land Stewardship Conference will be held in Prentice on April 5. There is no registration count yet.

Oberle is acting as a mentor for Evan Lund, the new Price County Conservationist.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Reports**

**Land Conservation Department – Steve Oberle, County Conservationist, reported:**

Oberle presented a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) contract amendment for Zenner's signature. The amendment will extend the state program to coincide with federal program extensions resulting from the delay in passing a federal Farm Bill.

The Farmland Preservation Program now has forty-six contracts covering approximately 6,200 acres. By 2009, the number of contracts is likely to drop to about thirty-two as contracts expire. Few people are re-enrolling. Ben Wojahn, LCD Resource Conservationist is updating conservation plans for participants and working with them to develop nutrient management plans. LCD staff recently held a series of informational meetings for FPP participants and other farmers.

LCD is working with Clark County, DNR, and a consultant on a TRM (Targeted Runoff Management) grant for Bovine Asset Management (BAM), a heifer replacement facility on the Taylor-Clark County border. DNR would like a cooperative agreement between the counties. **MOTION** by Krug/Peterson to approve a cooperative agreement with Clark County for applying for and administering a TRM grant for Bovine Asset Management. **MOTION CARRIED.** The proposed project will include manure storage and runoff control and may cost as much as \$500,000. The maximum amount of the TRM grant is \$150,000. DNR will be permitting the facility, which exceeds 1,000 animal units. Existing and new structures will be in both counties. BAM applied for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds for the project but was not ranked high enough. That application is on hold. The sediment basin for the project will be across the road from the main facility. BAM owns about 120 acres, but the facility is on only forty acres. Approximately 1,000 acres are rented. There is some question whether or not the forty acres is enough.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service – Bob Plawski, District Conservationist, reported:**

Fourteen EQIP contracts have been signed totaling approximately \$260,000. Implementation is starting. Projects include barnyards, pit closures, and an access road. The latter is through a wetland, and information has been sent to the Army Corps of Engineers, which will probably issue a general permit for agricultural projects.

Continuous CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) sign-ups are being taken and have included shelterbelts, living snow fences, grassed waterways, and small wetland restorations. The program pays up to 90% and includes payments for twenty years.

NRCS and FSA are continuing with the transfer of photographic slides to computerized images on DVD. Years covered include 1979 to 2002. Four towns have been completed. The computerized images will provide easier access and use and greater stability.

There is no new Farm Bill yet.

**Farm Service Agency – Deb Esselmann, County Executive Director, reported:**

Congress has gone into Easter/Passover recess so action on a new Farm Bill is further delayed.

Sign-ups are being taken for Crop Disaster and Livestock Compensation Programs. Taylor County has the most sign-ups in the state so far. Sign-ups are also being taken for the Dairy Disaster Assistance Program – III (DDAP-III), which was originally created as a Hurricane Katrina relief program but has been extended to all producers. The sign-up period is March 5 – May 5. Base records from 2003-2004, including herd size and production, are required along with records covering the disaster claim period of 2005-2007.

**Wildlife Damage Program – Ed Zydzik, USDA-APHIS, reported:**

Some wolf shooting permits have been distributed to landowners, but no wolves have been reported shot.

Crop prices and production input prices may increase the number of participants in the wildlife damage program for 2008.

Zydzik has been involved in starling control on a farm near Ladysmith and pigeon control near Wausau.

**Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D – Chris Borden, Coordinator and Lanice Szomi, Program Manager, reported:**

Borden met with agricultural consultants to inform them about the soil survey DVDs that Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D is selling. Included among the data of interest for agricultural purposes are maps showing areas with manure spreading restrictions.

The council has applied for additional grants to fund grazing specialists through 2010.

Postcards were sent out informing farmers that a no-till drill, from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, will be available in early April.

The Northcentral Grazing Conference in Stetsonville, sponsored by Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D, was very successful. There were over ninety attendees and eight vendors.

LCD Nutrient Management Planning Program and 2009 Joint DATCP/DNR Nonpoint Source Grant Application:

Nutrient management was among the topics discussed at the three farmer meetings held recently. Other topics included the Farmland Preservation Program and the Conservation Assistance Program. While the meetings were aimed at participants in the Farmland Preservation Program, other farmers also attended.

Taylor County still has nutrient management cost-share funds available for 2008 through grants from Kraft Dairy Trust, DATCP, and MALWEG, which have also been used in past years. However, additional funds will be needed for 2009 if the department wants to continue offering cost-sharing for nutrient management. DATCP has SEG funds available and SEG funds for nutrient management planning are based on a payment of \$28/acre over a four year contract period. As of January 1, 2008 all farmers are required to have nutrient management plans for fields where nutrients, including both manure and commercial fertilizers, are spread. Once a farmer is in compliance with the nutrient management planning requirements and has received cost-sharing, he or she is required to stay in compliance as long as the land is farmed. Counties have the option of offering less than \$28 but the compliance requirements would be affected. There is a question as to how the nutrient management requirements will be enforced. Nutrient management planning usually offers a financial benefit and may also offer some liability protection relative to odor, hauling, and runoff issues. Oberle is proposing applying for \$150,000 in SEG funds to cover nutrient management planning on approximately 5,000 acres. The committee questioned whether that was a high enough acreage goal. Planning was done on approximately 10,000 acres in 2007. Oberle is concerned about a possibility of underspending. The \$150,000 SEG funds for nutrient management planning would be in addition to \$184,924 in staffing funds and \$300,000 in conservation assistance program funds for which Oberle is applying. **MOTION** by Lato/Peterson to approve the proposed application for the 2009 Joint DATCP/DNR Nonpoint Source Grant. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Correspondence:** *Thursday Note*, March 6; memos from Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board concerning the 2008 Final Supplemental Allocation for the Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) program.

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

2008 Northcentral WI Land Stewardship Conference (All) .....(Prentice) April 5, 2007  
2008 WALCE Spring County Conservationist meeting (Oberle) .....(Waupaca) April 10-11, 2008  
NWLCA (Oberle) .....(Hayward) April 18, 2008  
LCD Tree Distribution (All)..... (Taylor County Grader Shed) April 25, 2008  
**Next LCC Meeting** ..... **May 20, 2008**

**MOTION** by Peterson/Krug to adjourn at 12:30 p.m.

**TAYLOR COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of January 15, 2008 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 Krug, Wayne Lato, Tim Peterson, Donald Purvis, and Charles Zenner, Chairman. Others present were Lanice Szomi, Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D Program Manager; Deb Esselmann, FSA County Executive Director; Bob Plawski, NRCS District Conservationist; Ed Zydzik, USDA-APHIS; Dave Ruhd, USDA-APHIS; Steve Oberle, County Conservationist; Kyle Noonan, LCD Engineering Technician; Benjamin Wojahn, LCD Resource Conservationist; and Cathy Mauer, LCD Conservation Assistant.

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

**MOTION** by to Krug/Lato approve the September 18, 2007 LCC meeting minutes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

October-December 2007 bills were circulated for review, and the September-December budget analysis was distributed. **MOTION** by Lato/Peterson to approve the bills and budget analysis as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

2007 Conservation Assistance Program – Oberle mentioned that in 2007 some participants were offered a flat rate rather than a percentage. Noonan distributed a handout summarizing the 2007 program, which included two carryovers from 2006. This was a record year for the number of contracts but was low for the amount of money available. Projects included the first shoreline restoration project done under the program. Technical support was also given for several projects that were not cost-shared.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Reports**

**Land Conservation Department – Steve Oberle, County Conservationist, reported:**

Applications for the 2008 CAP were accepted through the end of December. Several larger operations are looking at expanding or moving into the county and will need waste storage facilities. There may be three or more state-permitted operations, including dairy, heifer replacement, and a possible hog operation. The state would require a permit, nutrient management plan, and emergency plan. The county would require a permit and nutrient management plan. Waste storage facility closures will continue to be a priority.

The LCD has been part of a group considering a workshop focusing on forestry issues for farmers. Other participants include UW-Extension, Basin Educators, and DNR. Rather than a separate workshop, the group had decided to explore forestry interests of farmers through existing programs, such as grazing conferences and pasture walks.

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) contract has been renewed. There is no change in the area included in CREP.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service – Bob Plawski, District Conservationist, reported:**

Twenty-two applications were received for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The sign-up period ended November 16. Four applicants have since cancelled. Four applications were received for waste storage, but none were approved. The approval is done on a statewide basis. Of the 116 applications received, thirty-two were approved. A point ranking system is used. The cutoff for approval was 192 points; the top ranked application in Taylor County had 169 points. Wisconsin NRCS is now in the process of reallocating remaining funds. Contracts for initial funds need to be obligated by tomorrow (January 16). Taylor County received \$240,039. Twelve contracts have already been approved and two more will be signed. These include barnyards, pit closings, and grazing. Several changes were made to the grazing part of the program.

All 2008 payments have been made for the Conservation Security Program (CSP). Last year, payments were made in three installments. Some modifications have been made to program requirements, e.g. some participants were unable to obtain the biofuel required by the program.

There was one Wetland Reserve Program project, which did not yet get installed. The Wisconsin Waterfowl Association will be contributing \$5,000 toward the project.

NRCS and FSA are working together to scan old slides (1979-2003) so that electronic versions will be available to facilitate doing wetland determinations.

The proposed Farm Bill looks like it will be good for conservation.

**Farm Service Agency – Deb Esselmann, County Executive Director, reported:**

Several programs are in limbo until the new Farm Bill is passed. The Livestock Compensation and Crop Disaster Programs have been extended through 2007. The Dairy Disaster Assistance Program is on hold.

FSA has received new computers, including laptops. If there is a good connection available, they will be able to do business while in Price County.

They are getting a lot of transfers since producers no longer need to utilize the office in the county in which their land is located.

Esselmann will be working on updating the Ag Center website that she maintains. The Ag Center agencies will be cooperating on a newsletter rather than each agency producing its own. FSA is updating its CLU (Common Land Unit) layer to try to get the fields correct. Statewide office restructuring is on hold.

**Wildlife Damage Program – Ed Zydzik, USDA-APHIS, reported:** Zydzik presented a proposed budget of \$24,897 for services in 2008, which is less than 2007. **MOTION** by Lato/Purvis to approve the budget. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION** by Peterson/Purvis to approve the following crop prices, which are the state average for the year: Corn \$3.08/bu, beans \$8.44/bu, oats \$2.19/bu, hay \$85/ton, beehives \$85/hive, honey \$0.99/lb, bees \$83/3lb package. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION** by Krug/Lato to approve the following claims: Keith Skabroud \$909.42, Joe Zenner \$412.20, Dan Hoffman \$1591.84, Scott Lindow \$620.00. **MOTION CARRIED.** Claims went from the largest amount in 2006 to the smallest amount in 2007. Several producers who were formerly in the program would like to get back in. Enrollment of several new participants in the Gilman area will wait until the crop is in the ground in order to save on travel expenses. The high cost of corn may increase the number of participants.

The airport assessment project is continuing, with a draft assessment expected by the end of January.

**Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D – Lanice Szomi, Program Manager, reported:** Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D is looking for grant proposals. \$400,000 was included in the state budget, which runs until 2010. They are finishing up the 2005 two year funds but have some extra funds to keep the existing specialists. New federal money is on hold until the Farm Bill is passed. A grazing conference is scheduled for March 12 in Stetsonville.

A postcard will go out in March to let people know that a no-till drill from the US Fish and Wildlife Service will be available in early spring for those who may be interested in borrowing it. Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D has also been looking at the option of converting an oats drill. The next council meeting will be February 22.

**Northwest Land & Water Conservation Association (NWLCA) – Steve Oberle reported:** NWLCA met January 11. Dues may be raised for 2009. Expenses include a contract with Christine Ostern as coordinator and the speech and poster contest, on which NWLCA is losing money. ABDI has split into four separate Land (and Water) Conservation

Departments, and Price County has hired a new County Conservationist. Burnett County has reduced the number of county board committees by combining previous committees.

The LCC will be meeting the third Tuesday of odd months.

Oberle and Noonan reviewed a handout listing applications for the 2008 Conservation Assistance Program and discussed likely funding.

The 2008 North Central Land Stewardship Conference will be held April 5 in Prentice. The conference is a joint effort of the LCDs, UW-Extension, and WDNR in Taylor and Price Counties, Pri-Ru-Ta RC&D, and the Upper Chippewa River Basin.

Plans are being made for a series of workshops for farmers that will provide opportunities to learn about the Farmland Preservation Program and its requirements, as well as Conservation Planning and Nutrient Management Planning.

**Conservation plans:** **MOTION** by Lato/Peterson to approve Nutrient Management plan(s) as presented. John (Jack) Goebel, Glen and Mary Harder, Phil Jazdzewski, Dan Kowalczyk, Keith Skabroud, Steve Suchomel, and Shelley and Jay West. **MOTION CARRIED.** The question was raised as to who follows up on implementation of the plans.

**Correspondence:** *WLWCA Annual Report*

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

2008 Annual WALCE Conference (All LCD staff) ..... (Minocqua) February 27-29, 2008  
**Next LCC Meeting .....March 18, 2008**

**Adjourned at 11:50 a.m.**