

Kewaunee County Land and Water Conservation Regularly Scheduled Committee Meeting
Kewaunee County Fairgrounds Office November 11, 2014 9:00 AM

2014-2016 Kewaunee County Land and Water Conservation Committee (LWCC) Members:

John Pagel – Chair (County Board member)
Ron Paider – Vice Chair (County Board member)
Lee Luft – Secretary (County Board member)
Bob Garfinkel – Committee Member (County Board Member)
Davina Bonness – County Conservationist
Clark Reimer (USDA Farm Service Agency Representative)
Aerica Bjorstrom – UW Extension Agricultural Agent

Kewaunee County Land and Water Conservation (LWCD) Staff:

Davina Bonness – County Conservationist
Open Position – Conservationist Specialist
Paul Fredrich – Conservationist - Soils Specialist
Theresa Albrecht – Program Specialist
Theresa Marcusen – LWCD Secretary

Cooperating Agency Members from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA):

Joe Johnson -USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service District Conservationist
Aerica Bjorstrom - UW Extension Agricultural Agent
Brian Maedke – USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) *Attends as appropriate.*

1) Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM by Chairman John Pagel

2) Roll Call: Committee Members present: John Pagel, Ron Paider, Lee Luft, Bob Garfinkel, Aerica Bjorstrom. Clark Reimer was absent. LWCD and Cooperating Agency Staff present: Davina Bonness. Joe Johnson-USDA and Brian Maedke-USDA were absent due to the Veteran's Day holiday.

3) Approval/Repair of Agenda: Motion to accept the November 11th agenda as presented was made by Ron Paider and seconded by Bob Garfinkel. Committee vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

4) Correspondence: There was no correspondence regarding the regularly scheduled meeting of the Land and Water Conservation Committee.

5) Public Comments regarding the regularly scheduled Land and Water Conservation Meeting: There were two public comments.

Joe Musial asked those present to honor our veterans today. Mr. Musial also asked that KCLWCD staff contact the owners of the Heim farm or the Sheriff's office to inform them that the Heim Farm liquid manure tanker is leaking liquid manure on County roads. Also, Mr. Musial asked if it is possible for the KCLWCD to certify that liquid manure storage facilities are well maintained and safe in order to avoid a spill similar to the 600,000 gallon spill in Brussels (just to the north of Kewaunee County). Previously, Mr. Musial had inquired about the possible improper spreading of manure into two separate culverts. The culverts are located near the intersection of Highway D and Lincoln Road and the intersection of Fremont and Birch Roads.

Bill Iwen asked the person filling the currently vacant Conservation Specialist position (the position vacated by Davina Bonness upon her promotion) be filled with a candidate that is very diligent in guarding our Kewaunee groundwater assets. Mr. Iwen stressed the importance of clean water for all citizens.

6) Department Reports:

- a) **Animal Waste Storage Permits:** Davina reported on waste storage permits and indicated that the KCLWCD issued two permits for the same farming operation. One permit authorized the abandonment of an existing manure storage facility while the second permit authorized the construction of a new permit on the same farm.
- b) **Farmland Preservation/Standards and Prohibitions Walkovers:** Davina Bonness reported that there are just a few walkovers to be completed by the KCLWCD and that a full report would be presented at the December 8th Land and Water Conservation Committee meeting.
- c) **Cost Share Agreements:** Davina reported that year-to-date spending on soil and water cost sharing projects has totaled \$56,000 for 2014.
- d) **Conservation Plans for Approval:** KCLWCD approved a conservation plan for Pagel's Ponderosa for 2014/2015.
- e) **Public Health and Groundwater Protection Ordinance Update:** Davina reported that some farms are already working to come into compliance with the manure stacking provisions of this ordinance, even though the ordinance has not been voted on by each Township as yet. Davina also reported that fact sheets with specific township-by-township information relating to the ordinance are in circulation.

7) Cooperating Agency Reports:

- a) **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS):** Joe Johnson was not present. No report.
- b) **USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA):** No report.
- c) **University of Wisconsin Extension (UWEX):** Aerica Bjorstrom reported on the dates for Farm Technology days in Kewaunee County (July 11th through July 13th, 2017) at the Ebert Farm in the Town of Pierce. Aerica also reported on the new Implements of Animal Husbandry regulations (Act 377) and its requirements and restrictions. The total maximum weight limit is 92,500 lbs. with numerous lighting and signage requirements and some exemptions. Aerica indicated she would send out a fact sheet to all KCLWCC members and that two meetings between town leaders and the State Patrol have taken place to familiarize town leadership with the provisions of the new law.
- d) **USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS):** No report however, Brian Maedke will present the 2013 Annual APHIS report at the Kewaunee County Land and Water Conservation Committee meeting at the December 8th KCLWCC meeting.
- e) **Other Agency Reports:** No additional reports were presented.

8) Recommendation to approve position description for the Conservation Specialist vacancy and to forward to the Kewaunee County Personnel Committee: The committee reviewed the revised position description for the open Conservation Specialist. A motion to approve the revised position description was made by Lee Luft and seconded by Ron Paider and the motion carried unanimously. The new position description will be forwarded to the Kewaunee County Personnel Committee for approval.

9) Other Matters:

- a. Lee Luft asked that a discussion of the recent action by six environmental groups to petition the EPA to investigate water contamination in Kewaunee County be added to our next KCLWCC agenda.
- b. Lee Luft was asked to speak about a recent manure processing trial at a local company, FEECO, International, in Green Bay. A copy of Lee's report on this trial was made available to all KCLWCC members. In summary, Lee reported that this process has the promise a marketable pelletized fertilizer (with a 6-2-0 designation) end product and virtually pathogen-free water as a valuable by-product. Still the process is in the very early stages of testing and is not yet ready for full commercialization.

10) Resolutions: No action was taken on resolutions by the Committee at this meeting.

11) Review of Cost Sharing Agreements: There were no cost-sharing agreements presented to the Committee at this meeting.

12) Travel Authorizations: There were no travel authorizations presented at this meeting.

13) Next Meeting Dates: Next regularly scheduled KCLWCC Meeting date is as follows: MONDAY December 8th at 9:00 AM.

14) Approval of Bills: Current month bills were presented, reviewed and signed by all Committee members. A motion to approve all bills as presented was made by Ron Paider and seconded by Bob Garfinkel. Committee vote was unanimous in favor of this motion.

15) Chairman's Wrap-Up Comments: Chairman Pagel congratulated Davina Bonness on her appointment to the position of County Conservationist citing her commitment and passion for the job and to the community she has and will serve.

16) Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 AM was made by Ron Paider and seconded by Bob Garfinkel. Motion carried unanimously.