

**Kewaunee County Land and Water Conservation Regularly Scheduled Committee Meeting  
Kewaunee County Fairgrounds Office April 14, 2015 9:00 AM**

*"The mission of the Kewaunee County Land and Water Conservation Committee is to provide leadership in the conservation of our ground and surface water, soil, and natural resources through the communication, education, and implementation of environmentally sound practices and policies."*

**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 Bjurstrom – UW Extension Agricultural Agent

**Kewaunee County Land and Water Conservation (LWCD) Staff:**

Davina Bonness – County Conservationist  
Paul Fredrich – Conservationist - Soils Specialist  
Travis Engels – Conservationist Specialist  
Theresa Albrecht – Program Specialist  
Theresa Marcusen – LWCD Secretary  
Sarah Hovis – LWCD Conservation Intern

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

Joe Johnson -USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service District Conservationist  
Aerica Bjurstrom - 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, Clark Reimer. LWCD and Cooperating Agency Staff present: Davina Bonness. Kewaunee County Board Chairman, Ron Heuer was also present. Brian Maedke-USDA, Joe Johnson USDA/NRCS were present. UW Extension Office, Aerica Bjurstrom was absent.

**3) Approval/Repair of Agenda:** Motion to accept the April 14th agenda as presented was made by Lee Luft and seconded by Ron Paider. Committee vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

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

**4) Public Comments regarding the regularly scheduled Land and Water Conservation Meeting:** There were five public comments.

Mary Ludlow: Ms. Ludlow spoke about Alvin O’Konski a Kewaunee born, Republican U.S. representative from 1943 to 1973 from Wisconsin’s 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. Ms. Ludlow cited a quote from Mr. O’Konski stating that we are we are supposed to be guardians of the environment. Another widely known quote from Mr. O’Konski was referenced; “Our precious heritage of natural and unspoiled beauty and unspoiled streams, once exhausted and destroyed can never be replaced.”

Bill Iwen: Mr. Iwen said that based on comments by Laurie Fisher of the Dairy Business Association, the Kewaunee County Land and Water Conservation Ctte should invite the EPA to Kewaunee County to help solve the environmental issues here.

Joe Musial: Mr. Musial congratulated the Kewaunee Land and Water Conservation Committee for its role in helping draft and support the newly passed Kewaunee County Public Health and Groundwater Protection Ordinance. Mr. Musial also said that DNR permits for Agro Pur to allow chloride effluents into the East Twin River had decimated the fish population

and taken away the rights of other citizens to fish. Mr. Musial also asked for full disclosure of recent notices of non-compliance and notices of violation be made public without having to resort to an open records request. Mr. Musial said this was a follow-up request from the previous meeting in which he asked for more information on the 48 "letters of non-compliance" that he indicated Davina Bonness has spoken about at an earlier meeting. He said these notices were sent from the DNR to Kewaunee County WPDES permit holders in 2014.

Sandy Winnemueller: Ms. Winnemueller congratulated the Land and Water Conservation Committee on its efforts to draft and support the newly passed Kewaunee County Public Safety and Groundwater Protection Ordinance.

Nancy Utesch: Ms. Utesch congratulated the Land and Water Conservation Committee on its efforts to draft and support the newly passed Kewaunee County Public Safety and Groundwater Protection Ordinance.

#### 5) Department Reports:

- a) **Animal Waste Storage Permits:** One new animal waste storage permit for alteration was issued with a cost of \$500.00 to the permittee.
- b) **Farmland Preservation/Standards and Prohibitions Walkovers:** Ms. Bonness reported that Travis Engels and Sara Hovis were conducting KCLWCD walkovers related to waterways and reviewing mapping and buffering of sensitive areas.
- c) **Cost Share Agreements:** Ms. Bonness reported that staffing cost share agreements with DATCP for 2016 have been signed.
- d) **Conservation Plans for Approval:** Ms. Bonness submitted five new conservation plans in the Farmland Preservation Program for approval. These five conservation plans came from Michael Koenig, Dustin Smidle, Jason Walechka, Thomas Voyles and Katie Jo Duescher.
- e) **Public Health and Groundwater Protection Ordinance Update:** Ms. Bonness reported that the Public Health and Groundwater Protection Ordinance had passed in all ten townships and all cities and villages and would take effect on January 1, 2016. Ms. Bonness said the KCLWCD had received a good number of calls asking for the detailed section maps and for information on the grants available for stacking pads. Chairman Pagel indicated that if 2016 weather was similar to 2015, the KCLWCC may need to vote to allow spreading earlier than April 15<sup>th</sup> as soil conditions were appropriate for spreading before April 15<sup>th</sup> in 2015. Lee Luft reported that the Public Health and Groundwater Protection Ordinance had passed with overwhelming support in all communities and with an overall 83 to 17% approval in total throughout Kewaunee County.
- f) **Submitted TRM grants (update):** Ms. Bonness reported that six TRM grants will be submitted for implementation in 2016. Four of these were for manure storage improvements and two were related to the requirements in the newly passed Public Health and Groundwater Protection Ordinance. Ms. Bonness also reported that two previously approved TRM grants would be implemented in 2015

#### 6) Cooperating Agency Reports:

- a) **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS):** Joe Johnson spoke about some of the grant programs from NRCS. He specifically talked about EQIP Grants and Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) Grants. Mr. Johnson indicated that CNMP grants for cost sharing require one year for preparation and submittal and one additional year for approval and payment of approved grants. Farmers requesting grants for cost sharing were cautioned that they can not expect immediate approval and payment. Planning ahead is a necessity. Mr. Johnson also reported on some cost sharing grants for cover crop planting. Mr. Johnson reported on a successful soil conservation meeting that was held in March at the Rio Creek Feed Mill. He indicated the soil drainage demonstration worked very well. Also, Mr. Johnson indicated that the USDA software package ("Toolkit") is currently being used successfully by the KCLWCD. Lastly, Mr. Johnson said that the KCLWCC should begin their requests for information or other agency support with him and he can best guide these requests through the appropriate USDA offices. Chairman Pagel commented that when working with the agencies such as NRCS, we should utilize the chain of command and follow procedures that allow our county based employees to be the contact person for the programs that involve their upper management. Doing this keeps everyone in the loop and minimizes communication breakdowns and supports our local team.
- b) **USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA):** No report this month.
- c) **University of Wisconsin Extension (UWEX) and Farm Technology Days Update:** Aerica Bjurstrom was absent.
  - i. **Farm Technology Days update:** Ron Paider indicated that committees had begun to meeting and were moving forward. He said mapping for Tent City was underway but would likely be altered a number of times before the event. Ron Paider also said that plans for the Farm Technology Days toy farm implement were progressing.
- d) **Other Agency Reports:** No additional reports were presented.
- e) **USDA-APHIS Wildlife Damage Program:** No report for this meeting. Annual report was presented at the March, 2015 KCLWCC meeting.

## 7) Other Matters:

**a) John Pagel – Manure Technologies Update:** Chairman Pagel indicated there are now eight companies actively working on nutrient recovery systems. Mr. Pagel said that one system now operating in Brillion, Wisconsin was working well but that it is not yet treating the volumes of manure originally envisioned. John will keep us updated on further developments.

**b. Kewaunee County Land and Water Conservation Committee Goals/Objectives for Improvement:** The full KCLWCC reviewed suggested goals for 2015 and beyond as submitted by John Pagel, Davina Bonness and Lee Luft. Following these discussions three specific goals were selected. These three goals are:

- Countywide water well testing has a goal of 10% improvement (reduction) from current cumulative levels of 29.7% for tested wells regardless of whether the well contamination was caused by bacteria or nitrates. Use the approximately 150 wells tested annually as a measure along with the wells being tested by Davina Bonness.
  - a. Action Item: Identify and implement three new water quality protocols in 2015 and 2016 to improve groundwater quality.
- In 2015 develop a science based, economical water sampling/testing program to aid in identifying surface water results. Implement the science based surface water testing program in 2016. Lee Luft suggested looking at existing WAV test results as submitted to the EPA for historical data on surface water quality.
  - a. Action Item: Implement one experimental water quality protocol each year to improve surface water quality
- Hold at least two producer meetings in the next 12 months to inform farmers of regulation changes and suggested practices to improve water quality.
- Work with the USDA to co-locate the NRCS office with the KCLWCD by the end of 2016. Greater efficiencies and cost savings could result from locating the NRCS office for Kewaunee County at the Luxemburg offices of the KCLWCD.

**c) Phosphorus Summit Recap:** Davina Bonness, John Pagel and Lee Luft spoke about the recent (March 31<sup>st</sup>) Phosphorus Summit meeting hosted by Congressman Reid Ribble. Chairman Pagel was a presenter at this summit. Ron Paider, Davina Bonness and Lee Luft were also present as was County Board Chairman Ron Heuer. State Representative Joel Kitchens was also present to learn more about the issues with contamination of the bay of Green Bay from excessive phosphorus. Further meetings are planned in follow-up to this very well attended and very well covered (by the press) Summit.

**d. Mission and Goals for Improvement:** As a recap, the mission statement for the Kewaunee County Land and Water Conservation Committee was adopted at the March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. The mission reads as follows: **“The mission of the Kewaunee County Land and Water Conservation Committee is to provide leadership in the conservation of our ground and surface water, soil, and natural resources through the communication, education, and implementation of environmentally sound practices and policies.”** The above Goals and Objectives (section 7 b) are meant to support this mission.

**8) Scheduling of Future Committee Meetings:** Next meeting dates: Tuesday May 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM and Tuesday June 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM.

**Resolutions:** No resolutions were acted upon by the Committee at this meeting.

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

**9) 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 Lee Luft. Committee vote was unanimous in favor of this motion.

**10) Chairman’s Wrap-Up Comments:** Chairman Pagel reaffirmed that the ban on manure application over soils less than 20 feet from surface from January 1<sup>st</sup> to April 15<sup>th</sup> (per the new Public Health and Groundwater Protection Ordinance) could end prior to April 15<sup>th</sup> upon approval by the KCLWCC when weather conditions warrant an early end to the ban.

**11) Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 AM was made by Ron Paider and seconded by Bob Garfinkel. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Lee Luft – Kewaunee County Land and Water Conservation Committee