

FARMLAND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 15, 2012

County Administrative Building – Room 3112 – 3rd Floor

4:00 PM –PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tina Wehrs, John Lautz, Keith Valiquette, Mike Weibel, Don Bina

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Marilyn Pedretti, Ilona Hansen, Mike Dummer & Deena Murphy

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF & GUESTS: Charles Handy

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL 4:00 PM by Chair – Tina Wehrs

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM August 18, 2011 Meeting.

Motion Lautz/Weibel to approve minutes from August 18, 2011 Meeting.

5 aye – 0 no – 4 excused (Pedretti, Hansen, Dummer, Murphy) – Motion Carried.

UPDATE ON DATCP CERTIFICATION PROCESS AND APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS.

Charlie handed out copies along with a letter dated January 27, 2012 and explained the contents of the handouts to the committee. Charlie outlined the changes made to Chapters 5 and 6. Charlie explained changes in the “old” map compared to the “new” map and then discussion/questions from the committee ensued.

Charlie explained that the committee needed to recommend approval of the amendments of the plan to the PR&D Committee. Committee took a few minutes to read and discuss changes.

Motion Bina/Valiquette to recommend approval by the PR&D Committee of amended Plan and Map as presented for certification.

There was questions and discussion on the plan that were answered by Charlie.

5 aye – 0 no – 4 excused (Pedretti, Hansen, Dummer, Murphy) – Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE RESOLUTION FOR AG ENTERPRISE AREA PETITION FOR THE HALFWAY CREEK PRAIRIE AEA.

Charlie explained that this resolution was approved last year but recommendation from DATCP was that because we are amending the boundaries that the committee approve a new resolution. The resolution was approved by the PR&D Committee at the February 27th meeting and by the Town of Onalaska on Tuesday night.

Motion Weibel/Valiquette to approve the resolution.

5 aye – 0 no – 4 excused (Pedretti, Hansen, Dummer, Murphy) – Motion carried unanimously.

UPDATE COMMITTEE ON OTHER FARMLAND PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES.

Charlie gave an update on work with the towns on the adoption of the new county wide zoning ordinance. The towns have 12 months to adopt or opt out. Part of the process is educating the towns that if they do opt out staff would recommend they have their own Certified Farmland Preservation Zoning Ordinance and get that certified with DATCP. Zoning staff has given them the indication that they would help them with that process.

Charlie then began discussion on Conservation Compliance. Any of the land owners that are existing participants in the program have until 2015 to come into Conservation Compliance. Any new land owners have to come into compliance before they can qualify for the tax credits. Land Conservation staff is working with farmers that are interested in coming into compliance and qualifying for those credits.

Questions were taken and from committee and answered by staff (Charlie).

Discussion on things this committee as well as staff can do to educate the farmers and landowners on the benefits of the program.

REVIEW OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND TERMS OF SERVICE.

Charlie handed out a document that lists the current committee makeup. By ordinance the committee needs 3 members from the county board and with Don retiring we need to have Tara (Johnson) appoint a 3rd member from the county board; two members from environmental or conservation minded private non-profits; couple members representing the town government or municipal government and then a couple of members representing agriculture at large. Don Bina

can be an at large replacement; Mike Dummer's term ends in April of 2012 and he has said he does not have the time to continue to serve so his term will end; Marilyn Pedretti's term ends this year and that is something the committee would have to ask Marilyn if she wants to re-up for another term and then Keith's term ends in April of 2012. Tara (Johnson) has requested that Charlie send an email to town boards and town chairs asking them to recommend people that might be interested. April 1st is the deadline for recommendations to replace current members. Recommendations do not have to come from a Town Board meeting, they could come from the Town Chair. Possibilities of working meetings; video tours and frequency of meetings were discussed.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND DATES.

Covered in previous agenda item.

Consensus is to try and schedule meetings on a quarterly basis. Locations were also discussed

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion Weibel/Bina to adjourn at 4:57 P.M.

5 aye – 0 no – 4 excused (Pedretti, Hansen, Dummer, Murphy) – Motion Carried.

*The above minutes may be approved, amended, or corrected at the next committee meeting.
Charles Handy, Recorder*