

PLANNING, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Monday, January 31, 2011

Administrative Center – Room 3220

4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Don Meyer, Marilyn Pedretti, Don Bina, Beverly Mach, Tina Wehrs

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Marlane Anderson, Bob Keil, Dennis Manthei

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF & GUESTS: Jeff Bluske, Charlie Handy, Gregg Stangl, Margaret Norden, Bryan Meyer, Mary Meehan-Strub, Nate Sampson, Karl Green, Jake VandeBerg, Mike Weibel

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 3, 2011

Supervisor Pedretti pointed out corrections to be made to the public hearing portion of the meeting, as follows:

Page 4, delete the word "not" from "this solution is not opposed by the City of La Crosse."

Page 9, change meeting adjournment time from 6:50 p.m. to 7:35 p.m.

MOTION by Pedretti/Bina to correct the minutes of January 3, 2011. **Motion carried unanimously.** Keil, Manthei excused.

MOTION by Pedretti/Wehrs to approve the minutes of January 3, 2011, as corrected. **Motion carried unanimously.** Keil, Manthei excused.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

SUPERVISOR CONFERENCE REPORTS

Supervisor Pedretti reported that Karl Green will be giving a storm water slide presentation at the Town of Holland.

2011 STATE OF WISCONSIN ASSOCIATED COUNTY EXTENSION COMMITTEES ANNUAL CONFERENCE – MARCH 28-30

Mary Meehan-Strub provided information on the WACEC conference. The UW-Extension office will coordinate registrations. Requests must be received by March 1, 2011. There will be sessions with state legislators. Supervisor Keil will receive recognition for five years' service.

APPROVE THE CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE WITH CONSERVATION STANDARDS FOR FARMLAND PRESERVATION

Gregg Stangl reported that S and J Skemp Family LLC was a participant in the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program, and requested to withdraw in 2006. They asked to be reinstated in 2011. Since they are considered new participants they are required to be in compliance with soil and water conservation standards. Their cropping history and tillage methods were reviewed and found to be in compliance. **MOTION** by Bina/Wehrs to approve the Certificate of Compliance with Conservation Standards for Farmland Preservation. **Motion carried unanimously.** Anderson, Keil, Manthei excused.

REVIEW RESULTS OF STAFF FUNDING SURVEY

Gregg Stangl gave the results of the survey regarding the following options for rate fees that were presented at a meeting of the Farmland Preservation Program. Votes received are in parentheses.

1. .50/acre for farmland preservation participants (5)
2. \$50/claimant for farmland preservation participants (40)

3. .50/acre for all cropland acres in La Crosse County regardless of participation in farmland preservation (21)
4. Other (9 comments received and provided to the committee)

The funding options will be considered in future budget considerations. Supervisor Bina raised several concerns regarding state funding, staffing, and fee structure. He stated that proposed fees don't take into account the size of the farm. Consensus of the committee was that they will need to see where the State budget stands with regard to land conservation before making knowledgeable decisions about local fees, and further discussions will be added to the agenda for a future meeting.

RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION TO SUPPORT AN APPLICATION TO THE WISCONSIN WORKING LANDS INITIATIVE PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (PACE)

The Resolution approves four applicants for PACE grants: Rod and Pam Olson, Arlan and Jean Dowiasch, S&J Skemp, Paul Wehrs. Charlie Handy reported that all have met the criteria for an agricultural easement, and their farms are located within areas designated for farmland preservation in La Crosse County. The Farmland Preservation Committee had considerable discussion about two other applications, but ultimately denied them due to their having less than 30% of the easement area as prime soils. Denial does not preclude them from reapplying. **MOTION** by Pedretti/Mach to approve the Resolution Re: Authorization to support an application to the Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (PACE). **Motion carried unanimously.** Keil, Manthei excused.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION DEVELOPMENT DENSITY AND LOCATION

The discussion from the January 3, 2011, meeting was continued regarding proposed changes to Zoning Ordinance, 5. Farmland Preservation Development Density and Location. Charlie Handy responded to the committee request for further explanation of deed restrictions, and presented examples of how the zoning ordinance could be administered to control density. Jeff Bluske reported that the proposed changes would be presented to the Towns Association in February, 2011. There will also be public hearings to review the draft of the ordinance changes and to receive input. **MOTION** by Mach/Pedretti to approve the changes to Zoning Ordinance, 5. Farmland Preservation Development Density and Location. **Motion carried unanimously.**

DISCUSS APPROVED POLICY ON ZONING APPLICATIONS

Jeff Bluske reported on the revised form for Petitions to Rezone and Conditional Use Permits. He reported that the timing is not working with some townships that are holding their meeting prior to returning the signed petition. Discussion was held about the steps petitioners must go through prior to a PRD Committee zoning hearing, and the role of the town board. Bluske stated they will keep working on the form to make it more understandable for the petitioner, and work with the townships on appropriate timing of their approval vis-à-vis County approval.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Special committees that report to PRD, and adding their minutes to a consent agenda
Land records plan approval

RECESS

MOTION by Pedretti/Wehrs to recess until the 6:00 p.m. public hearing. **Motion carried unanimously.** Anderson, Keil, Manthei excused. The meeting recessed at 5:24 p.m.

Approved, February 28, 2011, Margaret Norden, Recorder

