



MINUTES
WAUPACA COUNTY
WORKING FARM AND FOREST LANDS PROTECTION COMMISSION MEETING

August 3, 2011 WAUPACA COUNTY COURTHOUSE RM 1068 3:00 P.M.

Commission Members Present: Jim Hlaban, Jack Bazile, Dale Zaug,
DuWayne Federwitz, Bill Jonely, Marv Schneider

Also Present: Brian Haase, Roger Holman, Greg Blonde, Jeff Siewert, Mike Koles, Gary Schoen,
Ronald Schoen and Charles Fox.

Federwitz gave the open meeting statement.

Motion by Hlaban, seconded by Zaug to approve the Dec. 3, 2010 minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Bazile, seconded by Jonely to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Federwitz stated that Schneider, Mark Doornink and Jim Hlaban are up for re-appointment/replacement as members of the Easement Commission. Haase noted that Doornink has expressed an interest in re-appointment. Schneider and Hlaban indicated they were also interested in re-appointment. Haase noted these would be 3 year terms.

Motion by Bazile/Zaug to recommend the appointment of Schneider, Doornink, and Hlaban to a 3 year term on the Easement Commission. Motion Carried.

Holman stated the recommendation would be given to Dick Koeppen, County Board Chair.

Haase handed out and reviewed the application for pre-approval of Charles Fox's easement. The parcels combined are 45 acres. Fox would like to add a 300' setback to the wetlands and a no building clause to the easement. Discussion followed on access to the acres east of Hatten Creek and obtaining additional MFL certification.

Motion by Zaug/Hlaban to pre-approve Charles Fox's easement with the addition of the 300' setback and no building clause. Motion carried.

Haase handed out and reviewed the final easement for RGR, Inc. – Gary and Ronald Schoen properties. The total acreage for the easement is 70.39 acres. Haase noted the exceptions to the standard easement. Haase stated a plat of survey has been completed and noted the acreage that has been carved out for homestead. Discussion occurred on access to the north 40 and what section 7.13 says.

Motion by Jonely/Bazile to approve the final easement for RGR, Inc. – Gary and Ronald Schoen property. Motion carried.

Haase stated the approval will be taken to the LWCC and then to the County Board.

Haase handed out and reviewed the pre-approval of Doug and Mary Behnke's easement. The easement involves 4 separate parcels, 58.27 acres, which are contiguous to the Behnke's P.A.C.E. parcels. Haase explained that these parcels were removed from the application, but qualify for the County Easement program. Discussion occurred on the northern parcels and if they fit in the program. Haase stated the goal is to keep the northern parcels in farming.

Discussion also occurred on pre-approving the easement subject to P.A.C.E. approval.

Motion by Hlaban/Schneider to pre-approve the Behnke's easement subject to P.A.C.E. approval. Motion carried.

Haase updated the Commission on the status of the easements. Pat Stern is completing the survey work and Haase has 4 others who have expressed an interest in the program. Discussion followed on the need to promote the program, with Blonde indicating he plans to put information in his newsletter.

Haase reported that \$20,000.00 has been transferred to the Waupaca County Natural Resource Foundation (WCNRF) for management of the funds.

The WCNRF is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, non-political environmental organization, and will make payments to the easement participants. The WCNRF is looking into setting up a donation program to support future easement work. Hlaban asked why only \$20,000.00 was transferred. Haase responded that was all that was needed for this year and there may be other program costs such as field days that need to be covered. Blonde added that the amount remaining in the county's account could be used for legal defense of the program, if such a need arose.

Haase provided an update on the current status of the cost-share grant funds. The ATC grant fund started the year with \$57,482.68. \$750.00 was paid to Phillips-Borowski for legal fees in February and \$20,000.00 was transferred to WCNRF in July. \$36,732.68 remains in the account.

Haase updated the commission on the P.A.C.E. program. The program did survive the State budget process, with funding being approved for current approved proposals, but not for future work. Haase stated he has gotten estimates for appraisals, is contacting title companies, getting estimates for environmental assessments and has set up an escrow account for the County's six participants. The work will need to be completed by the end of the year. Discussion followed on the future of the P.A.C.E. program.

The next meeting was scheduled for October 12, 2011 at 3:00.

Motion by Bazile, seconded by Schneider to adjourn. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Roger G. Holman
Recording Secretary