

Minutes are provided for informational purposes only. The official record can be obtained from the County Clerk's office. All minutes are unofficial until approved. Minutes are generally approved at the following meeting.

Pierce County Land Conservation Committee Meeting
January 10, 2007
9:00 a.m., Meeting Room 1, Pierce County Office Building
Ellsworth, WI

LCC Members Present: Dale Hines, Jerry Kosin, Mel Pittman, Don Rohl
LCD/NRCS Staff Members: Mark Biel, Jon Krauss, Debra Larson, Andy Pichotta
Others Present: Chad Alberg, Paul Barkla, Linda Paul, Gary Zielske
Absent: Bill Gilles, Rich Purdy

J Kosin called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Public comment: None received.

Adopt agenda. D Hines moved to adopt the agenda. M Pittman seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Approve December 13, 2006 meeting minutes. M Pittman moved to approve the minutes with two corrections. M Pittman requested in reference to the review of the Memorandum of Understanding, that it be noted that the *LCC* Chair and *LCC* Vice Chair be part of the review process. M Pittman also requested in reference to approval of cost share requests, that it be noted that action was in regard to *November* Cost Share Requests. D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

R C & D Report – R Purdy was not present to provide an R C & D Report.

FSA Report – L Paul reported on FSA program payments, activities and changes. L Paul noted that the lease with Pierce County commences on September 30, 2007 and that solicitation of bids will be advertised within one month. L Paul reported that two candidates were listed on ballots for the recent COC election that was held for the middle tier of townships in Pierce County. She reported that Tony Shafer won the election but accepted the alternate chair leaving Dale Hines to fill the commitment. L Paul noted that Dale Hines was awarded chairmanship of the COC committee and will hence serve on the LCC. L Paul extended an invitation to service center agencies to attend a Federal Women's Program Interagency Conference, Wednesday, March 21, 2007 at the Plaza Hotel and Suites in Eau Claire.

DNR Forestry Report – G Zielske was present to provide a report. G Zielske reported the Prairie View School requested that he establish a timber sale on their school forest. He noted that the sale preparation

**Pierce County Land Conservation Committee Meeting
December 27, 2007, 9:00 a.m.
Pierce County Office Building, Meeting Room #1
Ellsworth, WI**

LCC Members Present: Bill Gilles, Jerry Kosin, Dale Hines, Mel Pittman, Rich Purdy and Don Rohl

LCD/NRCS Staff Members: Debra Larson, and Andy Pichotta

Others Present: Jim Kleinhans

Public comment: The Land Conservation Committee will receive public comments at this time on any issue not on the regular agenda. Discussion by committee members may take place, but no action will be taken on any item raised. None received

Adopt agenda. D Hines moved to approve the agenda as printed, B Gilles seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Approve November 29, 2007 meeting minutes. D Hines moved to approve. Rich Purdy seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

UW Ag Agent Report Greg Andrews reported Pierce County Land Rent Summary for 2007 is in progress. He noted landlords and tenants are randomly selected from all 17 townships and mailed a questionnaire. G Andrews indicated the UW Extension Office receives 200-300 inquiries about cropland rental rates annually and this study is intended to provide accurate information for landlords and tenants who negotiate rental contracts. G Andrews reported Darien Simon has been hired to fill the Resource Agent position vacated by Ed Hass. Ms. Simon's background includes Urban Planning and Policy Development, Geology, Biology, Environmental Planning and Land Use Conflict Resolution. G Andrews reported sessions of Pesticide Applicator Training will be available January through March in either Pierce or St. Croix Counties. G Andrews reported Farm Technology Executive Committee members are being mentored by other counties having hosted Farm Technology Days. He noted the next Farm Technology Executive meeting is scheduled for January 3rd. G Andrews also reported he is writing a bio-energy grant available to local communities.

NRCS Report. M Biel was not present to provide a report

FSA Report. L Paul reported on FSA programs and activities and provided a building lease update. L Paul noted that FSA County Committee elections were held in December and Lee Skog was elected to represent the southern tier of Pierce County.

Wildlife Damage Report. Chad Alberg was not present to provide a report.

R C & D Report. R Purdy reported on R C & D activities. He noted without a farm bill, R C & D programs are in jeopardy. R Purdy also reported members of the Driftless Area Initiative partners met and held a session on biomass energy.

DNR Forestry Report. Gary Zielske was not present to provide a report.

Discuss Status of Emergency Notification for Nugget Lake Dam. Jim Kleinhans reported on the status of efforts to establish a monitoring system on the Nugget Lake Dam. Kleinhans noted that he was working with the Sheriffs Department to utilize radio signals to tie into the CityWatch program versus cellular or phone lines. He noted that utilizing radio signals would require the placement of one or more towers to transmit the signal and that the County owns a lattice tower that had been used in the western side of the county and that it was hoped that it could be reused for this project. He also noted that staff is engaged in discussions with Dairy Land Power to potentially utilize one of their future towers to connect to the County tower in Spring Lake. Kleinhans indicated that solar panels would likely be utilized for power versus running electricity to any of the sites. M.Pittman noted that he had attended the CityWatch presentation and gave a brief synopsis of the software and its abilities. Discussion then took place regarding tower placement, impacts, and potential costs. Kleinhans indicated that he would continue to keep the LCC informed as the project moved forward.

Discuss and Take Action on Cost Share Requests. A Pichotta reviewed cost share requests with LCC members. M Pittman moved to approve the cost share requests for November. D Hines seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss Legislative Issues. LCC members reviewed Thursdays Note in regards to legislative issues. LCC members attending the WLWCA Annual Conference also reported on conference break out sessions. A Pichotta noted Graden Gribble of Rocky Branch Elementary presented his speech and accepted first-place state honors in his division. Also recognized was the State Outstanding Conservation Farmers were Ed and Dawn Daleiden of Pierce County. A Pichotta informed committee members the annual WALCE convention for LCD employees is scheduled for February 27th – 29th.

Director's Report. A Pichotta noted refilling the Land Conservation director position will be on the Finance and Personnel meeting agenda sometime in January.

Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items. Standard agenda items.

Discuss Next Meeting Place, Date and Time. Thursday, January 24th, 7:00 p.m. @ EOC Meeting Room.; February 28th, 9:00 a.m. @ Pierce County Office Building.

Adjournment. B Gilles moved to adjourn, D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

is nearly complete and that the sale will be likely advertised for bids in early spring. G Zielske noted that he has also marked a couple of private lands for timber sales but that timber markets continue to be influenced by the slow down in the housing industry. G Zielske reported the current county total for trees ordered by private landowners from the DNR nursery is at 41,000, thus far and that a good selection of both conifer and hardwood tree seedlings remain available for order from the DNR nurseries. In addition, he noted the LCC should consider increasing planter rental rates (currently \$12 per thousand). He informed LCC members that LCD currently owns 4 planters—three are stored at Nugget Lake and the Roughland Planter is stored at the Highway Shop. G Zielske indicated details for the March 3rd Woodland Owner's Conference at the Great Hall, UW Stout are being finalized. G Zielske noted that he assisted Dunn County Foresters in marking a large county timber sale in Chippewa River Islands. He also noted that several Pierce County landowners received Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grants for forest improvement projects and that consultants prepared Managed Forest Law plans in the November 1st batching period. G Zielske reported 2007 Tree Farmer of the Year nominations must be submitted to the District Tree Farm Chair by March 15th. He noted the accomplishments of the County Tree Farmers of the Year are reviewed and a district Outstanding Tree Farmer of the year is selected by April 1st.

UW Ag Agent Report – G Andrews was not present to provide a report.

NRCS Report – M Biel provided a report of NRCS programs, activities and changes. He reported the department continues to accept EQIP applications and that approximately 100 tracts have been received thus far. He noted the deadline for the first pool of ranking applications was November 22, 2006, but applications are accepted year around. M Biel noted requests for early 2007 CSP payments were awarded late 2006 to approximately one half of Pierce County CSP contract holders. M Biel informed committee members a National Office audit review determined duplication of practices under CSP and EQIP programs. He noted revisions have been completed and mailed to contract holders.

Wildlife Damage Report -- C Alberg reported the Permanent Fence Project for David Pepi of River Falls will be recorded at Pierce County Register of Deeds today.

Discuss/Take Action on 2006 Crop Prices and Damage Claims – C Alberg presented the 2006 Crop Prices and Damage Claims. He noted that commodity prices reflect the area annual average cash prices paid over the past growing season. M Pittman moved to approve the WDACP corn price of \$2.19/ bushel as the annual average, D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor. C Alberg presented a Wildlife Damage Claim of \$323.01 from Melvin Nielsen for deer damage. D Hines moved to approve the claim, J Kosin seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss/Take Action on Proposed Cost Share Ranking Process – A Pichotta reported the Land Conservation Department, historically, has used an informal system of ranking practices for cost sharing. He reported that priority has been given to practices that control soil erosion, reduce the amount of sediment entering surface waters and reduce the amount of pollutants entering our ground water. He also noted technicians have conducted site visits to complete ranking based on benefits

received for the costs involved. A Pichotta provided a list of practices—ranked by staff from high priority to low priority. He noted ranking of individual projects within a given practice would be completed by LCD staff with consideration to these priorities. It was noted in cases where practices are required by Pierce County, cost sharing is mandatory and ranking will not apply. Additionally, it was reported the ranking process would be utilized for LWRMP cost share dollars, as well. M Pittman moved to approve the cost share ranking process as presented. D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss/Take Action on Cost Share Requests – J Krauss reviewed cost share requests for December. J Krauss noted the City of River Falls project would not be funded by the county but through the Kinnickinnic Priority Watershed. M Pittman moved to approve the cost share requests with correction, as noted. D Rohl seconded. D Hines abstained. Motion carried.

Discuss/Take Action on Annual Awards Banquet. A Pichotta provided an excerpt from the Land and Water Resource Management Plan in regards to Information and Education Strategy. He noted that action items included Pierce County conservation educational programs to include the annual awards banquet as well as fair participation. J Kosin noted he placed item on the agenda to revisit the possibility of presenting the conservation awards at the fair to eliminate the cost of the banquet. He noted he had been in contact with Fair Coordinator, A Webb, and that she would be happy to present the awards. J Kosin noted that recipients would receive more exposure as more people attend the fair as opposed to those who attend the banquet. M Pittman noted the customary power point/slide presentation used to showcase award winners would not be a possibility at the grandstand. M Pittman recommended targeting elementary educators to attend and providing them with a CD/DVD of the power point/slide presentation to take back to their classrooms for educational purposes. He noted the importance of targeting youth as generations become removed from an agricultural setting. M Pittman also suggested inviting contractors to attend the annual awards banquet. He also recommended displaying the Nugget Lake Structure as a means of educational purposes as well. LCC members questioned what costs are incurred by sponsoring an awards banquet. D Larson noted LCD has averaged approximately \$400 in costs for the meal plus an additional cost for trophies, programs, etc. It was noted that the Lion's Club solicited sponsorship from local businesses to defray expenses the Lions Club incurred. J Krauss noted that \$3,000 is budgeted annually to cover the costs incurred by the banquet. M Pittman moved to direct staff to contact the Ellsworth Lion's Club to ascertain their interest in continuing to co-sponsor the annual awards banquet and to report findings as the next LCC meeting, and if it is found that the Lions Club is not interesting in co-sponsoring, staff is directed to begin preparations for holding the banquet in late March. D Hines seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss Legislative Issues – A Pichotta provided LCC members with a recent copy of Thursday Note—An Update on Wisconsin's Land and Water Conservation Issues. He highlighted the four top legislative priorities for 2007 as identified by the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters.

Director's Report – Under the Director's Report A Pichotta informed LCC members that a draft of the MOY was forwarded to NRCS for comment. Pending their response, an executive committee meeting to include himself, the LCC Chair, The LCC Vice Chair, County Board Chair and County Board Vice

Chair will follow to react to NRCS response. Subsequently it will be forwarded to the full LCC for review and comment.

Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items – Fair recognition of conservation award winners; conservation department display at the fair, and the Bay City Watershed Structure.

Discuss Next Meeting Place, Date and Time – The next LCC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 7th at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment – M Pittman moved to adjourn. D Rohl seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Pierce County Land Conservation Committee Meeting
February 7, 2007
7:00 p.m. Pierce County Office Building, Meeting Room 1
Ellsworth, WI 54011

LCC Members Present: Dale Hines, Jerry Kosin, Mel Pittman (9:10 a.m.), Don Rohl

Absent: Bill Gilles, Rich Purdy

LCD/NRCS Staff Members: Mark Biel, Debra Larson, Andy Pichotta

Others Present: Paul Barkla, Linda Paul, Gary Zielske

Chair, Jerry Kosin called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Public Comments. None.

Adopt agenda. D Hines moved to adopt the agenda as printed. D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Approve January 10, 2007 meeting minutes. D Hines moved to approve the January 10, 2007 meeting minutes, D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

UW Ag Agent Report. Greg Andrews was not present to provide a report.

NRCS Report. M Biel provided a report on EQIP. He noted approximately 100 new tracts signed up, require walk over and needs assessment. He noted all new and existing applications will be ranked mid March and highest ranking applications will be offered contracts. M Biel reported meeting with CSP contract holders for 2007 payments. He indicated a goal of addressing one percent of the eligible CSP acres per year has been discussed under the new Farm Bill. M Biel reported survey work has been hampered by cold weather although design work continues. He noted a large application workload facing the conservation department for 2007 includes 35 erosion control dams, so far. M Biel indicated the national budget is under continuing resolution for all USDA agencies and a final budget for 2007 has not yet been released. Consideration is being given to consolidate/streamline programs under the new Farm Bill.

FSA Report. L Paul introduced Stephanie Wondercheck, a County Operations Trainee. She noted S Wondercheck would be training as well in Barron, Dunn, St. Croix Counties. L Paul reported on FSA program and activities. L Paul also noted FSA, NRCS, DNR, LCD and UW Extension met to discuss the FSA/NRCS lease agreement. She reported paperwork had been changed and that contract authority will be handled through Kansas as opposed to Wisconsin. L Paul also reported on changes to the 2007 Farm Bill. (Barkla dismissed 9:15 a.m.)

R C & D Report. R Purdy was not present to provide a report.

DNR Forestry Report.

Discuss/Take Action on Tree Planter Rental Rate. D Hines moved to raise the tree planter rental rate from \$12 to \$15 per thousand trees planted, to landowners meeting a minimum requirement of two thousand trees. D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss/Take Action on Wildlife Damage Budget Amendment. M Pittman moved to approve an increase of \$3,750.00 to the Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims program from \$28,081.25 to \$31,831.25. D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss/take Action on Cost Share Requests. M Pittman moved to approve January cost share requests. D Hines seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss Legislative Issues. A Pichotta provided WLWCA Thursday note to LCC members for review.

Director's Report. Under the Directors Report, A Pichotta reported comments were received by NRCS in regards to the Memorandum of Understanding between LCD and NRCS. He noted all signatories will meet to discuss comments and present as an agenda item for March. A Pichotta reported D Denzer of the Ellsworth Lions' Club has confirmed the club will not be participating in the awards banquet in any capacity. A Pichotta noted the awards banquet is scheduled for Thursday, April 5th at the El Paso Bar & Grill with special guest as Steve Christenson from Western Wisconsin Energy LLC. A Pichotta informed LCC members he has been working with D Fritz and L Gruber on updating the Manure Storage Ordinance to be consistent with ATCP 51 Standards and that the ordinance will be an agenda item in the near future.

A Pichotta also noted efforts are underway to amend the checklist as opposed to drafting a Stormwater Sediment and Erosion Control Ordinance which will be an agenda item in the near future as well. A Pichotta also indicated that he would be requesting that Engineering Approval for Manure Storage Facilities be re-instated for D Fritz.

Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items. Future items include the Memorandum of Understanding, Manure Storage Ordinance, Stormwater Sediment and Erosion Control Ordinance checklist and R C & D Report.

Discuss Next Meeting Place, Date and Time. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 22nd at 7:00 p.m. and the following meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, April 26th at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment. D Rohl moved to adjourn. D Hines seconded. Motion carried with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

Pierce County Land Conservation Committee Meeting
March 22, 2007
7:00 p.m. Pierce County Office Building, Meeting Room 1
Ellsworth, WI 54011

LCC Members Present: Bill Gilles, Dale Hines, Jerry Kosin, Mel Pittman, Rich Purdy, and Don Rohl

LCD/NRCS Staff Members: Mark Biel, Debra Larson, Andy Pichotta

Others Present: Paul Barkla, Linda Paul,

J Kosin called the meeting 2 order 7:00 p.m.

Public comment: None

Adopt agenda R Purdy moved to adopt the agenda, D Hines seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Approve February 7, 2007 meeting minutes. D Hines moved to approve meeting minutes as corrected, M Pittman seconded. Motion carried with all in favor. R Purdy and B Gilles abstained.

UW Ag Agent Report – G Andrews was not present to provide a report

NRCS Report. M Biel reported on NRCS activities. M Biel reported on EQIP applications local work group pool and CNMP pool, which are farmstead walkovers, NMP and feed management. These have been ranked and approved to fund the contracts with the existing \$20,000. The top three CNMP plans will be funded as well as 14 local work group applications. Landowners will be contacted this week. OF CNMP plans funded last year, approximately 30 were developed in the county. The ten that have been submitted will be reviewed at the area office level. Nutrient management plans are come in—25 have been submitted for approval and those which have cost sharing left in contracts are being paid out. Two of the 67 CSP contracts are under a national office audit. M Biel reported he had to copy the entire contract and send in tax information to be reviewed in Washington. Also, twenty EQIP contracts are being reviewed by the state. Those that are not kept up their schedule will be put back on schedule. Dam survey and deigns continue for the 2007 construction season. Conservation planning requests are coming in the office—mostly are revisions and changing of operators on rental properties.

FSA Report. L Paul provided FSA program update. L Paul noted Jacie Thoen would be replacing Gail Fisher on the Farms Service Agency Committee.

R C & D Report. R Purdy noted he attended the February 7th R C and D meeting and provided an R C and D update on activities.

Wildlife Damage Report – Chad Alberg not present to report on Wildlife Damage activities.

DNR Forestry Report – Gary Zielske not present to report on DNR Forestry activities

Discuss potential for Departmental restructuring and consolidation. It was noted the Land Management Committee discussed consolidation of land use functions under one heading. A Pichotta asked P Barkla to lead the discussion. P Barkla noted it is important to visualize how a merger would work. He indicated committee structure would need to be reviewed and consolidation would need to be driven by staff discussions and staff agreement. It was noted restructuring would include Land Management, Land Conservation and possibly Parks under one director. A Pichotta noted, if asked, he would be willing to take on additional duties. LCC members agreed staff should be invited to discuss ideas on possible merger. M Pittman suggested staffs' ideas be presented confidentially. A Pichotta suggested one staff member be responsible to collect staff ideas and present to the LCC. M Pittman noted staff should be informed as to how the merger would "look" prior to presenting ideas. J Kosin noted the workload is too much for one man. B Gilles noted if you hire someone from the outside, you may lose your economies. He suggested promoting from within. D Hines noted it is important so that identities and services are sustained. He also noted each group has a lot to offer in the restructuring process because they can provide program input. D Hines stated it will be a slow process. R Purdy reported that 75% of mergers in the business world fail to meet their objectives because management is doing the merger. R Purdy agreed to moving forward slowly. LCC members discussed drafting concepts or ideas for the staff to review before commenting. It was also noted that Parks should be involved from the start.

Discuss/take action on proposed revision to Departmental Policy on Stormwater, Sediment, and Erosion Control Plan Submittal Requirements. A Pichotta reviewed the policy and submittal requirements with LCC members. A Pichotta called for LCC to consider adoption as submitted. R Purdy moved to adopt, D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor. (Attached)

Discuss and take action on Manure Storage Ordinance. A Pichotta reported he is working with L Gruber and D Fritz to update the Manure Storage Ordinance. No action necessary.

Discuss/take action on Memorandum of Understanding between LCD and NRCS. It was recommended the Memorandum of Understanding be brought before the full county board for review since the agreement is between the County of Pierce and NRCS. No action taken.

Discuss/take Action on Cost Share Requests. LCC members reviewed cost share requests for February. M Pittman moved to approve as presented, D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss Legislative Issues. A Pichotta reviewed Thursday's Note with LCC members.

Director's Report A Pichotta noted there were no additional items to report.

Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items. None presented.

Discuss Next Meeting Place, Date and Time. The next LCC meeting is scheduled for Thursday April 26th at 9:00 am in the County Board Room.

Adjournment. M Pittman moved to adjourn. B Gilles seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Pierce County Land Conservation Committee Meeting
April 26, 2007
9:00 a.m. County Board Room
Ellsworth, WI 54011

LCC Members Present: Dale Hines, Jerry Kosin, Mel Pittman and Don Rohl

Absent: Bill Gilles and Rich Purdy

LCD/NRCS Staff Members: Mark Biel, Debra Larson, Andy Pichotta

Others Present: Chad Alberg, Greg Andrews, Linda Paul

J Kosin called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Adopt Agenda. D Hines moved to adopt the April LCC Agenda. M Pittman seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Approve March 22, 2007 Meeting Minutes. M Pittman moved to approve the minutes, D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

UW Ag Agent Report – Greg Andrews. G Andrews reported on UW Ag Extension activities. He noted Farm Technology Days will be held in Pierce County in 2010 and that perhaps a Conservation Field Day scheduled in 2009 would give event planners an idea of what needs to be accomplished.

NRCS Report – Mark Biel. M Biel reported on NRCS activities. It was noted construction season is in progress and that relatively dry subsoil conditions might be a factor in stopping construction. M Biel reported a list of projects for the 2007 construction season was sent out to contractors along with an invitation to bid eighteen of forty-one structures scheduled. He noted contractors are free to submit bids for any or all projects. During the process, landowners may select contractors they wish to bid their project(s). Results of the first bid pool are complete and have been sent to the landowners. Invitation to bid a second bid pool will be sent out shortly. M Biel reported on EQIP activities. He noted he is reviewing 100+ active EQIP contracts for “on-schedule” status. M Biel also reported working with new EQIP applicants being offered contract funding. He noted two CNMP applicants requested to defer application due to financial and time constraints. The next highest ranking applicant has been offered a contract in their place. At the national level, M Biel noted, more money has been allocated to the Conservation Security Program budget for 2007 Continuing Resolution Payments.

FSA Report – Linda Paul. L Paul was not present to report on FSA activities.

R C & D Report – Richard Purdy. R Purdy was not present to report on R C & D activities.

DNR Forestry Report – Gary Zielske. G Zielske was not present to report on DNR Forestry activities.

Discuss and Take Action on Permanent Fence Proposal for Daren Edwards. C Alberg provided details in regards to the fence proposal and noted that permanent fencing cannot be installed without action from the committee. Upon LCC approval, the proposal would be forwarded to the state for final approval. After a lengthy discussion, LCC members requested that C Alberg provide additional information to include what other states are doing and to determining revenue availability. D Hines moved to defer action, M Pittman seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss and Take Action on Extension of Contract for the Review and Inspection of Erosion Control Plans. A Pichotta discussed the LCD's relationship with Ayres Associates and noted that the contract between both parties expired December 2006. A Pichotta reported that Ayres would like to modify the contract to reflect the current IRS rate of 48.5 cents per mile as well as increase the hourly rate by \$1.25 per hour. D Rohl moved to approve extension of contract with increases as noted. D Hines seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss & Take Action on Memorandum of Understanding between LCD and NRCS. A Pichotta reported that a finalized document should be available for review next month.

Discuss & Take Action on Cost Share Requests. J Krauss reviewed cost share requests with LCC members. M Pittman moved to approve cost share requests. D Hines seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss Legislative Issues. A Pichotta reviewed Thursday Note with LCC members. And J Krauss reported on a conference call he participated in with four other county conservation departments. J Krauss noted much of the discussion involved funding for conservation departments.

Director's Report. A Pichotta noted he has had discussions with NRCS in regards to gaining manure storage facility approval for Dennis. He also reported he continues to work with D Fritz and L Gruber in regards to the manure storage ordinance update. He noted that B Roy who has experience in ordinance writing, will be assisting. A Pichotta informed committee members that the LCD is short staffed and that staff needs additional assistance to complete work. J Krauss informed committee members that the staffing grant will be due back to the state soon and that

last year it was completed without a Director in place which resulted in a loss of funding. J Krauss also reported that the Land and Water Resource Management Plan for the department references additional staff as necessary.

Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items. Memorandum of Understanding, Land Conservation Department Workload, and Daren Edwards Permanent Fence Proposal.

Discus Next Meeting Place, Date and Time. May 24th, 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment. M Pittman moved to adjourn, D Hines seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Pierce County Land Conservation Committee Meeting
May 24, 2007
7:00 p.m. Pierce County Office Building, Meeting Room #1
Ellsworth, WI

LCC Members Present: Bill Gilles, Dale Hines, Jerry Kosin, Mel Pittman, Rich Purdy and Don Rohl

LCD/NRCS Staff Members: Mark Biel, Jon Krauss, Debra Larson, and Andy Pichotta

Others Present: Chad Alberg, Darren Edwards and Jim Kleinhans.

J Kosin called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Adopt agenda. D Hines moved to approve the agenda. R Purdy seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Approve April 26, 2007 meeting minutes. M Pittman moved to approve the April meeting minutes, D Rohl seconded. R Purdy abstained. B Gilles abstained. Motion carried.

UW Ag Agent Report. G Andrews was not present to provide a report.

NRCS Report. Mark Biel reported on construction activities. Twenty-one grass waterways, seven grass waterway dike removals and one grade stabilization structure scheduled for the 07 construction season have been completed. He noted the second bid pool for grade stabilization structures are ready to be let to contractors. M Biel indicated the conservation department assists the landowners by organizing the bid process. M Biel also reported that EQIP contract dollars, approximately \$200,000.00 have been allocated to contract holders. He noted two Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans were funded this year and approximately 12 local work group contracts (dams, waterways, etc). Continuing resolution payments for the Conservation Security Program have been approved. (Additional funds provided above and beyond the original 2006 capped amounts.)

FSA Report. L Paul was not present to provide a FSA Report

R C & D Report. R Purdy reported on R C & D activities. He noted the R C & D Strategic Plan is in the process of being completed. R Purdy also noted the financial status of River Country R C & D has improved. R Purdy reported EQIP dollars have been funneled into the driftless area and estimated the amount to be approximately \$20,000 per county. R Purdy also reported two additional staff members were hired recently.

DNR Forestry Report – G Zielske was not present to provide a Forestry Report.

Discuss/take action on Permanent Fence Proposal for Daren Edwards. C Alberg addressed questions raised by the LCC in regards to cost share rates of the program as well as concerns of setting precedence

to fence other vineyards in the state. C Alberg noted that cost share rates are natural resource administrative code and non changeable and gave the example of stored feed that is perpetrated every year, but not necessarily offered a fencing contract. D Edwards was present to address questions raised by the LCC. M Pittman moved to approve the contract as proposed. B Gilles seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss Status of Emergency Notification for Nugget Lake Dam. J.Kleinhans, Zoning Administrator, provided an update. It was noted that Pierce County was eligible for grants to cover 65% of the cost to rehabilitate the structure. However, it was noted that a detailed Emergency Action Plan to include an automated flood warning system has not been completed for landowners downstream. It was also noted the dam breach study was never adopted by the county and that it should be approved and incorporated into the County's floodplain ordinance. It was recommended that Land Conservation Department staff research how the grant money was spent and to look for opportunities for additional dollars to complete the project.

Discuss/take action on Operational Agreement between LCD and NRCS. A Pichotta reported receiving a final draft of the operational agreement between LCD and NRCS. R Purdy moved to approve and forward the agreement to the appropriate committees for review. D Hines seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss/take action on LCD Workload and Staffing Level. LCC members were reminded that the staffing level is less than the workload calls for and the potential of hiring a LCD supervisor or director was discussed. Pichotta noted that hiring a supervisor versus a department head would require that the department's staffing plan be modified and a new job description created. Pichotta suggested that modification of the staffing plan prior to any decision regarding the potential restructure may be premature. He noted that if the staffing plan were modified and no restructure took place, the staffing plan would have to be re-modified back and also that a modification now would give the impression that a decision regarding the potential restructure had already been made. LCC then discussed the potential restructure of Land Conservation, Land Management and Parks. LCC members recommended that a representative from each impacted department should be included in the meeting with the Dunn County officials who had recently completed a similar restructuring of departments. It was also determined that even if a hiring process was initiated immediately, that employee could not be hired quickly enough to assist with the 2007 construction season. No action was taken.

Discuss Legislative Issues. A Pichotta reported that he was not aware of any pressing legislative issues and noted that the WLWCA's website was down and for that reason no "Thursday Note" was available.

Director's Report. Pichotta noted the upcoming meeting with Dunn County and asked J. Kosin to comment on his attendance at the Lions Club's awards banquet. LCC members then discussed the Conservation Awards Banquet program and collaborative issues.

Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items. Future agenda items include Emergency Notification for Nugget Lake Dam, Pierce County Land and Water Resource Management Plan Performance Standards and Restructuring to include Land Conservation, Land Management and Parks.

Discuss Next Meeting Place, Date and Time. Thursday, June 28, 2007, 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment. M Pittman moved to adjourn. D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor

Pierce County Land Conservation Committee Meeting
June 28, 2007, 9:00 a.m.
Pierce County Office Building, Meeting Room #1
Ellsworth, WI

LCC Members Present: Jerry Kosin, Mel Pittman, Rich Purdy and Don Rohl

Absent: Bill Gilles and Dale Hines

LCD/NRCS Staff Members: Mark Biel, Jon Krauss, Debra Larson, and Andy Pichotta

Others Present: Curt Kephart, Jim Kleinhans, Don Nellessen, Linda Paul and Gary Zielske.

Public comment. D Nellessen recommended LCC members get “back on track” and hire a department head for Land Conservation. He also noted that he does not see any benefit to the proposed restructure of Land Conservation, Land Management and Parks. D Nellessen further noted that he believed the county would not gain anything, nor would money be saved. Additionally, he recommended keeping LCD and NRCS together. J Kosin called for additional comments. None were received.

Chairman, J Kosin called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Adopt agenda. M Pittman moved to adopt the agenda as printed, D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Approve May 24, 2007 meeting minutes. R Purdy moved to approve the meeting minutes, D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

UW Ag Agent Report. Greg Andrews was not present to provide a report.

NRCS Report. M Biel reported on NRCS programs and activities. M Biel reported he was notified last week that a FRPP contract in Pierce County was accepted. Working with a non-profit organization, the development rights on the affected farm are bought through Western Wisconsin Land Trust. NRCS provides up to 50 percent of the dollars to purchase the development rights. M Biel provided a construction update of completed practices of 33 grassed waterways, 10 waterway dike removals, 7 grade stabilization structures and 2 rip-rap projects. M Biel also noted he sent out a number of EQIP reminder letters to landowners with CNMP farmstead walkovers. He noted that once the plan is complete, they will be forwarded to the area office to review, revise and comment.

FSA Report. L Paul reported on FSA programs and activities. L Paul noted she is waiting to hear from Washington or Madison regarding whether FSA will be requesting a one-year lease extension. L Paul informed LCC members that FSA committee nominations are being accepted for a representative from the southern tier of townships to serve on the FSA (COC) Committee for a three-year term (2008-2010) and that interested landowners are invited to attend an open house scheduled at FSA on July 19th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

R C & D Report. R Purdy reported on R C & D programs and activities. He indicated that contracting procedures are being reviewed as part of the development of a strategic plan for R C and D.

DNR Forestry Report. G Zielske reported nominating Duane Kuesel for the 2007 Tree Farmer of the Year. He noted the Woodland Owner's conference was well attended and that he assisted Chris Weistrand, DNR and Mike Kaltenberg, UWRF, in providing Wild Fire Training. G Zielske informed committee members that 82,000 trees were planted in the county through the DNR program. He noted although tree sales were down from other years, the number of plantings tend to fluctuate with CRP signups.

Discuss and Take Action on Cost Share Requests. J Krauss reviewed cost share requests with LCC members. M Pittman moved to approve cost share requests for April and May, D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss Status of Emergency Notification for Nugget Lake Dam. J Kleinhans provided a history of activities regarding the establishment an emergency notification system for Nugget Lake Dam. J Kleinhans noted that grant money had been available through May 31, 1998 to complete the system. Kleinhans noted that today's cost would likely be approximately \$19,000 to \$30,000. He also noted that there is interest in working with the Sheriff's Department and/or Prairie Island Nuclear Plant to install an alarm system. He urged LCC members to move forward and complete the project noting that there are reasonable options that can be completed in a timely fashion.. J Kleinhans indicated that Mike Knoll is pursuing funding from Excel Energy and UWRF for a county-owned version of City Watch whereby an alarm automatically goes to a server in the cities and dials local residences located in the floodway. LCC members agreed that the maintenance agreement and any prior design work should be located and reviewed for relevance. LCC members also agreed to work with appropriate parties and move forward to establish an emergency notification system.

Discuss LWRMP Performance Standards. A Pichotta led a discussion with LCC members regarding LWRMP Performance Standard implementation. He noted the strategy to implement non point standards should recognize the lack of staff, encourage voluntary participation, and that parcels should be evaluated based on complaints and staff observation, with base implementation on priority areas and priority farms. He indicated those with compliance issues should be contacted and if eligible, be notified of available cost share dollars. It was noted implementation of standards should be "complaint-driven". D Nellessen noted that he does not support profiling and cautioned against targeting specific "groups" of farmers/landowners. J Krauss noted that "priority watersheds" were determined by information gathered from the annual transect survey. M Pittman noted that the department has an obligation to follow up on complaints and landowners participating in government programs should be expected to follow their conservation plans. A Pichotta noted that the department would likely accomplish more through a voluntary approach versus a regulatory approach. M Pittman also noted that as budgets become tighter, county cost share dollar allocation will likely diminish. It was his recommendation to continue working with federal staff to utilize federal cost share dollars for conservation practices when possible. The committee agreed that the approach identified by Pichotta was appropriate and consistent with the LWRMP and that no committee action was necessary.

Discuss Legislative Issues. A Pichotta indicated that he thought it might be beneficial for this agenda item to be treated as a roundtable discussion on legislative issues versus a staff driven discussion. He encouraged LCC members to familiarize themselves with legislative issues and, if possible, to review the Thursday Note prior to the meeting and to also be prepared to inform other committee members about issues they believe to be important.

Director's Report. A Pichotta reported that all but one signatory had signed the operational agreement between LCD and NRCS. He also reported that representatives from Pierce County had visited with Dunn County Environmental Services Department in regards to researching the potential restructure of Land Conservation, Land Management and Parks. LCC members discussed the pros and cons of establishing a department as such.

Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items. Nugget Lake Warning System, Department Restructure and the Manure Storage Ordinance.

Discuss Next Meeting Place, Date and Time. Thursday, July 26th, 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment. M Pittman moved to adjourn, R Purdy seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Mission Statement

The Pierce County Department of Land Conservation develops strategies, implements programs, and provides technical assistance to protect and enhance the soil and water resources of the county.

A Quorum of County Board Supervisors may be Present

Pierce County Land Conservation Committee Meeting
July 26, 2007, 9:00 a.m.
Pierce County Office Building, Meeting Room #1
Ellsworth, WI

LCC Members Present: Bill Gilles, Dale Hines, Jerry Kosin, Mel Pittman, Rich Purdy and Don Rohl

LCD/NRCS Staff Members: Mark Biel, Jon Krauss, Debra Larson, and Andy Pichotta

Others Present: Jim Kleinhans and Brad Roy

J Kosin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Public comment: The Land Conservation Committee will receive public comments at this time on any issue not on the regular agenda. Discussion by committee members may take place, but no action will be taken on any item raised. None presented.

Adopt agenda. D Hines moved to adopt the agenda as printed. R Purdy seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Approve June 28, 2007 meeting minutes. R Purdy moved to approve, D Rohl seconded. D Hines and B Gilles abstained. Motion carried.

UW Ag Agent Report. G Andrews was not present to provide a report.

NRCS Report. M Biel reported on construction activities for July. To date, 13 grade stabilization structures, 22 grassed waterways, 10 dike removals and 2 rip rap projects have been completed. He also noted that R C & D employees have been assisting with annual grazing status reviews. He noted there will be a number of follow up visits scheduled with landowners to bring plans up-to-date. M Biel noted as a result of higher corn prices, there are numerous sobbusters within the county.

FSA Report. L Paul was not present to provide a report.

Wildlife Damage Report. A Pichotta provided on report on behalf of C Alberg. He noted The WDNR Wildlife Damage Program Administrator Brad Koele gave Wildlife Services notice of fence approval the week of July 9th. He added bid packets that were prepared and sent out on Friday, July 13th will be reviewed and awarded on Monday, July 30th. Construction is anticipated to begin late August or early September. A Pichotta noted that C Alberg will be present at the August LCC meeting to report on the final fence cost and to present the fencing contract for LCC approval. A Pichotta also reported on the Venison Donation Program. He noted DNR gave preliminary approval for counties to pursue willing processors and submit budget amendments for this line item and noted that there will be no increase in the maximum amount allowed per deer (\$50) as some processors requested last year. He continued between the two processors that participated last year, 232 deer were donated by hunters and distributed to local food pantries. A Pichotta noted that C Alberg will be present at the August LCC meeting to present a budget amendment for LCC consideration.

R C & D Report. R Purdy reported on an announcement from Ron Kind's office that the State had allocated funding in the appropriations bill for the Driftless Area.

DNR Forestry Report. G Zielske was not present to provide a report.

Discuss and Take Action on Cost Share Requests. A Pichotta presented the cost share requests for June. M Pittman moved to approve the cost share requests as presented, B Gilles seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss and Take Action on LCD/LMD/Parks Restructure. A Pichotta provided an update in regards to the restructure of departments. He noted Staff met with P Barkla, J Kosin and M Pittman to discuss the restructure. A Pichotta indicated that S Schoepp requested officials consider accomplishing the same coordination between departments without a restructure. R Purdy noted the streamlining would come when fewer directors are reporting to the county. M Pittman stated that it did not appear that a restructure would result in any cost savings to the county. M Pittman also noted that it was his belief that a Director in Land Conservation would be more desirable than a lead worker. He also noted upon the hiring of a new Land Conservation director, it would be good to ask Andy to mentor this person for a year to get him on board and moving in the right direction. A Pichotta noted P Barkla, C Kephart, S Langer and Brad Lawrence will meet on Monday, July 30th at 1:00 p.m. to discuss the potential restructure.

Discuss Status of Emergency Notification for Nugget Lake Dam. J Kleinhans, Land Management, led a discussion with LCC members regarding the need for an emergency notification system. He noted that he had toured the Spring Valley Dam site and noted there is dual monitoring system in place which is solar powered with a modem connection and they did not anticipate any need to partner efforts as the notification system is complete at that site. J Kleinhans noted Jim Christensen's and Ruth Stern's names were included on the notification list. He reported Jim Christensen requested his name be removed from that list. He also noted that Jim Christenson had suggested that neighboring landowner Paul Fransen might be favorable allowing a phone line easement across his property. J Kleinhans referred to an emergency notification plan drawn up by Ayres and Associates in 1996. He noted the study offered two options in regards to a high water alarm—one utilizing radio telemetry and one utilizing an auto dialer. He reported the auto dialers seem to be the best option. He stated since the opportunity for prior grant dollars has lapsed, use of contingency funds would appear to be most appropriate. J Kleinhans also noted he is working with Mike Knoll from the Sheriff's Department to assess City Watch which has a lot of applications including flood alert a hardware system which would provide rapid notification to 250 to 300 people per port per hour. J Kleinhans quoted a partnership with UWRF and Excel Energy which would include hardware and software would be approximately \$34,705. The notification system would likely cost an additional \$30,000. J Kleinhans noted that the Army Corp of Engineers inspects the Spring Valley monitoring site two to three times a year. A Pichotta noted that the purchase of monitoring equipment for the Nugget Lake Dam would go through this committee. He also indicated that he spoke to Finance Director, J Brickner, in regards to utilizing the PL566 Maintenance Account. A Pichotta noted that J Brickner indicated that she felt the department should request funding from the general fund as she did not view the notification system as a maintenance item. R Purdy recommended that the Land Conservation Department include the cost in next year's budget. LCC members agreed to move forward to complete the Emergency Notification System for Nugget Lake

Discuss and Take Action on proposed changes to Manure Storage Ordinance. Brad Roy, Land Management Department, reviewed proposed changes as outlined in a draft provided to LCC members. LCC members agreed to proposed changes and recommended the department stay consistent with DATCP standards and to not be more restrictive. R Purdy moved to forward the ordinance to Corporation Counsel for review with the understanding that any major changes would be brought back to the committee for review, and if there were no major changes a public hearing would be scheduled. D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss Legislative Issues. A Pichotta invited LCC members to contribute to a round table discussion of legislative issues. R Purdy noted grants for grazing will diminish by the next cycle.

Director's Report.

Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items. Manure Storage Ordinance, Emergency Notification for Nugget Lake Dam and 2008 budget.

Discuss Next Meeting Place, Date and Time. The next LCC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 23rd at 9:00 a.m.,

Adjournment. M Pittman moved to adjourn, D Hines seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Mission Statement

The Pierce County Department of Land Conservation develops strategies, implements programs, and provides technical assistance to protect and enhance the soil and water resources of the county.

Pierce County Land Conservation Committee Meeting
August 23, 2007, 9:00 a.m.
Pierce County Office Building, Meeting Room #1
Ellsworth, WI

LCC Members Present: Bill Gilles, Jerry Kosin, Mel Pittman, and Don Rohl
Excused: Dale Hines and Rich Purdy
LCD/NRCS Staff Members: Mark Biel, Jon Krauss, Debra Larson, and Andy Pichotta
Others Present: Chad Alberg, Jim Kleinhans, Linda Paul, Gary Zielske

J Kosin called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Public comment: The Land Conservation Committee will receive public comments at this time on any issue not on the regular agenda. Discussion by committee members may take place, but no action will be taken on any item raised. None presented.

Adopt agenda. M Pittman moved to adopt the agenda as printed. D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Approve July 26, 2007 meeting minutes. M Pittman moved to approve with correction, D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

UW Ag Agent Report. G Andrews was not present to provide a report.

NRCS Report. M Biel reported on construction activities for July. To date, 17 grade stabilization structures, 38 grassed waterways, 10 waterway dike removals, 3 sinkholes treatments, 1 diversion, 1 crossing and 2 rip rap projects have been completed. M Biel noted Charles Schwartz of the Litchfield, MN Field Office (originally from Shawano Dairy Farm) has been selected to replace Steve Price as a Conservation Technician beginning September 17, 2007. M Biel also noted, Wendy Fiala, UWRF (SEP) student will be back in September to assist with conservation work in the county. M Biel reported NRCS staff is busy with progress reports, contracting clean ups and end of fiscal year payments.. M Biel provided photos of a well-functioning--flood damaged dam in Vernon County for committee members to view.

FSA Report. L Paul provided an update on FSA programs and activities. In addition, L Paul informed LCC members that no applications were received and no representatives from the southern tier of townships were nominated to serve on the FSA (COC) Committee for a three-year term (2008-2010). As a result, the state office must seek an under-served producer in the county and an additional producer that would be potentially willing to serve on the committee. L Paul reported on drought conditions. She noted Pierce County is currently rated D1 and that a D3 rating would open CRP land for emergency haying and grazing. L Paul reported state and federal offices are now responsible for field spot checks. She also reported staff is gearing up for CRP and final DCP payments in October. She indicated Michael Sorg, who is a university student enrolled in the Career Student Program, will begin employment at the end of September. She reported he will have a noncompetitive position available to him upon graduation from the university and completion of the program. L Paul reported agency staff has met as a county emergency board to assess crop failures in the county in response to the governor's disaster declaration. In addition, L Paul noted Pierce County must prove producers are facing 30% crop loss in the county through supporting documentation.

Wildlife Damage Report. C Alberg provided a report on Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program activities and noted that there has not been a lot of changes in damage and abatement claims. C Alberg informed committee members that the Venison Donation program is being offered again this year and if the county wishes to participate, an amendment must be made to the budget. He reported, Pierce County requires a \$275.00 increase to its 2007 administrative budget and a \$12,000 increase for venison processing for food pantries. The result is a total budget increase of \$12,275, increasing the total budget for Pierce County from \$36,031.25 to \$48,306.25. He noted the maximum cost that Pierce County will pay for processing venison for Wisconsin Deer Donation 2007 is \$50 per deer. J Kosin reiterated that Land Conservation acts as a pass through account for the Wildlife Damage Program. D Rohl moved to approve the amended budget of \$12,275, B Gilles seconded. Motion carried with all in favor. C Alberg provided a copy of Daren Edward's Fencing Contract for committee members to review. He noted that the total cost of

the project came in lower than the estimate at \$18,600 which is approximately \$3.32 per linear foot. M Pittman moved to approve, B Gilles seconded Motion carried with all in favor.

R C & D Report. R Purdy was not present to provide a report.

DNR Forestry Report. G Zielske informed committee members that while Duane Kuesel was not named as Wisconsin Tree Farmer of the Year, he was recognized as Tree Farmer of the Year in District 5 which includes Barron, Dunn, Pepin, Pierce and Polk Counties. G Zielske reported on Jack Pine Budworm, Red Pine Bark Beetle and Gypsy Moth damage in the county. He also noted he had been working on state land reconstitutions on natural and wildlife properties.

Discuss and Take Action on Cost Share Requests. J Krauss presented the cost share requests for July. M Pittman moved to approve the cost share requests as presented, D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss and Take Action on LCD/LMD/Parks Restructure. J Kosin and A Pichotta provided an update in regards to the restructure of departments. It was noted LCD/Park staff met with P Barkla, J Kosin, D Nellessen, M Pittman, and R Purdy to discuss the restructure. A Pichotta reported supervisors are considering accomplishing the same coordination between departments without a restructure but that an existing department head would be appointed to serve in the role of Land Use Coordinator and that this position would not require more than 25% of that person's time. No action was taken.

Discuss Status of Emergency Notification for Nugget Lake Dam. J Kleinhans, Land Management, provided an update to LCC members regarding the need for an emergency notification system at Nugget Lake. J Kleinhans noted he has been corresponding with Ron Hahn of North American Hydro Inc. Committee members discussed at length options for providing power to the monitoring and emergency response notification system. J Kleinhans also noted the department might consider working with Wieser Concrete or the Highway Department for the placement of risers. J Kleinhans noted the City of River Falls, UW River Falls, and Prairie Island Power Plant are interested in being a part of CityWatch. He also noted that he would obtain a design with cost estimates within the next several weeks.

Discuss and Take Action on 2008 Proposed Land Conservation Department Budget. A Pichotta discussed the proposed 2008 budget for the Land Conservation Department with LCC members noting that a modification -\$20,000 which was made to the draft for the acquisition and installation of monitoring equipment at the Nugget Lake Dam is now being slated for inclusion in Pierce County's bonding effort. A Pichotta noted an overall 1.6 percent increase in the budget for Personal Expense and 0 percent increase in the budget for Operating Expense, Capitol Outlay and Cost Share Dollars. J Kosin commended those responsible for putting a 0 based budget together for the department. B Gilles moved to approve the 2008 Land Conservation Department Budget as presented and forward to Finance and Personnel Committee for review and approval, D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss Legislative Issues. A Pichotta invited LCC members to contribute to a round table discussion of legislative issues. He also noted WLWCA will offer and LCC training session in Rhinelander on Thursday, November 8th and that the 54th WLWCA Annual Conference is scheduled for December 5th - 7th at the Madison Concourse Hotel.

Director's Report. A Pichotta reported that a letter requesting technical and financial assistance to maintain PL566 structures will be mailed today.

Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items.

Discuss Next Meeting Place, Date and Time. The next LCC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 20th at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment. D Rohl moved to adjourn, B Gilles seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Mission Statement

The Pierce County Department of Land Conservation develops strategies, implements programs, and provides technical assistance to protect and enhance the soil and water resources of the county.

**Pierce County Land Conservation Committee Meeting
November 29th, 2007, 9:00 a.m.
Pierce County Office Building, Meeting Room #1
Ellsworth, WI**

LCC Members Present: Bill Gilles, Jerry Kosin, Dale Hines, Mel Pittman and Don Rohl

Excused: Rich Purdy

LCD/NRCS Staff Members: Mark Biel, Debra Larson, and Andy Pichotta

Others Present: Chad Alberg, Brad Roy, David Denzer, Bob Hallock and Greg Kerr

Public comment: The Land Conservation Committee will receive public comments at this time on any issue not on the regular agenda. Discussion by committee members may take place, but no action will be taken on any item raised. None received

Adopt agenda D Hines moved to approve the agenda as printed, D Rohl seconded. Discussion regarding moving the agenda item regarding the proposed contract amendment with D. Edwards to follow Chad Alberg's Wildlife Damage report. D Hines moved to withdraw his original motion and moved to adopt agenda with proposed change. D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Approve October 25, 2007 meeting minutes M Pittman moved to approve minutes as printed. D Rohl seconded. Motion carried. D Hines and B Gilles abstained.

Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Amendments in Chapter 101 Animals—Article IV: Manure Storage. A Pichotta provided an update for committee members in regards to ATCP51. He noted that Land Conservation Committee members and Land Management Committee members had met to discuss ATCP51, and noted, rather than adopt ATCP51, members chose to make the provisions of Pierce County Waste Storage Ordinance consistent with ATCP 51. He also noted members agreed to update definitions to be consistent with DATCP. M Pittman recalled after both committees met to discuss ATCP 51, members agreed not to incorporate ATCP51 since Pierce County had a Manure Storage Ordinance in place but rather, update the current ordinance to reflect a less restrictive approach. Brad Roy, Land Management Department staff, reviewed the revised Waste Storage Ordinance with committee members. **J Kosin opened the meeting up to public comment.** Greg Kerr, Town of Oak Grove, questioned how odor standards were going to be enforced. Pichotta noted that the LCC and LMC had directed staff to make the ordinance consistent with ATCP 51 versus including all provisions of ATCP 51. Kerr suggested that the County may want to consider a siting ordinance at some point. **J. Kosin closed the public hearing.** M Pittman moved to adopt the changes of the Waste Storage Ordinance as presented and forward to the County Board for its consideration. D Hines seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

UW Ag Agent Report Greg Andrews was not present to provide a report.

NRCS Report. M Biel reported on NRCS activities. M Biel reported that wet conditions this fall negatively impacted contractor's ability to build structures. He noted total number of grade stabilization structures built were down from last year due to the rain. Fifteen structures were put on hold because of the wet period. Practices completed for 2007 included 23 grade stabilization structures, 41 waterways, 13 dike removals on existing waterways, 5 sinkhole treatments, 2 rip-rap stream bank projects, 1 water diversion and 1 stream crossing. Mark indicated information letters were sent out to 67 CSP contract holders in the county giving them the option to receive CSP payment before or after December 31st. Mark reported walking new EQIP application farms and ranking with remaining applications. He noted once funds are allocated to Pierce County, highest ranking applications will be funded. Mark informed committee members that negotiations continue in regards to the Farm Bill and that NRCS remains in a continuing resolution with respect to the federal budget. He reported the agency will continue to operate under the old farm bill until the new farm bill is passed.

FSA Report L Paul was not present to provide a report

Discuss and Take Action on Proposed Amendment to Permanent Fence Contract for Daren Edwards.

Chad Alberg presented a request to amend a permanent fence contract for a design change in a portion of the original fence design. The resulting design change will leave a 104 linear foot ungated opening between the future winery building and the Landowner's residential home.

Chad noted by signing this addendum to the fence contract the Landowner agrees to accept all responsibility for damages to protected crops that may occur from deer entering through the 104 linear foot opening. The Landowner agrees that he would not be eligible for deer damage compensation payments as long as the open design exists. If the open design becomes unfeasible in the future due to intolerable amounts of damage from deer accessing the enclosed fence area, the Landowner would be fully responsible for the cost of materials and installation related to fencing the open portion of the fence. The Managing Agencies would not cost share any amount required to close the opening. D Hines moved to approve the addendum to the fence contract, D Rohl seconded. More discussion followed. Per J Kosin's request, D Hines moved to rescind his original motion and moved to approve the addendum to the fence contract striking the first sentence of the second paragraph. D Rohl moved to approved. . Motion carried with M Pittman voting against.

R C & D Report R Purdy was not present to provide a report.

DNR Forestry Report Gary Zielske was not present to provide a report.

Discuss Status of Collaborative Efforts with Ellsworth Lions Club. Ellsworth Lions Club members Bob Hollack and David Denzer were present to discuss again collaborating with the LCD efforts to present the Annual Conservation Awards Banquet in the Spring of 2008. On behalf of the Lions Club, B Hallock requested that the Land Conservation Department provide a list of eligible candidates to be interviewed for the Soil and Water Conservation Award. Hallock also requested that both entities equivocally share in the preparation and expense of the banquet. LCC members supported collaborating efforts with the Lions Club to present the Annual Conservation Awards Banquet.

Discuss Status of Emergency Notification for Nugget Lake Dam. A Pichotta provided an update of the status of the alarm system at Nugget Lake Dam.

Discuss and Take Action on Cost Share Requests. A Pichotta reviewed cost share requests with LCC members. M Pittman moved to approve the cost share requests for October, D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss and Take Action on LCC Position on Proposed WLWCA Resolutions

LCC members reviewed WLWCA resolutions.

Discuss Legislative Issues. LCC members reviewed Thursdays Note in regards to legislative issues.

Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items

Discuss Next Meeting Place, Date and Time. Thursday, December 27th 9:00 a.m. and Thursday, January 24th, 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment. M Pittman moved to adjourn, D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

**Pierce County Land Conservation Committee Meeting
December 27, 2007, 9:00 a.m.
Pierce County Office Building, Meeting Room #1
Ellsworth, WI**

LCC Members Present: Bill Gilles, Jerry Kosin, Dale Hines, Mel Pittman, Rich Purdy and Don Rohl

LCD/NRCS Staff Members: Debra Larson, and Andy Pichotta

Others Present: Jim Kleinhans

Public comment: The Land Conservation Committee will receive public comments at this time on any issue not on the regular agenda. Discussion by committee members may take place, but no action will be taken on any item raised. None received

Adopt agenda. D Hines moved to approve the agenda as printed, B Gilles seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Approve November 29, 2007 meeting minutes. D Hines moved to approve. Rich Purdy seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

UW Ag Agent Report Greg Andrews reported Pierce County Land Rent Summary for 2007 is in progress. He noted landlords and tenants are randomly selected from all 17 townships and mailed a questionnaire. G Andrews indicated the UW Extension Office receives 200-300 inquiries about cropland rental rates annually and this study is intended to provide accurate information for landlords and tenants who negotiate rental contracts. G Andrews reported Darien Simon has been hired to fill the Resource Agent position vacated by Ed Hass. Ms. Simon's background includes Urban Planning and Policy Development, Geology, Biology, Environmental Planning and Land Use Conflict Resolution. G Andrews reported sessions of Pesticide Applicator Training will be available January through March in either Pierce or St. Croix Counties. G Andrews reported Farm Technology Executive Committee members are being mentored by other counties having hosted Farm Technology Days. He noted the next Farm Technology Executive meeting is scheduled for January 3rd. G Andrews also reported he is writing a bio-energy grant available to local communities.

NRCS Report. M Biel was not present to provide a report

FSA Report. L Paul reported on FSA programs and activities and provided a building lease update. L Paul noted that FSA County Committee elections were held in December and Lee Skog was elected to represent the southern tier of Pierce County.

Wildlife Damage Report. Chad Alberg was not present to provide a report.

R C & D Report. R Purdy reported on R C & D activities. He noted without a farm bill, R C & D programs are in jeopardy. R Purdy also reported members of the Driftless Area Initiative partners met and held a session on biomass energy.

DNR Forestry Report. Gary Zielske was not present to provide a report.

Discuss Status of Emergency Notification for Nugget Lake Dam. Jim Kleinhans reported on the status of efforts to establish a monitoring system on the Nugget Lake Dam. Kleinhans noted that he was working with the Sheriffs Department to utilize radio signals to tie into the CityWatch program versus cellular or phone lines. He noted that utilizing radio signals would require the placement of one or more towers to transmit the signal and that the County owns a lattice tower that had been used in the western side of the county and that it was hoped that it could be reused for this project. He also noted that staff is engaged in discussions with Dairy Land Power to potentially utilize one of their future towers to connect to the County tower in Spring Lake. Kleinhans indicated that solar panels would likely be utilized for power versus running electricity to any of the sites. M.Pittman noted that he had attended the CityWatch presentation and gave a brief synopsis of the software and its abilities. Discussion then took place regarding tower placement, impacts, and potential costs. Kleinhans indicated that he would continue to keep the LCC informed as the project moved forward.

Discuss and Take Action on Cost Share Requests. A Pichotta reviewed cost share requests with LCC members. M Pittman moved to approve the cost share requests for November. D Hines seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss Legislative Issues. LCC members reviewed Thursdays Note in regards to legislative issues. LCC members attending the WLWCA Annual Conference also reported on conference break out sessions. A Pichotta noted Graden Gribble of Rocky Branch Elementary presented his speech and accepted first-place state honors in his division. Also recognized was the State Outstanding Conservation Farmers were Ed and Dawn Daleiden of Pierce County. A Pichotta informed committee members the annual WALCE convention for LCD employees is scheduled for February 27th – 29th.

Director's Report. A Pichotta noted refilling the Land Conservation director position will be on the Finance and Personnel meeting agenda sometime in January.

Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items. Standard agenda items.

Discuss Next Meeting Place, Date and Time. Thursday, January 24th, 7:00 p.m. @ EOC Meeting Room.; February 28th, 9:00 a.m. @ Pierce County Office Building.

Adjournment. B Gilles moved to adjourn, D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.