

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
7:00 p.m., January 24, 2008
EOC Meeting Room @ Courthouse Annex
Ellsworth, WI**

**LCC Members Present: Jerry Kosin, Dale Hines, Mel Pittman and Don Rohl
Excused: Greg Andrews, Bill Gilles and Rich Purdy
LCD/NRCS Staff Members: Mark Biel, Debra Larson, and Andy Pichotta
Others Present: Chad Alberg and Gary Zielske**

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 adopt the agenda as printed. D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Approve December 27th, 2007 meeting minutes. D Hines moved to approve the December 27th, 2007 meeting minutes as printed. 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 presented a report on NRCS programs and activities. He noted that an initial allocation of \$200,000 and an additional \$50,000 has been allocated to Pierce County for EQIP. He noted that all EQIP cost share contracts are complete and signed except for one. He noted efforts are being made to secure signatures as soon as possible. M Biel also reported that NRCS staff is meeting with CSP contract holders to certify practices and schedule payments by the end of the month. M Biel noted that since a new farm bill nor national budget has been passed, NRCS remains under the old farm bill rule and are hence under continuing budget resolution. M Biel also noted that NRCS staff is working to fill the Office Automation Area Clerk position vacated by Vicki Weiss who resigned from her position to accept a permanent part time job.

FSA Report. D Hines reported on FSA program activity. In addition, D Hines noted the building lease will be established at the federal level.

Wildlife Damage Report. C Alberg moved directly to the action item.

Discuss and Take Action on 2007 Crop Prices and Damage Claims. Chad Alberg provided 2007 Pierce County WDAC Crop Prices for LCC members to review and approve. M Pittman moved to approve 2007 crop prices, D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor. C Alberg also presented Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Summary for 2007. M Pittman moved to approve the claims as presented, D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

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

DNR Forestry Report. Gary Zielske reported on DNR forestry activities: A bid opening is scheduled for January 25th for 7 timber sales the DNR Forester established for private landowners. The bid offering includes a variety of hardwood saw timber, aspen, pine and hardwood pulpwood. A thinning of the pine and spruce plantations in Cairn's Woods, the Village of Ellsworth's portion of the Demonstration Forest, was completed recently. Registration brochures will be mailed at the end of the month for this year's Woodland Owners' Conference. The conference will be held at the University Center, UW River Falls on March 8th. A change in the Managed Forest Law Program prohibits leasing MFL lands for hunting and other recreation. The law becomes effective on January 1, 2008 and applies to all existing, as well as future, MFL entries. The current county total for trees ordered by private landowners from the DNR Nursery is approximately 33,000. This is reduced from previous years and influenced by the reduction in the CRP acreage.

Discuss Status of Emergency Notification for Nugget Lake Dam. A Pichotta reported area agencies met to discuss alarm notification systems. He noted several potential options are being considered. Agency representatives will reconvene in a couple of weeks to review options.

Discuss and Take Action on CREP Contract Amendment. A Pichotta presented the Wisconsin Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Contract Amendment #4 for committee review and approval. M Pittman moved to approve. D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss and Take Action on Cost Share Requests. A Pichotta presented December cost share requests. M Pittman moved to approve the cost share contracts as presented. D Hines seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss Legislative Issues . A Pichotta reviewed the most recent Thursday Note with LCC members.

Director's Report. A Pichotta reported that the Finance and Personnel Committee had moved to fill the Land Conservation Director position. He noted the deadline for applications is February 20th. He also noted that the Land Use Coordinator concept was endorsed by Finance and Personnel and his position description had been modified to include the Land Use Coordinator duties. He indicated that approximately ¼ time will be spent on issues related to Land Conservation, Land Management and Parks. A Pichotta informed LCC members that Daleiden Farms will host Conservation Observance Day on Friday, June 20, 2008. He noted the day will involve tours, a meal and special speakers. The Conservation Awards Banquet is scheduled for Thursday, March 27th at the Ellsworth Legion Hall. He noted Craig Tar of Alternative Energies will be the guest speaker. In addition, Ron Kannel has been named the Outstanding Conservation Farmer of the year.

Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items. None presented.

Discuss Next Meeting Place, Date and Time. Next LCC meeting dates are scheduled for February 28th, 9:00 am and March 27th, 9:00 am at the Pierce County Office Building.

Adjournment. D Rohl moved to adjourn, Dale Hines seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Pierce County Land Conservation Committee Meeting
9:00 a.m., February 28, 2008
Pierce County Office Building
Ellsworth, WI

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

Absent: Bill Gilles, Dale Hines

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

Others Present: Greg Andrews and 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

J Kosin called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

Adopt agenda. Rich Purdy moved to adopt the agenda as printed. Mel Pittman seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Approve December 27th, 2007 meeting minutes. Mel Pittman moved to approve the January 24, 2008 meeting minutes as printed. D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

UW Ag Agent Report. Greg Andrews reported on UW Ag activities.

NRCS Report. Mark Biel reported on NRCS activities. He noted technicians continue to complete surveys in the field as weather permits. M Biel indicated that the department continues to receive additional sign-ups for conservation needs. He also reported that Pierce County Field Office is in the final stages of replacing the NRCS clerical position vacated by Vicky Weiss. M Biel reported the 2208 Farm Bill and federal budget remain in continuing resolution.

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

Wildlife Damage Report. C Alberg was not present to provide a Wildlife Damage Report

R C & D Report. Rich Purdy reported on R C & D Activities. He reported he was at the National meeting in Washington, D.C., to lobby for an annual budget of \$56 million dollars . He noted \$600,000 of the budget supported the Driftless Area Initiative and \$250,000 supported NRCS funding.

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

Discuss Status of Emergency Notification for Nugget Lake Dam. J Kleinhans discussed the status of efforts to enact an emergency notification system at Nugget Lake. He indicated that an option to utilize a satellite phone system attached to monitoring equipment was now being investigated. The satellite system may not be feasible depending upon monthly fees. He also noted that discussions had taken place with Dairyland Power regarding the potential for their involvement in effort to establish radio telemetry notification.

Discuss and Take Action on Farmland Preservation Program Application for Hilton Fiedler. J Krauss reviewed Hilton Fiedler FPP application. M Pittman moved to approve Fiedler's FPP application, D Rohl seconded. R Purdy voted against. Motion carried.

Discuss and Take Action on Conservation on the Land Internship Program (COLIP). A Pichotta informed LCC members that Pierce County was awarded a \$2,000 COLIP scholarship provided an additional \$2,000 in funds are raised to support the intern—either through sportsman’s’ clubs donations or through the LCD budget. Rich Purdy moved to approve. M Pittman seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss and Take Action on Cost Share Requests. J Krauss presented December cost share requests. Motion by M Pittman to approve. R Purdy seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss Legislative Issues . LCC members briefly discussed legislative items including a likely \$600 million budget shortfall at the State level.

Director’s Report. A Pichotta reported interviews for the Land Conservation Director position are scheduled for Tuesday, March 4th, 8:45 a.m. A Pichotta also reported efforts are under way to secure speakers, arrange tours, and select a menu for the Conservation Observance Day scheduled Friday, June 20th at Daleiden Farms. A Pichotta reminded committee members the Conservation Awards Banquet will be held at the Ellsworth Legion Hall on Thursday, March 27th.

Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items. None presented.

Discuss Next Meeting Place, Date and Time. Next LCC meeting dates are scheduled for Thursday, March 27th at 9:00 a.m. and Thursday, April 24th at 8:00 a.m.

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

Pierce County Land Conservation Committee Meeting
March 27, 2008, 9:00 a.m.
Pierce County Office Building, Meeting Room #1
Ellsworth, WI

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

Absent: Bill Gilles

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

Others Present: Greg Andrews, Linda Paul,

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

9:03 a.m.

Public Comment.. M Pittman noted it was good to have a Land Conservation Director in place.

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

Approve February 28, 2008 meeting minutes. R Purdy moved to approve the February 28, 2008 meeting minutes. D Rohl seconded. D Hines abstained. Motion carried.

UW Ag Agent Report. G Andrews informed committee members that agency directors Linda Paul, Mark Biel, Rod Webb, Gary Zielske and he meet on a regular basis to interact in regards to county ag-related issues. G Andrews also discussed opportunities to promote carbon sink practices eligible for carbon credit. He also noted he would be meeting with Kelly Cain, Sustainable Environment Instructor for UWRF in regards to address a biomass study. He also reported as home foreclosure rates are climbing, UW Extension agency staff are working to develop a community response toolbox approach to Pierce County residents.

NRCS Report. M Biel reported department staff are completing survey and designs on grade stabilization structures. M Biel informed LCC members that Lori Elliott Larson has been hired to replace Vicki Weiss, who resigned to take a position closer to home. M Biel noted the 2008 Farm Bill remains on hold as a national budget has not yet been determined. He reported a continuing resolution will expand the March 15th deadline to April 15th.

FSA Report. L Paul reported on FSA programs and activities. In addition, L Paul noted that the building lease with the county expires on September 30, 2008 and that officials are considering another extension provided everything is approved. She noted the delay in hiring a contract specialist seems to be stalling the process.

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

R C & Report. R Purdy noted staff were evaluated at the last meeting. He also reported there is a huge demand for locally-grown food and efforts are underway to evaluate grant applications for buying food from local consortiums.

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

Discuss Status of Emergency Notification for Nugget Lake Dam. J Kleinhans reported on emergency notification activities. He noted staff is working to get the radio systems running as well as constructing a tower in Rock Elm. J Kleinhans indicated funds will be available in April. He also informed LCC members that the Land Conservation Department will be responsible to monitor the equipment. J Kleinhans noted he will continue to work with other departments and agencies to determine a best fit for Pierce County and bring it before the LCC next month.

Discuss and Take Action on Muriel Edquist Farmland Preservation Application. J Krauss reported Muriel Edquist is applying to renew Farmland Preservation on land owned in Hartland Township. J Krauss noted that approximately 60 acres is in CRP and the remaining 25 acres of cropland is farmed by Muriel and her daughters. Jon informed LCC members that all cropland has a conservation plan and a nutrient management plan is being written for 2008. M Pittman moved to approve the Edquist Farmland Preservation Application, D Hines seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss and Take Action on 2009 DATCP SWRM Application. R Webb reviewed the 2009 SWRM Application with LCC members. He noted the application, which is due April 15th, is broken down into several parts and that Pierce County is eligible to receive \$92,124 in staffing grants and \$80,129 in Priority Watershed Funds. Additional funding requests include a grant request for \$100,000 in cost share bonding funds and \$112,000 in SEG funds;. M Pittman moved to approve the 2009 SWRM Application; R Purdy seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss and Take Action on CREP County Contract Extension. R Webb reviewed Amendment #5 of the Wisconsin Conservation Reserve Enhance Program Contract in which contract period is amended to September 1, 2009. R Purdy moved to extend the amended contract. D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

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

Discuss Legislative Issues. LCC members reviewed the most recent Thursday Note as printed by Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association.

Director's Report. R Webb noted he looks forward to working with conservation staff and LCC members of Pierce County.

Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items. None brought forward.

Next meeting Place, Date and Time. Thursday, April 24th, 9:00 a.m. at Pierce County Office Building.

Adjournment: D Rohl moved to adjourn. J Kosin seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Pierce County Land Conservation Committee Meeting
April 24th, 2008, 9:00 a.m.
Pierce County Office Building, Meeting Room #2
Ellsworth, WI

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

Absent: Ben Plunkett

LCD/NRCS Staff Members: Mark Biel, Jim Kleinhans, Debra Larson, Andy Pichotta and Rod Webb

Others Present: Chad Alberg, Linda Paul and Gary Zielske

J Kosin called the meeting to order at 9:03 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 received

Committee Reorganization. M Pittman move to elect D Hines as temporary Chiarman, D Rohl seconded, motion carried with all in favor. D Hines called for a motion for official chairman. D Hines moved to nominate J Kosin; D Rohl moved to nominate M Pittman. M Pittman moved to close the nominations. D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor. Nominations closed. LCC Members noted preference to vote by paper ballot. A Pichotta collected paper ballots. J Kosin elected LCC chairman. D Hines moved to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for M Pittman as Vice Chair. Motion carried.

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

Approve March 27, 2008 meeting minutes. D Rohl moved to approve meeting minutes, M Pittman seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

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

NRCS Report. M Biel noted 2008 construction season has begun with a record number of practices on the agenda this year because of inclement weather late last year. He indicated approximately 20 dams will be carried over from 2007. M Biel reported the Conservation Department sent out an invite to bid the first pool for grade stabilization structures and that bids were received. Staff is preparing the second pool of grade stabilization structures for bid and will be sent out shortly. M Biel also reported the field office is gathering local data for the Natural Resource Inventory (NRI). M Biel informed LCC members a debate in regards to the Farm Bill continues and a one week extension is in place until Friday, April 25th. If the farm bill remains in continuing resolution, the budget will follow last years' allocation.

FSA Report. L Paul provided a report on FSA programs and activities, Farm Storage Facility Loans, Crop Disaster Program, Livestock Compensation Program, Dairy Disaster Program and the Farm Bill. L Paul also noted that staff is gearing up for crop reporting.

Wildlife Damage Report. Chad Alberg introduced himself to new committee member Jim Ross and gave a brief introduction to the role USDA APHIS plays as a state regulated program administered at the county level. C Alberg informed committee members he has prepared an amendment to the Daren Edward's contract requesting the contract be extended to 2008.

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

DNR Forestry Report, Gary Zielske provided a report on DNR Forest programs and activities. G Zielske noted approximately 140 people attended the Woodland Owner's Conference scheduled at UWRF. He also reported on proposed changes to the Managed Forest Law Program including simplification of the application process, calculation of yield tax and discontinuation of closed MFL land. G Zielske noted approximately 50,000 trees were sold and planted through the DNR program this spring and that all three tree planters were scheduled out. G Zielske also informed

committee members that the Landowner Grant Program is fairly well funded for the current bi-ennium. G Zielske noted that most projects will be cost shared for the May 1st batching period. However, after this batch, future funding for forestry might be cut. G Zielske reported that he is working with the Army Corp of Engineer Foresters on a mitigation project at the lock and dam site in Red Wing to clear some dikes and floodplains. Plans to purchase 300 cropland acres to restore flood plain forests through direct seeding are underway. G Zielske also informed committee members that he is working with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to promote forest management (thinning) at the junction of Highway 63 and State Highway 35.

Discuss Status of Emergency Notification for Nugget Lake Dam. J Kleinhans reviewed history of the Emergency Notification project; discussed changes in technology for monitoring equipment; visited other monitoring stations; provided cost analysis of several options; and discussed possible location sites for towers to be placed.

Discuss and Take Action on Cost Share Requests. R Webb presented cost share requests for March 2008. M Pittman moved to approve the cost share requests as funds become available, D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss and Take Action on Recommendation to F and P for Budget Adjustment to Cover Cost of COLIP Internship Position. R Webb informed LCC members a motion was made earlier by this committee to approve an internship program for this summer. He noted a \$2,000 grant has been received for 50% cost of the internship. The remaining 50% must come from the Land Conservation budget, however, no line item addresses this expense. R Webb noted he has sent letters out to four sportsman's club in the area to request \$250 to assist in funding this program. Assuming the department would receive \$1,000 from the sportsman's club solicited, R Webb requested the LCC approve obtaining the remaining \$1000 from line item 733 and forward request to F and P. D Rohl moved to forward recommendation to F and P to provide funds up to \$2,000 from line item 733 for the internship, J Ross seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss Legislative Issues. R Webb informed committee members that he met as part of the WLWCA Board of Directors and also met with other County Conservationists earlier this month. He noted legislative efforts to pass priority bills such as prohibiting the use of phosphorous-containing lawn fertilizer; regulating the transportation of aquatic invasive species and supporting the Great Lakes Compact failed. In the most recent session. He noted Budget repair bills were top priority of legislatures. R Webb reported Julian Zelazny, WLWCA Executive Director, is developing a Memorandum of Understanding with State Secretaries, DNR, DATCP and UW Extension on Nutrient Management implementation. J Zelazny supports providing assistance for landowners to implement their Nutrient Management plans.

Director's Report. R Webb noted that disbursement of trees went very well this year; that J Krauss and D Larson attended Transect Service Training; that he is striving to report land conservation issues in the paper regularly; that Conservation Observance Day is scheduled at the Dawn and Ed Daleiden Farm on Friday, June 20th; that construction has begun; and that roles and responsibilities training will be scheduled for LCC Committee members in June.

Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items. None discussed.

Discuss Next Meeting Place, Date and Time. May 22, 2008 and June 26, 2008, 9:00 a.m. Emergency Operations Center Conference Room.

Adjournment

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
May 22, 2008, 9:00 a.m.
Pierce County Courthouse Annex, EOC
Ellsworth, WI

LCC Members Present: Jerry Kosin, Dale Hines, Mel Pittman Ben Plunkett, Don Rohl and Jim Ross
LCD/NRCS Staff Members: Mark Biel, Debra Larson and Rod Webb
Other Present: Greg Andrews and Linda Paul

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 adopt the agenda as printed, D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Approve April 24, 2008 meeting minutes. M Pittman moved to approve the meeting minutes as printed, James Ross seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

UW Ag Agent Report. Greg Andrews provided an update on forage quality checks and Farm Technology Days.

NRCS Report. M Biel reported on department construction activities. He noted staff mailed producer notification letters and will be conducting status reviews to determine compliance for federal programs. M Biel also indicated the National Resource Inventory has been completed for Pierce County and submitted. He reported President Bush vetoed the new farm bill which was passed in the House and Senate by a majority. The House already has over-rode the President's veto. He indicated the new bill supports conservation--EQIP will receive additional funds and CSP will be strengthened. M Biel reported the bids for the second round of construction projects were due May 19th and land owners have been informed of bid results.

FSA Report. L Paul provided an update on FSA programs and activities. In addition L Paul reported FSA County Committee Election nominations are being accepted June 15, 2008 through August 1, 2008 for a County Committee person representing the townships of Clifton, Gilman, Martell, River Falls and Spring Lake.

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

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

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

WLWCA Land Conservation Committee Training. R Webb reported supervisor training is scheduled for Thursday, June 12th at the Menomonie Ag Center in Menomonie from 9:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. He requested LCC members confirm registration as early as possible.

Conservation Observance Day updates. R Webb noted registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Friday June 20th at Daleiden Farms in W Maiden Rock Township. He noted a tour bus has been reserved to conduct tours at Pine Creek, the Maiden Rock Watershed project as well as at Daleiden Farms. He indicated the Daleiden family will barbeque chicken for the event and a caterer will prepare side dishes for the dinner. R Webb also noted DATCP Secretary Rod Nilsestuen; UW Extension Interim Dean and Director Richard Klemme;

WALCE President and Columbia County Conservationist Kurt Calkins; and USDA State Conservationist Pat Leavenworth will be present. Approximately 175 in attendance is expected.

Waste Storage Ordinance – Siting requirement exemption request for John Skogen. R Webb provided a staff report for LCC members to review. He reported John Skogen Dairy Farm raises approximately 200 head of dairy cattle in Rock Elm Township. He noted J Skogen is planning expansion to include an extension on the existing free stall facility and a manure storage structure to hold sand laden manure. He indicated AC/a Consulting is preparing the engineering plans. Currently the operation has the capacity to contain approximately 450 days of manure from the current herd. Exemptions request is being sought to allow an exception to the Pierce County Waste Storage Ordinance which states all new facilities must be constructed a minimum of 350 feet from the public road right-a-ways. LCC members reviewed the request and proposed site plan. D Rohl moved to approve the siting requirement exemption for J Skogen with the requirement that the exemption be contingent upon Skogen either expanding original site plan to include six-month storage or providing additional information. James Ross seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss Legislative Issues. R Webb reported the Great Lakes Compact bill passed the in the state senate and in the state assembly. He noted six states have passed the compact to agree to protect water diversions from the Great Lake systems.

Director's Report. R Webb reported to date 15 waterways; 10 dike removals, a critical area stabilization, and a stream bank protection project in the South Fork of the Kinnickinnic River have been completed thus far. He noted there are four animal waste storage expansion projects underway in the county as well. R Webb reported the Conservation on the Land Internship (UWRF) student will report to work on June 2nd. He noted Finance and Personnel approved funding for the position from the LCD budget. In addition, R Webb indicated he will follow up on a request to local sportsman's' clubs for financial support. R Webb noted the Transect Survey will begin soon. Conservation Department staff Jon Krauss and Debra Larson will visit 764 points within the county to predict the level of soil erosion occurring on cropland fields in Pierce County. Stops are made at approximate ½ mile intervals on the route to record the types of crops that are planted, tillage methods used, length and steepness of land slopes, and more. The information is collected and used to generate county wide and watershed by watershed soil loss information. This year a new updated software program is available and will be loaded on a new laptop ordered through the IS department. R Webb also reported he and L Gruber will be conducting PL566 Watershed Inspections on all PL566 structures in Pierce County. Specifically staff will look for woody vegetation that is encroaching on the structures; plugged inlets and outlets; and improper drainage. R Webb indicated he will report back to the committee next month in regards to the PL566 structures. R Webb also noted the Daren Edwards fencing project is complete.

Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items. None presented.

Discuss Next Meeting Place, Date and Time. June 26th, 9:00 a.m. EOC conference room

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

Pierce County Land Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2008, 9:00 a.m.
Pierce County Courthouse Annex, EOC
Ellsworth, WI

LCC Members Present: Jerry Kosin, Dale Hines, Mel Pittman, Ben Plunkett, Don Rohl and Jim Ross

LCD/NRCS Staff Members: Debra Larson, Sean Raleigh, Charles Schwartz, and Rod Webb

J Kosin called meeting to order at 9:10 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. Mel Pittman commended Department Staff on success of Conservation Observance Day held June 20th at Daleiden Farms.

Adopt agenda. Dale Hines moved to adopt the agenda, Don Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Approve May 22, 2008 meeting minutes. Mel Pittman moved to approve, Dale Hines seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

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

NRCS Report. Charles Schwartz provided a report on behalf of Mark Biel. He presented a power point on recent floodwater damage in Vernon County. He also provided a brief update on the 2008 Farm Bill. Charles Schwartz noted EQIP and WHIP will be funded through 2012 and the Conservation Security Program is being restructured as the Conservation Stewardship Program. He noted the Farmland Protection Program will include forest land as eligible if it contributes to the viability of agriculture. Charles Schwartz reported spring waterway construction is near completion and remaining waterways will be scheduled for construction this fall. He noted dam building is just underway. Two Animal Waste Storage Abandonments are complete and a Technical Service Provider is overseeing a new pit being constructed at one of the abandonment sites.

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

R C & D Report. Richard Purdy will present report before the County Board of Supervisors.

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

Nugget Lake Emergency Notification System update. Rod Webb provided a report in Jim Kleinhans' absence. Rod Webb reported tentative sites for pole location are near the Terry & Gail Smith Farm and at Nugget Lake. He noted he met with Interim Administrative Coordinator, Paul Barkla, Corporation Counsel Brad Lawrence, Supervisor Dan Reis and Financial Director, Julie Brickner to discuss bonding funds. He indicated an aggressive timeline with a construction start date of November 1, 2008 has been scheduled.

Conservation Plan Approvals. Rod Webb informed committee members that upon completion of a conservation plan, the landowner reviews and signs. He noted the conservation plan must also be approved by the Land Conservation Committee as well as USDA Natural Resource District Conservationist. Jerry Kosin requested that an action item be placed on next months' agenda which will authorize Rod Webb to sign on behalf of the Conservation Committee. Dale Hines requested should there be a conflict or a question, in regards to the conservation plan, to bring before the Land Conservation Committee.

PL 566 Inspection Reports. Rod Webb reported that he and Larry Gruber visited PL566 Structure Sites and noted that all structures are looking good and are functioning properly. He noted that he received an emergency request that all structures be revisited to verify that no structures have been compromised with recent rainfall activity. Rod Webb reported the presence of some woody vegetation at the Nugget Lake structure on the rip rap toe slopes. He noted he would research the possibility and cost to have the Highway Department mow it. Rod Webb also reported he received a request from Fred Meyer to grade the access road to Structure 3 to prevent water ponding. Rod Webb noted that he would research the cost to rock and grade the site. He would contract either the township or the highway department to upgrade the access road. He also noted that Mr. Meyer indicated that he would be willing to cut overhead limbs on the access road. Rod Webb indicated there is some pipe separation at the Bay City site. He will review design of the structure, inspect amount of pipe separation and report back to the committee

NR 151 Site Evaluations. Rod Webb informed LCC members that onsite evaluation procedure using the Agricultural Performance Standards Checklist is part of the implementation strategy of the Pierce County Land and Water Resource Management Plan. He noted LCC members support voluntarily compliance and suggested utilizing a status report to determine compliance and offer cost share assistance in cases of noncompliance. He indicated an inventory of future practices per landowner inventoried, could be listed. He also indicated that as funding becomes more and more competitive, DATCP funding may be allocated to those counties that are actively supporting DATCP standards. Rod Webb noted that education is an important part of the process.

Discuss - Take action on LCD-NRCS Contribution Agreement. Rod Webb informed LCC members that he submitted a request to NRCS for a LCD NRCS Contribution Agreement in which the Land Conservation Department will receive reimbursement for Land Conservation Department staff working on EQIP projects. Mel Pittman moved to approve the contribution agreement noting concerns be brought before the LCC. Dale Hines seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss – Take action on Farmland Preservation Contract for Michael Pittman. Rod Webb noted that currently Farmland Preservation Contracts are being held until a Nutrient Management Plan has been submitted by the applicant. Mel Pittman noted that there is a difference between a Nutrient Management Plan and a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan. He also requested that contract approval at the county level not be more restrictive than required by the state. Don Rohl moved to approve, James Ross seconded. Mel Pittman abstains. Motion carried...

Discuss Legislative Issues. Rod Webb provided a legislative update for LCC members in regards to Aquatic Invasive Species transport and also commented on NRCS Computer Charges to LCD's.

Director's Report. Rod Webb introduced Conservation on the Land Intern, Sean William Raleigh, who has been working with the department for one month. Rod Webb noted that Sean has been a great addition to the staff and that he has provided valuable assistance. Sean Raleigh noted that he was raised in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, currently living in Hudson and attending UWRF. He noted that he is especially interested in construction projects as well as GIS work. Rod Webb noted that \$250 has been received from the Trimbelle Rod & Gun Club to support Sean's internship in the county. James Ross reported the LCC Supervisor training was very helpful and helped him gain new perspective. Rod Webb also reported that dairy farming is expanding in the county--six facilities are being upgraded to include either expansion, waste storage or both. He also indicated the department will be reviewing a Concentrated Feeding Operation Permit. Rod Webb also reported that 2009 staffing plans are due July 11th. Finally, Rod Webb reported that Jon Krauss and Debra Larson are conducting a windshield transect survey at 763 data stops in the county.

Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items. Conservation Plan Approval, 2009 LCD Preliminary Budget and Nugget Lake Emergency Notification System Update.

Discuss Next Meeting Place, Date and Time. July 24th at 9:00 a.m. at EOC.

Adjournment. Don Rohl moved to adjourn, Mel Pittman seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Pierce County Land Conservation Committee Meeting
July 24, 2008, 9:00 a.m.
Pierce County Courthouse Annex 1st. Floor, Sheriff's Conference Room
414 West Main Street
Ellsworth, WI

LCC Members Present: Jerry Kosin, Dale Hines, Mel Pittman, Ben Plunkett and Jim Ross
LCD/NRCS Staff Members: Mark Biel, Debra Larson and Rod Webb
Others Present: Greg Andrews, Jim Kleinhans and Linda Paul

J Kosin called meeting to order at 9:02 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.

Adopt agenda. D Hines moved to adopt, J Ross seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Approve June 26, 2008 meeting minutes. J Ross moved to approve, D Hines seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

UW Ag Agent Report. G Andrews presented an update on Farm Technology Days. G Andrews informed committee members of EDEN—Extension Disaster Education Network website which provides resources which deal with flood-related issues. G Andrews also announced on Monday, August 25th, Lee Milligan, St. Croix UW Ag Agent and he will be conducting a Field Harvest Day in St. Croix County in the morning and in Pierce County in the afternoon.

NRCS Report. M Biel reported hours for Conservation Aide Pat Dodge and Office Automation Clerk Lori Elliott Larson have been allotted. M Biel noted NRCS is reviewing practices scheduled for 2008 and is contacting landowners to determine their intent in completing practices as scheduled. M Biel highlighted program changes in regards to the 2008 Farm Bill. EQIP and WHIP will be funded through 2012 and the Conservation Security Program is being restructured as the Conservation Stewardship Program in 2009 to 2017. He indicated it is no longer based on watershed and up 12.8 million acres may be eligible per year (eg. The state will be allocated set number of acres.). He noted the EQIP and the Farmland Protection Program will include additional forest land practices.

FSA Report. L Paul reported on FSA programs and activities. In addition, she noted August 1st as the last day to file nomination forms at the local FSA Office for a County Committee Member to represent the townships of Clifton, Gilman, Martell, River Falls and Spring Lake.

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

Nugget Lake Emergency Notification System update. J Kleinhans provided a review of the Nugget Lake Flood Warning System. He provided a list of vendors and suggested solutions to LCC members. J Kleinhans indicated the most feasible option to include solar-powered low frequency radios mounted on towers that transmit data collected by a transducer located in Nugget Lake back to the Courthouse which would be tied into the City Watch Program. He further recommended that bids be solicited for various components, consistent with the County Purchasing Policy. LCC members directed J Kleinhans to proceed with recommendations and bring Request for Proposal to August LCC meeting for LCC action.

Discuss/take action on Cost Share Requests – City of River Falls. R Webb presented a cost share request for urban storm water management to include critical area stabilization and seeding. He noted a Priority Watershed and Priority Lake Program Grant ACRA Transfer from St. Croix County to Pierce County was of \$64,000 was processed on June 26, 2008 to cover the cost share portion of the project. M Pittman moved to approve the cost share request. D Hines seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss/take action on Conservation Plan Approval Designation. M Pittman moved to designate R Webb as the signatory for Conservation Plans on behalf of the LCC with the condition that R Webb will bring concerns before the LCC. J Ross seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss Operation and Maintenance Agreements for Cost Shared Projects. R Webb presented a Operations and Maintenance Agreement for LCC Members to review. He noted the agreement is a part of the design which landowners receiving cost share, consent to and sign. R Webb noted the landowner's responsibilities under this agreement. LCC members agreed cost share recipients should adhere to the Operation and Maintenance Agreement and that staff should contact landowners that are not following the agreement. It was noted that structure maintenance and repair is the responsibility of the landowner.

Discuss/take action on Farmland Preservation Agreement Applications: Allen A. and Sylva L. Anderson, Millard and Darlene Anderson Family Trust and Herbert E. and Dorothy M. Metcalf. R Webb presented FPP applications for LCC members to review and approve. M Pittman moved to approve agreement applications for all three parties, J Ross seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss Legislative Issues. Rod Webb noted the WLWCA State Association will be lobbying for full funding for staffing of Land Conservation Departments as set forth in ATCP-50.

Director's Report. R Webb indicated construction of grade stabilization structures is in full progress. He also noted manure storage activity continues. He indicated the complexity of permitting requires much time. The new WinTransect program used to store transect survey data collected earlier this summer has some flaws. Efforts are underway to address these flaws and run transect reports. R Webb noted conservation plan updates are being completed by office staff. He also reported he is awaiting 2009 preliminary grant application allocation. R Webb informed members he joined other Farm Technology Days committee members at Brown County to meet counterparts to determine his role in the event. He also noted staff has been working with the Peterson family with some possible dairy modernization and conservation projects. R Webb reported he has been invited by P Barkla, Acting Administrative Coordinator, to attend a tour of Grant County Flood Water Damage and Emergency Operation Tour on Thursday, August 6th.

Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items. CRP Conservation Plan of Operation, Nugget Lake Emergency Notification System RFP and 2009 preliminary LCD Budget.

Discuss Next Meeting Place, Date and Time. Thursday, August 28th, 9:00 a.m. EOC Conference Room.

Adjournment. M Pittman moved to adjourn. J Ross seconded. Meeting adjourned.

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
August 28, 2008, 9:00 a.m.
Pierce County Courthouse Annex 1st Floor, EOC Conference Room
414 West Main Street, Ellsworth, WI 54011

LCC Members Present: Jerry Kosin, Dale Hines, Mel Pittman, Ben Plunkett, Don Rohl and Jim Ross
LCD/NRCS Staff Members: Mark Biel, Debra Larson and Rod Webb
Others Present: Andy Pichotta, Jim Kleinhans and Chad Alberg

J Kosin called LCC meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. M Pittman reported that he and Scott Schoepp provided an update on Monday to the Parks' Committee in regards to the Nugget Lake Warning System.

Public Comment. None presented.

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

Approve July 24, 2008 meeting minutes. M Pittman moved to approve the minutes. James Ross 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 office staff is working to complete numerous HEL determinations on sodbust requests from FSA for new land that was brought into production this year. Staff is also working to complete Conservation Plan updates. He noted COLIP intern, Sean Raleigh has been toolkit mapping Conservation Plan Maps and Soil Maps--which will be reflected in progress reporting. M Biel reported the recent rain will help dry field conditions and keep conservation practice construction going. He informed LCC members the 2008 Farm Bill rules are being reviewed and disseminated at the national level. He also noted these rules will trickle down to the state level over the next two months or so. M Biel indicated a large backlog of EQIP applications from last year will be re-entered into the system along with new applications and ranked for 2009 funding.

FSA Report. L Paul was not present to provide a report. M Biel presented a handout on behalf of FSA programs and activities.

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

Discuss/take action on Venison Donation Program Budget Amendment. C Alberg presented a request to LCC members to participate in the Venison Donation Program for 2009. M Pittman moved to participate in the Program for 2009. J Ross seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Wildlife Damage Program Report. C Alberg reported on Wildlife Damage program and activities. Chad provided a current enrollment list for those enrolled in the program. He noted he sees potential claims with only 3 of the 14 enrollees. Chad also provided a 2007 Wildlife Damage Program summary. C Alberg noted he will present the 2009 budget and the five-year cooperative agreement at the September LCC meeting.

Discuss/take action on RFP for Nugget Lake Emergency Notification System. Jim Kleinhans indicated he has contacted various vendors for pricing. He noted because of the unique nature of the project, he anticipates more than one vendor to be involved in the project. D Hines made a motion to move forward upon receipt of vendor pricing and to direct staff to work with corporation counsel to advertise for request for proposals. J Ross seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss/take action on CRP Plan of Operations approval designation. D Hines moved to authorize R Webb to act as LCC signatory on CRP Plans of Operation. D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss/take action on 2009 Land Conservation Budget. R Webb reviewed the 2009 department budget with LCC members. In the budget, R Webb proposed to re-allocate \$1,500 from Prizes and Awards line item to an Internship line item. R Webb noted 2009 department revenue is projected to be up 6.1 percent. A tax levy increase of 1.8 percent is a result of increased fuel costs and a decrease in some department collected fees. The budget does include Administration office's estimated 2% increase in personnel salary and fringe costs. R Webb noted the Contribution Agreement between LCD and NRCS, increase in the SWRM grant from DATCP, and the Tree Sales Program will generate the additional revenue. LCC members discussed planning for a vehicle replacement in 2010. LCC members also considered line items which might be trimmed if requested to do so. M Pittman moved to approve the 2009 LCD Budget. D Hines seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss Legislative Issues. R Webb referred committee members to the Thursday Note.

Director's Report. R Webb informed LCC members that he has been working with intern Sean Raleigh to produce a topographic site map for Farm Technology Days. R Webb noted the department received minimal funding for nutrient management. He indicated the department will work with DATCP and landowners to promote Nutrient management in Pierce County. In addition, R Webb reported that he has had discussions with Jim Esler from the Town of River Falls in regards to the prime farmland designations on the land he owns. Esler is requesting that LCD develop a process whereby a request to NRCS to change the designations may be made. R Webb noted in his discussions with a soil scientist from NRCS, it was concluded that NRCS will not change soils designations for a specific site because soils bearing that designation would have to be changed wherever it appeared in the county. R Webb informed committee members that the conservation department has completed 23 grade stabilization structures, 11 dike removals, 1 critical area treatment, 3 stream bank stabilizations, 1 sinkhole repair, 1 well abandonment and 24 grassed waterways thus far. R Webb invited LCC members to attend the West Central Area Business Meeting and Speaking Contest Thursday October 23rd at the Plaza Hotel and Suites in Eau Claire. Finally, R Webb noted Dennis Fritz, Kinnickinnic Watershed Technician, led a field trip on the southfork restoration project and received a thank you recognizing his commitment to conservation.

Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items. Future agenda items include Nugget Lake Emergency Notification and Wildlife Damage 2009 Budget and Cooperative Agreement.

Discuss Next Meeting Place, Date and Time. September 25th, 9:00 a.m. EOC meeting room and October 22nd, 9:00 a.m. EOC Meeting Room.

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

Pierce County Land Conservation Committee Meeting
September 25, 2008, 9:00 a.m.
Pierce County Courthouse Annex 1st Floor, EOC Conference Room
414 West Main Street, Ellsworth, WI 54011

LCC Members Present: Jerry Kosin, Dale Hines, Mel Pittman, Ben Plunkett, Don Rohl and Jim Ross
LCD/NRCS Staff Members: Mark Biel, Debra Larson and Rod Webb
Others Present: Greg Andrews, Andy Pichotta and Jim Kleinhans

J Kosin called LCC meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Public Comment. None presented.

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

Approve August 28, 2008 meeting minutes. D Rohl moved to approve with correction as noted, D Hines seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

UW Ag Agent Report. Greg Andrews reported on the Pierce County Land Rent Summary. G Andrews also noted of 11 landowners tested for soybean white mold—9 tested positive.

NRCS Report. M Biel reported the end of NRCS Fiscal Year is September 30th. Efforts are underway to wrap up contract/practice payments, progress reporting, plan modifications, etc. for the fiscal year. He noted an Area Office Contracting Team will be in Pierce County next week to review existing EQIP/CSP contracts, to assist with updates & modifications and to conduct a quality control check. M Biel noted WI NRCS is proposing four new field staffing positions--one per administrative area as part-time permanent Office Automation Clerks (OAC's). He noted the former OAC employee, in this office, was hired for a part-time temporary position. This employee resigned, as many have throughout the state, for a more permanent status position. M Biel noted this action is a start of an attempt to correct this situation. He reported each field office in the area was ranked based on contracting workload and Pierce County ranked #1, Buffalo County #2, Taylor/Price #3, and St. Croix #4. Since the #1, #2, and #4 ranking offices are clustered together, a recommendation was made to locate this areas new OAC position in either Ellsworth or Durand, which would be centrally located. M Biel presented a power point slide presentation depicting midwest flooding in national disaster counties; concentrated flow/waterway issues and streambank rip rap and crossing examples.

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

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

2009 Wildlife Damage Budget and Cooperative Agreement. R Webb noted that C Alberg will be present in October to present a budget and cooperative agreement.

Discuss/take action on RFP for Nugget Lake Emergency Notification System. Jim Kleinhans noted he continues to work with various vendors for the emergency notification system. He indicated he expect Request for Proposals will be solicited in October.

Discuss Legislative Issues. R Webb provided a handout on livestock siting ordinances.

Director's Report. R Webb informed LCC members the Pierce County Speaking Contest is scheduled for Tuesday, October 14th and the West Central Area Fall Business Meeting and Speaking Contest is scheduled for Thursday, October 23rd in Eau Claire. He indicated the WALCE County Conservationist fall meeting is scheduled in Waupaca October 16-17th. R Webb also reported the 55th WLWCA Annual Conference is scheduled for December 10th-12th at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton. He noted registration for the conference is due November 14th. He reported the Land Conservation Tree Sales Program will be offered again starting October 1st. R Webb noted that there were no changes made to Nutrient Management allocation from DATCP for 2009. He informed LCC members the department will work to host farmer nutrient management training classes this winter. R Webb reported since the mowing and maintenance of PL566 structures comes under the county purchasing policy, he contacted area businesses to inquire interest in bidding the project. He noted Kenneth Huppert expressed initial interest, but declined the after reviewing the sites. R Webb reported Nutrient Management planning and CRP expiration has initiated many conservation plan updates. He also noted the Emergency Action Plan for Nugget Lake has been reviewed and responsible party names were updated.

Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items. Future agenda items include Livestock Siting discussion and Nugget Lake Emergency Notification update.

Committee will convene into closed session pursuant to 19.85 (1)C Wis. Stats. For the purpose of considering employment, promotion, compensation of performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility: LCD Director 6 month performance evaluation. J Ross made the motion to move into closed session, D Rohl seconded. Roll call vote with all voting yes.

Committee will return to open session and take action on closed session item, if necessary. J Ross moved to return to open session noting LCD Director, R Webb, meets and exceeds expectations. M Pittman seconded. Motion carried with all in favor

Discuss next meeting place, date and time. The next LCC meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 22nd, 2008 at the EOC meeting room.

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

Pierce County Land Conservation Committee Meeting
October 22, 2008, 9:00 a.m.
Pierce County Courthouse Annex 1st Floor, EOC Conference Room
414 West Main Street, Ellsworth, WI 54011

LCC Members Present: Jerry Kosin, Dale Hines, Mel Pittman, Don Rohl and Jim Ross
LCD/NRCS Staff Members: Mark Biel, Debra Larson and Rod Webb
Others Present: Chad Alberg, T Davies, and Jim Kleinhans

Chair J Kosin called meeting to order at 9:02 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. D Hines moved to adopt the agenda. Jim Ross seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Approve September 25, 2008 meeting minutes. Don Rohl moved to approve the September 25, 2008 meeting minutes. Dale Hines seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

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

NRCS Report. Mark Biel provided an update on the 2008 USDA Farm Bill which included new EQIP practices available and cost share rates. The local workgroup process for the new EQIP practices and cost share rates was discussed, Mark requested comments regarding the EQIP be submitted by Friday October 24, 2008. Mark discussed the CSP payment process and informed the committee that letters to all CSP participants were recently mailed out. Additionally, Mark gave a presentation on State and National historical erosion rates.

FSA Report. Tom Davies, Trainee, provided a FSA Report in Linda Paul's absence. In addition to an update on programs and activities, T Davies informed LCC members that the agency is keeping tabs on posted county commodity prices should the county be in a situation where loan deficiency payments kick in. T Davies also reported the FSA office will be closed on October 29th because agency staff will be attending Farm Bill training at Rothschild, WI. Additionally, the office will be operating with limited staff on the 28th and 30th of October for training purposes. Further training will be offered in February 2009. Finally T Davies reported that ballots for the County Committee Elections for a County Committee person representing the townships of Clifton, Gilman, Martell, River Falls and Spring Lake will be mailed out to eligible voters November 3, 2008.

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

2009 Wildlife Damage Budget and Cooperative Agreement. Chad Alberg reviewed the Wildlife Damage Cooperative Agreement with LCC Members. He noted the 16-page document is a 4-part document which includes the service agreement, the work plan, the plan of administration, and the financial plan. R Webb noted that he reviewed the 16-page document. C Alberg also reviewed the 2009 Wildlife Damage Budget with LCC Members. He noted while there is an increase in mileage line item, however, the overall budget actually decreased by \$1,382 from last year. LCC Members requested next months' agenda include Discuss and take action on 2009 Wildlife Damage Budget and Cooperative Agreement.

Nugget Lake Emergency Notification System Progress Report. Jim Kleinhans provided an update to LCC members. He noted he continues to work with Mike Knoll of the Sheriff's Department and various vendors to determine the best suitable hardware, software and electronics for the notification system. He

estimated the system will not be “pieced together” by the deadline and that the project will extend to Spring of 2010.

Farmland Preservation Agreement Approval. LCC members agreed to Discuss and take action on James & May Kay Schaffner Spring Lake Township in the November LCC meeting.

WLWCA Conference Attendance. Deadline November 14th. Those planning to attend the WLWCA Conference at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton, Wisconsin include R Webb, J Kosin, M Pittman, D Rohl and J Ross.

Discuss Legislative Issues. LCC members received the most recent copy of Thursday’s Note and were invited to comment on legislative issues. R Webb reported Buffalo County along with other West Central Area members have drafted a resolution to request DATCP to provide funding based on each counties LWRM Plan and not a single state priority. He noted DATCP is moving away from funding local priorities to funding state priorities. DATCP language specifically states that future allocations will be based on state priorities and less on land and water plan objectives. R Webb reported DATCP gave presentation at the County Conservationists meeting on Working Land Initiative Funding for the next biennium. R Webb also indicated the possibility of the Farmland Preservation program being recreated under this program.

Director’s Report. R Webb reported practice construction is going full speed. He also noted the department will be working on NR151 state priorities on all the farms that received cost sharing in 2008. He noted staff will be completing farm walkovers with the landowners. R Webb informed committee members that he has submitted a grant (\$15,000) request to UW Extension to promote Nutrient Management in the county. He indicated the grant is a joint project with Pepin County. R Webb also reported plans are underway to conduct a nutrient management plan writing training session for landowners on January 21st, 2008. He noted if Pierce and Pepin counties are awarded the grant, each landowner who writes their own nutrient management plan will receive \$2.50 per acre to cover the soils tests and lab fees. Also under the Director’s Report, R Webb informed committee members that cost share applications will be reviewed, an environmental benefit index will be determined and brought before the committee in December for review and approval. Approved cost share applications will be designed, let out for bids and constructed in 2009. R Webb informed committee members that the Standard Oversight Council is reviewing and revising practice standards where necessary. The SOC is requesting a \$350 contribution from each county to fund their ongoing efforts. This request will be included as an action item on next months’ agenda. R Webb reported that he was invited by the WALCE Association President to serve as a representative on the WALCE Board of Directors. LCC members agreed to include as an action item on next months’ agenda.

Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items. Wildlife Damage Budget and Cooperative Agreement; Nugget Lake Emergency Notification System Progress Report; James & May Kay Schaffner Spring Lake Township; LCD Director WALCE Board Appointment; Standard Oversight Council Contribution Request

Discuss Next Meeting Place, Date and Time. November 20th, 9:00 a.m., EOC Meeting Room.

Adjournment. D Rohl moved to adjourn, M Pittman 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
November 20, 2008, 9:00 a.m.
Pierce County Courthouse Annex 1st. Floor, EOC Conference Room
414 West Main Street, Ellsworth, WI

LCC Members Present: Dale Hines (9:09 a.m.), Jerry Kosin, Mel Pittman, Ben Plunkett and Don Rohl. **Excused:** James Ross
LCD/NRCS Staff Members: Debra Larson, Rod Webb
Others Present: Greg Andrews, Jim Kleinhans, and Gary Zielske

J Kosin called the Pierce County LCC meeting to order 9:03 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 presented, D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Approve October 22, 2008 meeting minutes. D Rohl moved to approve, M Pittman seconded. Ben Plunkett abstained. Motion carried.

UW Ag Agent Report. G Andrews reported UW extension will be hosting several workshops next month including a Crop Production Series, Soil, Water and Nutrient Management Meetings, and an Energy Workshop. He also noted he is working with other county agencies to fine tune the Pierce County Rental Survey.

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

DNR Forestry Report. Gary Zielske provided updates on the Emerald Ash Borer. G Zieslke reported there is funding available to private landowners for forestry practices through the Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program. Eligible practices include preparation of management plans and tree planting. He noted Invasive Species Control will no longer be eligible under the new guidelines. This year's woodland owner's conference will be held March 7th, 2009 at the Campus Holiday Inn in Eau Claire. The conference theme will be "Woodland Changes, Global to Local". G Zielske also reported he has completed the field work for the forest recon of the Kinnickinnic State Park which encompasses 1,275 acres. He reported there is fieldwork remaining in the Pierce County Islands Wildlife Management Area. G Zielske indicated state land timber sales are currently being established in Pierce County on WI DOT lands near the intersections of Highway 63 and 35 as well as a portion of the Pierce County Islands Wildlife Management Area south of the Red Wing airport. G Zielske reported a form letter has been mailed out to Managed Forest Law landowners notifying them of the group certification of MFL lands under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). He noted that periodic field audits are completed to maintain these certifications.

Nugget Lake Emergency Notification System Progress Report. Jim Kleinhans provided an update on vendor estimates noting two reasonable estimates had some merit. He indicated he will consult with DNR Engineer, Gary Lepak when the RFP's process is complete.

Discuss/ take action on 2009 Wildlife Damage Budget and Cooperative Agreement. D Hines moved to approve as presented at last month's meeting, D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss/ take action on Farmland Preservation Agreement for James & May Kay Schaffner Spring Lake Township. M Pittman moved to approve, D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss/ take action on WALCE Board of Directors appointment. R Webb reported he was asked by the President of the employee's association to serve as a representative to the Board of Directors for the state association. He reported the association typically meets four times per year. M Pittman moved to approve, D Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss Resolutions to be presented at WLWCA conference. R Webb reviewed Resolutions 1 – 7 with LCC members. J Kosin appointed M Pittman as official delegate to vote at the WLWCA annual meeting.

Director's Report. R Webb noted that construction season is coming to a close and that there is one remaining Land and Water Resource Management project to complete. R Webb indicated his application for the Malwig Grant was successful. He reported a \$13,500 educational grant offered through UW extension will be used to provide incentive to landowners to attend nutrient management training classes and ultimately assist landowners in developing their own nutrient management plans. He noted he will be meeting with Greg Andrews and Paul Kivlin to discuss nutrient management planning training. R Webb informed LCC members that staff members are evaluating cost share requests for 09, as well as conducting sight visits and cost analyses for each request. According to R Webb, over 60% of tree seedlings have been sold through the tree program. He also indicated he is working with the Town of River Falls with Farmland Preservation updates stressing implementation of conservation standards. R Webb noted funding for the Kinnickinnic Watershed Priority Watershed project commences in 2009. He noted efforts are underway to secure additional funding to support staff and to continue work in the watershed.

Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items. Future agenda items include 2009 cost share requests.

Discuss Next Meeting Place, Date and Time. The next LCC meeting is scheduled for Thursday December 18th at 9:00 a.m. in the EOC Conference Room.

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

**PIERCE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 18, 2008, 10:30 A.M.
PIERCE COUNTY HIGHWAY OFFICE
621 CAIRNS STREET
ELLSWORTH, WI 54011**

LCC Members Present: Dale Hines, Jerry Kosin, Mel Pittman, Ben Plunkett, Don Rohl and James Ross.

LCD/NRCS Staff Members: Debra Larson and Rod Webb

Others Present: Greg Andrews

Jerry Kosin called the meeting to order 10:30 a.m.

Public Comment: Mel Pittman reported on the WLWCA meeting. He noted the second day sessions were noteworthy and that the resolutions at the business meeting were discussed in detail. Mel Pittman reported 3 seats on the WLWCA board were filled.

Adopt Agenda. Ben Plunkett moved to adopt, Don Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Approve November 20, 2008 meeting minutes. James Ross moved to approve, Dale Hines seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

UW Ag Agent Report. Greg Andrews made reference to an upcoming tillage workshop and irrigation workshop that will be co-sponsored with St. Croix County. Greg Andrews also reported he will host the 3rd of a 9-part series nitrogen workshop this Friday at 1:00 pm in the EOC Meeting Room.

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

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

NRCS Report. Rod Webb reported on behalf of Mark Biel noting Mark Biel's absence was due to nationwide EQIP audit.

Discuss-Take Action on Farmland Preservation Agreement for Wallace & Carol Franta, El Paso Township. Mel Pittman moved to approve the 15-year FP Agreement as presented by Rod Webb, Don Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss/Take Action on 2009 cost share rates for Land & Water Resource Management (LWRM) and County Cost Share Program. Dale Hines moved to set the county cost share program rates at 70% to follow the state administrative rule. Mel Pittman seconded. LCC members agreed in further discussion to review action item annually. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss/Take Action on cost share requests. Rod Webb reviewed potential 2009 cost share projects with LCC members. Mel Pittman moved to approve cost share requests as presented. Jim Ross seconded. Don Rohl abstained. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss/Take Action on County Conservation Aids Grant for Rush River. R Webb informed LCC members Julie Brickner forwarded a program administered by DNR which help counties to fund recreational opportunities within their counties. The program carries provisions that the projects must be on public land or public easement. Arby Linder of the Eau Galle River Sportsman Club has presented a request for \$1,575.00 to fund trout habitat restoration in Martell Township, which would include stream bank stabilization and stream habitat structures. Rod Webb noted he would glean more information and report back to the committee. He also reported, in the future, requests for grant aid will be submitted through the Land Conservation Department. Don Rohl moved to approve subject to Rod's investigation, Jim Ross seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss/Take Action on Amendment #6 to Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Contract. Dale Hines moved to approve CREP Amendment #6, M Pittman seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Review 2008 Land and Water Resource Management Plan Accomplishments

Rod Webb reported he will provide a review for January's LCC meeting.

Director's Report. Rod Webb reported NR151 walkover evaluations are ongoing. He noted evaluations include an assessment to determine if conservation rotation and tillage meet T (allowable soil loss in tons per acre per year). Rod Webb noted survey and design for 2009 conservation practices will be completed mid-March and the competitive bid process will follow. He also indicated DATCP have delayed approval action of 2009 Joint Allocation Plan funding. Rod Webb informed committee members that cost share dollars were based on the preliminary budget plan and that the department will not be entering into any contracts until the DATCP grant contract has been approved. Rod Webb noted funding from the NRCS Contribution Agreement proposed to upgrade survey equipment and update GIS applications will be put on hold. Both Mel Pittman and Rod Webb provided a WLWCA conference update. Jim Ross extended a thank you to the Land Conservation Department Staff for a recent "tour" of the department.

Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items. Rush River Grant Project, 2008 Land and Water Resource Management Plan Accomplishments, Wildlife Damage Crop Report and Wildlife Life Damage Claims.

Discuss Next Meeting Place, Date and Time. Thursday, January 22nd @ 9:00 am in the EOC Meeting Room.

Adjournment. Ben Plunkett moved to adjourn, Don Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.