

**PIERCE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 22, 2009, 9:00 AM
PIERCE COUNTY BOARD ROOM
414 W MAIN STREET
ELLSWORTH, WI 54011**

LCC Members Present: Dale Hines, Jerry Kosin, Mel Pittman, Ben Plunkett (polycom) and Don Rohl

LCD/NRCS Staff Members: Mark Biel, Debra Larson and Rod Webb

Others Present: Chad Alberg and Andy Pichotta

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

Public Comment. None presented.

Adopt Agenda. Mel Pittman moved to adopt the agenda, Dale Hines seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Approve December 18, 2008 meeting minutes. Dale Hines moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented, Mel Pittman seconded. Ben Plunkett abstained. Motion carried.

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

NRCS Report. Mark Biel apologized for being unable to attend the last two LCC meetings and indicated that the nationwide audit of NRCS program contracts continues. EQIP contract audits were completed in November and December and CSP contract audits are now underway. He indicated area NRCS staff continues to assist with the Field Office Audit Certification. Mark Biel reported the statewide EQIP Manure Storage Application deadline has been deferred to the end of February. He also noted when the national office completes the final rules for EQIP, they will be forwarded to the state office for review. Therefore, EQIP contract rankings are behind schedule. Mark Biel informed committee members, the death of five people from hydrogen sulfide inhalation at a Virginia dairy farm in July 2007 was a grim reminder of the hazards posed by gases associated with manure handling systems. He indicated manure safety standards have been written to address this hazard in Wisconsin.

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

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

Discuss/take action on 2008 Wildlife Damage Program crop prices. Chad Alberg presented average area 2008 grain commodity prices as reported by the Turkey Store, Barron, WI; Ace Ethanol, Stanley, WI; and West Wisconsin Renewable Energy Cooperative, Boyceville, WI. Dale Hines moved to approve the average proposed price for #2 yellow corn at \$4.84 per bushel. Don Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss/take action on 2008 Wildlife Damage Program Damage Claim. Chad Alberg provided a 2008 Wildlife Damage Program Enrollee Update for LCC members. He also presented a Wildlife Damage Claim for Melvin J Nielsen in the Town of River Falls for deer abatement. D Hines moved to approve the Wildlife Damage Claim, Don Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Review 2008 Conservation Department Accomplishments. Rod Webb reviewed the 2008 Annual Report with LCC members. Rod Webb noted this report will be forwarded to the County Board of Supervisors for review.

Director's Report. Rod Webb reported 18 farmers attended the Nutrient Management Training Session scheduled on Wednesday, January 21st. He noted several landowners are interested in follow up sessions for assistance in writing their own plans. He noted plans, that meet specifications, may be eligible for grant incentives through the MALWEG Grant at \$2.50 per acre. He indicated the department will provide conservation plan maps and soil maps to participating landowners. Rod Webb reported State Engineering Staff were present to meet with department technicians for plan review and job approval. He noted the department received high reviews and indicated most plans could be approved in house. Rod Webb reported state budget funding has not been allocated thus far, but that the governor will make announcements on program cuts soon. He reported Nutrient Management funding may be jeopardized, however, since Pierce County was allocated a small portion for 2009, he did not project much impact to the department. He also indicated a strong interest in nutrient management planning will continue whether or not cost share dollars are available. Rod Webb reported, despite the budget delay, technicians are surveying and designing 2009 conservation practices.

Discussion regarding future agenda items. Nugget Lake Emergency Notification System.

Committee will convene into closed session pursuant to 19.85 (1) (c) Wis. Stats. For the purpose of considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility: LCD Director annual performance evaluation. Mel Pittman moved to go into closed session at 9:50 a.m., Don Rohl seconded. Roll call vote with Dale Hines, Jerry Kosin, Ben Plunkett (polycom), Don Rohl and Mel Pittman voting yes.

Mel Pittman moved to reconvene into open session at 10:34 a.m. Don Rohl seconded. Roll call vote with Dale Hines, Jerry Kosin, Ben Plunkett (polycom), Don Rohl and Mel Pittman voting yes.

Mel Pittman moved to grant favorable performance evaluation for LCD Director, and recommended a step increase. Dale Hines seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Mel Pittman moved to adjourn, Don Rohl seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

**PIERCE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 26, 2009, 9:00 AM
PIERCE COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX, EOC CONFERENCE ROOM
414 W MAIN STREET
ELLSWORTH, WI 54011**

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

LCD/NRCS Staff Members: Rod Webb and Mark Biel

Others Present: Gary Zeilske, Linda Paul

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

Public Comment. None presented.

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

Approve January 22, 2009 meeting minutes. Mel Pittman moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented, Don Rohl seconded. Motion carried.

UW Ag Agent Report. Mel Pittman stated that Greg was unable to attend due to pesticide training class that is scheduled for this day.

FSA Report. Linda provided a report. Direct payments are being paid to landowners for the 2009 programs. Milk income loss program is ready to begin making payments. Linda updated the committee on FSA office lease with Pierce County.

DNR Forestry Report. Gary Zielske provided a report. Gary discussed recent timber sales. The Wisconsin Woodland Owners Conference is March 7th, 2009. Tree and shrub sales are down from 2008 - there is still a good selection of species available for planting this spring. The Governor's proposed budget contains funding reductions for such forestry programs as the Forest Landowner Grant Program, Forest Fire Protection Grant Program and the MFL Public Access Grant Program.

NRCS Report. Mark reported that carryover EQIP sign-ups are being reviewed and updated to current requirements. Three manure storage cost share applications are being prepared for the Statewide EQIP manure storage signup. The program audit is completed with only a few small payment issues yet to be resolved. Technicians are busy surveying and designing practices for the upcoming construction season. Mark and Rod are working on a potential contribution agreement for 2009 - similar to last year's contract.

Discuss/take action on cost share agreements. Rod reviewed 2 cost share applications with the committee. Mel Pittman motioned to approve cost share applications for Brad Homstadt and Milo Harold Berg, Don Rohl seconded. Motion carried.

Director's Report. Rod reported that the DATCP Final Allocation Plan has been released. Staffing grant and cost share dollars for hard practices remained the same as the preliminary allocation plan but nutrient management (SEG funds) were reduced about 17%. Our SEG fund allocation was relatively small for 2009 so the reduction will not pose any significant hardships. Cost sharing for the Kinni watershed remained unchanged. Additionally, Dennis is working to complete a transfer of cost share funds from St. Croix County's share of the Kinni Watershed to Pierce County. Rod updated the committee on the on-going effort to encourage implementation of nutrient management plans on all cropland. The Governor's next budget proposes the elimination of the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Board. This board currently is responsible for oversight of the DATCP soil and water division. Rod informed the committee that the annual Conservation Awards Banquet held in conjunction with the Ellsworth Lions Club will be held March 31st, 2009 at Ellsworth Legion Hall. Rod reported that Land Conservation is taking the lead role in developing a Manure compliant response procedure for Pierce County.

Discussion regarding future agenda items. Nugget Lake Emergency Notification System. Manure compliant response procedure, 2010 DATCP Grant application.

Mel Pittman moved to adjourn, Ben Plunkett seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

PIERCE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 23, 2009, 8:30 AM
PIERCE COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX, EOC CONFERENCE ROOM
414 W MAIN STREET
ELLSWORTH, WI 54011

LCC Members Present: Dale Hines, Jerry Kosin, Mel Pittman, Ben Plunkett, Don Rohl (8:52 a.m.), and James Ross

LCD/NRCS Staff Members: Rod Webb, Debra Larson and Mark Biel

Others Present: Linda Paul and Jim Kleinhans

Jerry Kosin called meeting to order @ 8:32 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. Jim Ross moved to approve, Dale Hines seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Approve March 26, 2009 meeting minutes. Mel Pittman moved to approve. Jim Ross seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

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

FSA Report – Linda Paul reported on programs and activities. In addition L Paul reported FSA is accepting COC nominations June 15th through August 3rd. She noted candidate is being solicited from the “center tier of townships (Clifton, Oak grove, Trimble, Ellsworth, El Paso and Rock Elm). She also reported staff will be attending ACRE training.

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

NRCS Report. Mark Biel reported on programs and activities. He informed committee members the 2009 EQIP signup ended Friday the 17th of April. He noted 70 carryover applications from last year had to sign new forms because of changes in the 08 Farm Bill. In addition, four statewide manure storage signups received could bring total cost share requested to well over a million dollars this year in Pierce County. M Biel reported an initial allocation of one quarter million dollars of federal cost share dollars are sent to Pierce County for conservation practices. M Biel also reported NRCS has three solid WHIP applications this year.. He indicated WHIP applications are coordinated with the Fish and Wildlife Service as well as the Department of Natural Resources. M Biel reported CRP Burns have been difficult on account of the weather, personnel available and amount burn plans written.

Nugget Lake Emergency Notification System Progress Report. Jim Kleinhans provided a progress report on the Nugget Lake Notification System. He indicated he reviewed a system used by Vernon County and noted this is a viable option for Pierce County as well. Jim Kleinhans indicated that a requests for proposals will be sent out. and the committee will need to take action on the proposals at a future meeting.

Discuss/take action on cost share requests. Rod Webb presented cost share requests for a roof run off system for O’Connell Farm Partnership; for a grassed waterway system for John McNicoll; for part of a waterway system for Faith Fanslow; for a grade stabilization structure for James Kloss; for a grassed waterway for Brian Berg and for four well de-commissioning for Honeycrest Farms. Dale Hines moved to approve the cost share requests; Don Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Director's Report. Rod Webb provided a construction update. He noted technicians are staking the first dam of the season. He indicated grassed waterways are being constructed as well. Rod Webb noted he wrote a TRM grant to address some significant animal waste issues on the Robert and Jill Siewert farm. He reported trees for the Pierce County Tree Program arrive on Monday, April 27th. Trees will be disbursed on Tuesday and Wednesday. Office staff will complete PL566 spring inspections and determine if the pipe separation on the Bay City structure should be repaired. Rod Webb noted COLIP applications have been received and invited LCC members to be a part of the interview process. Rod Webb continues to work on Farm Technology Days as time allows determining a theme for the education tent area. Finally, he reported Dennis Fritz is busy working with the Peterson's dairy modernization.

Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items. Nugget Lake Emergency Notification System Request for Proposals and Farmland Preservation Applications.

Discuss Next Meeting Place, Date and Time. Thursday, May 28th @ 8:30 a.m. at the EOC meeting room; Thursday, June 18th @ 11:00 a.m. at the Pierce County Highway Committee meeting room

Adjournment. M Pittman moved to adjourn, Jim Ross 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 Minutes
June 18, 2009, 10:30 a.m.
Pierce County Highway Office Conference Room
621 Cairns Street, Ellsworth, WI 54011

LCC Members Present: Ben Plunkett, Dale Hines, Jerry Kosin, Mel Pittman, Don Rohl, James Ross (via conference call)

LCD NRCS Staff Members: Mark Biel, Debra Larson Rod Webb

Others Present: Gary Zielske

Public Comment. None received.

Call to Order. Chair Kosin called LCC meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Adopt Agenda. Mel Pittman moved to adopt the agenda as printed, Don Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Approve May 28, 2009 Meeting Minutes. Mel Pittman moved to approve the May 28th, 2009 meeting minutes with amendment, Dale Hines seconded. Roll call vote. Motion carried with all in favor.

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

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

DNR Forestry Report. Gary Zielske reported on DNR forestry programs and activities including: DNR Tree Sale Program, Managed Forest Law 2010 Update, Managed Forest Law and Property Tax Revenues for Townships Study, Emerald Ash Borer, State Assembly Amendment 122 (June 13, 2009) to include DNR Service Center walk-in Service Closure, Plum City Union Fire Equipment Grant and Stewardship Public Access—NonDepartment Land, Tree Farm Field Day (July 19, 2009) hosted by Rod & Diane Jorgenson and Dennis & Julie waterman in Barron County. In addition Gary Zielske reported Grange Hall Hardwoods is no longer in business.

NRCS Report. Mark Biel reported Pierce County has received an initial EQIP allocation just under \$100,000 for hard practices as well as an additional \$56,000 of slippage has been brought into the county for conservation practices. He also noted Pierce County received an initial allocation of \$27,000 for CNMP practices and additional \$35,000 which he reported will fund the first two applications. Mark Biel reported another allocation of \$37,000 would fund the third application. Overall four statewide manure applications have been approved just under \$500,000.00. He indicated another manure storage project will be funded through state funding. In other agency news, Mark Biel reported CSP contract audits continue. He noted third quarter audit will consist of 17 contracts in Pierce County. Mark Biel will participate in CSP audit training in Steven's Point next week. Mark Biel reported Conservation Compliance Field Checks are underway. He indicated residue checks will soon be completed and requests to those

under review include completion of crop and tillage rotation worksheets. Mark Biel reported WI NRCS received a final allocation of the 09 budget which includes funds for intermittent employees. Mark Biel noted special signups under the EQIP program included organic, forest and energy with most interest generated in organic practices. Finally Mark Biel addressed tillage equipment which is not allowable as part of a no till system.

Discuss and Take Action on Cost Share Requests. Rod Webb presented additional cost share requests for the 2009 construction year noting cancellation of some projects scheduled for this year has made 'slippage' funding available for other practices. Rod Webb indicated the practices presented can be surveyed and designed yet this year. Mel Pittman moved to approve the cost share practice requests as presented. Don Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Director's Report. Rod Webb reported Requests for Proposals for the Nugget Lake project have been advertised. He indicated proposals are due at close of business day on Friday, June 26th and that the proposals will be reviewed by Brad Lawrence, Andy Pichotta and he in the County Board Room on Monday, July 6, 2009 and that the proposals will be forwarded to LCC members for award at the July LCC Meeting. Rod Webb reported Governor Jim Doyle has announced that the state budget will be in place by July 1st. He indicated staff funding is facing a 6% reduction although, effort is underway to move some nutrient management funding to staff funding. Therefore, he noted funding for staffing grants as well as nutrient management will be secure for the next couple of years. Rod Webb announced COLIP intern Megan Rahn is on board and will be assisting with survey and GIS work this summer as well as updating the Land Conservation Department webpage. Rod Webb reported that Dale Hines, Jim Ross and he attended the Dunn County Tour and announced that Conservation Observance Day is scheduled for Friday, June 26th in Douglas County. Rod Webb indicated Jon Krauss and Debra Larson are completing the annual Pierce County Transect Survey at this time. He also reported project construction continues and that many projects were completed ahead of schedule because of dry soil conditions. Rod Webb and Mark Biel are initiating a NRCS/LCD contribution agreement to be completed by September 2009 for 2010 construction practices. Finally, Finance Director, Julie Brickner will forward budget guidelines to department heads soon, with budget discussions taking place during the July 23rd Department Head Meeting.

Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items. Nugget Lake Request for Proposals.

Discuss Next Meeting Place, Date and Time. July 23rd, 8:30 a.m. at the EOC Meeting Room.

Adjournment. Don Rohl moved to adjourn, Mel Pittman seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Pierce County Land Conservation Committee Meeting
Thursday, July 23, 2009 8:30 a.m.
EOC Conference Room, Pierce County Courthouse Annex, 1st Floor
414 W Main Street, Ellsworth, WI

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

LCD/NRCS Staff Members: Mark Biel, Debra Larson, Rod Webb

Others Present: Jim Kleinhans, Andy Pichotta

Public Comment. None Presented

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

Approve June 18, Meeting Minutes. Dale Hines moved to approve the meeting minutes as printed. James Ross seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

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

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

Overall, ¼ million dollars has been allocated to USDA NRCS Ellsworth Field Office Local EQIP program which is almost three times the initial allocation. Additionally, four eligible state manure storage applications were funded at a total of just under ½ million dollars. Total funding for 2009 makes this year the highest funded EQIP season ever.

Mark Biel has been assigned to the Northwest Area Conservation Security Program Audit Team. He will be traveling to the area office one day per week to complete the audits.

Conservation compliance field checks have been conducted. Once soil loss calculations have been computed, conservation compliance reviews will be finalized.

Dennis Fritz, LCD and Mark Biel, USDA NRCS traveled together to Farm Technology Days at Dodge County. Mark met with the Dodge County NRCS staff to discuss Farm Technology planning/implementation ideas, reviewed the NRCS soils pit display with area soil scientist staff and worked at the WI state High School Soils Judging Finals Competition. (Dennis Fritz gleaned planning information for Farm Technology Days in Pierce County in 2010.)

Discuss/Take Action to Select Nugget Lake Emergency Notification System Proposal

Jim Kleinhans reviewed Request for Proposals submitted by six firms for the Nugget Lake Emergency Notification System. Firms submitting proposals include Omni Data Solutions of

Winona Minnesota; High Sierra Electronics of Grass Valley, CA, Sutron of Sterling, VA, Energenecs of Cedarburg, WI, North American Phoenix of Schofield, WI and Telemetry and Process Controls of Lake Elmo, MN. The LCC reviewed and analyzed each proposal to rank and select the best qualified and suited firm based upon information provided. Mel Pittman moved to proceed with contract negotiations with High Sierra Electronics. In the event negotiations are unsuccessful, Pittman included in his motion to proceed with contract negotiations with Sutran. Don Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Director's Report.

Governor Doyle Signed the 2009-2011 State Budget with the county staffing grant and the Land and Water Conservation Board intact. A budget repair to the bill is expected, but conservationists are currently optimistic. The Governor included the Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative in his proposed 2009-2011 state budget bill. In addition to modernizing the 30-year old farmland preservation program, the program will authorize a matching grant program (PACE) to purchase agricultural conservation easements from willing landowners.

A Notice of Discharge Grant has been signed for Robert Siewert and \$220,500 has been allocated to his waste storage project. A project completion date of October 15, 2010 is expected. Other waste storage projects funded by NRCS and KINNI PWS continue to move forward. Rod Webb will coordinate efforts with Rick Remington of West Wisconsin Land Trust, Land Management and Townships to develop an approach to implementing the WLI.

Dennis Fritz, LCD and Mark Biel, USDA NRCS attended Farm Technology Days at Dodge County and participated in the State Soil Judging. Plans are underway to include a significant conservation display at Farm Technology Days 2010.

Efforts are underway to develop a NR 151 inventory program using Pierce County Web Fusion GIS Database. Rod Webb with coordinate with the Information Services Department and the WebFusion Specialist to complete this task.

USDA Natural Conservation Service and Pierce County LCD have entered into another Contribution Agreement for the purpose of assisting with the installation of EQIP funded practices.

Preliminary Budget Guidelines for 2010 from Financial Director, Julie Brickner will be forthcoming.

Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items. Nugget Lake Emergency Notification System and 2010 Pierce County preliminary budget review.

Discuss Next Meeting Place, Date and Time August 27th, 8:30 a.m.

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

**Pierce County Land Conservation Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, August 27, 2009 8:30 a.m.

**EOC Conference Room, Pierce County Courthouse Annex, 1st Floor
414 W Main Street, Ellsworth, WI**

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

LCD NRCS Staff Members: Debra Larson, Rod Webb

Others Present: Chad Alberg

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.

Call to order Jerry Kosin called the meeting to order 8:30 a.m.

Adopt Agenda Jim Ross, moved to adopt the agenda s printed, Don Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Approve July 23, 2009 Meeting Minutes Jim Ross moved to approve the minutes, Mel Pittman seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

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

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 Mark Biel was not present to provide a report.

Wildlife Damage Program Report Chad Alberg reported on the Wildlife Damage program and activities.

Discuss/take action on 2009 Wildlife Damage Program Budget modification - Venison donation line item M Pittman moved to approve the 2009 Wildlife Damage Program Budget Modification of \$13, 275.00, Jim Ross seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss/take action on 2009 USDA-NRCS contribution agreement R Webb outlined conditions of the USDA-NRCS contribution agreement with committee members. Dale Hines moved to accept a maximum amount of \$12,570, Don Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss/take action on cost share requests. Rod presented cost share requests for the Kinnickinnic Priority Watershed, for the County Cost Share and for EQIP and County projects which were compromised by the August 13th storm. Mel Pittman moved to approve county cost share projects not specific to nutrient management as well as 50% cost share rate for projects (County and EQIP) damaged specific to storm of 8/13/09. Motion was seconded by Dale Hines. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss/take action on 2010 Land Conservation Department budget Rod Webb reviewed the preliminary 2010 Land Conservation Department budget with committee members. Mel Pittman moved to approve the budget as presented and to apply contribution agreement dollars of \$12,570 to the personnel line item. Motion carried with all in favor. Mel Pittman requested that Rod Webb send LCC members an updated budget memo which indicates the redirection of dollars for capital outlay to personnel expenses and the percent of tax levy increase over 2009.

Director's Report Rod Webb reported on storm damage caused by the August 13th rain storm. He indicated he met at Polk County with other conservationists to discuss the Total Maximum Daily Load of the St. Croix River. He noted phosphorus budgets would be determined in the near future for the St. Croix River. He also reported the Farmland Preservation Program expired on June 29th and that the Working Lands Initiative Program is moving forward. Rod Webb noted Rick Remington of West Wisconsin Land Trust is interested in the conservation easement portion of the new program. Rod Webb reported the State Land and Water Conservation Association continues to struggle financially.

He also informed committee members the Land Conservation Department receives a dues request, annually, from River Country R C and D for \$150. LCC members suggested the Land Conservation Department continue to pay dues as well as request a report from R C and D appointee, Rich Purdy biannually. Rod Webb reported he followed up on an anonymous letter alerting department of a manure stack which had washed downstream in August's storm. Rod Webb indicated a contract has been forwarded to High Sierra for the Nugget Lake Warning System project. He noted there is a reduction in the original bid. LCC members recommended Rod Webb have the saving amount available when presenting to F and P and Financial Director. Finally Rod Webb invited LCC members to be a part of the Farm Tech Days Conservation Committee.

Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items. Committee's position on Nutrient Management funding for those under Exclusive Ag Zoning. Timeline on county responsibility for projects under construction. Research insurability of Acts of Nature. Consider promotion of "Energy Saving" plantings through the Pierce County Tree Program. Mail out information in regards to serving on the FTD Conservation Committee.

Discuss Next Meeting Place, Date and Time

September 24th, October 22nd, November 19th, December 17th.

Adjournment Ben Plunkett moved to adjourn, Jim Ross seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Pierce County Land Conservation Committee Meeting
September 24, 2009, 8:30 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

Chair J Kosin called 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. Dale Hines moved to approve agenda as printed, Don Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Approve August 27, 2009 Meeting Minutes. Don Rohl moved to approve meeting minutes as printed, Mel Pittman seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

UW Ag Agent Report. Greg Andrews reported Farm Safety days is scheduled for Wednesday, September 30th and Thursday, October 1st at the Pierce County Fairgrounds; the Pierce County dairy Banquet is scheduled for 7 p.m., Thursday, October 15th at the Elmwood Auditorium; the Farm Technology Days Fall Festival is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Sunday, October 18th at the Farm Technology Site; and the UW Extension 30th Anniversary is scheduled for Monday, August 2nd, 2010 at the Seyforth Building on the Pierce County Fairgrounds.

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

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

NRCS Report. Mark Biel reported the USDA NRCS fiscal year is coming to a close. EQIP contract money has been allocated to eligible contract holders. CSP application is underway as a statewide program and not watershed specific. The estimated range for annual payments for cropland is \$12 to \$22 per acre and pasture land is \$7 to \$14 per acre. However, he indicated the forestry portion of the application is a separate signup which will rank nationally. Each applicant is required to select an additional enhancement practice as part of the contract. Mark Biel indicated eligibility requirements for the program have been lowered and contracts will be awarded based on a ranking system. The application process takes anywhere from one to three hours. Pierce County and Chippewa County have received the most CSP applications to date. Mark Biel noted CSP will be similar to EQIP with a continuous signup and a designated batching and ranking cutoffs. Year-end audits and contract modifications for practices not completed in 2009 must be completed in 2010. Compliance reviews are complete. One operator was found in noncompliance—the area office will complete the noncompliance paperwork.

Discuss committee policy for cost sharing Nutrient Management Plans. Rod Webb reviewed LCC discussions on cost sharing for nutrient management plans and noted there is no policy in place at this time but recommended to consider formal action in regards to cost share distribution of nutrient management funds.

Discuss/take action on cost share requests. LCC members reviewed a cost share request for Nutrient Management in the town of River Falls. Mel Pittman moved to offer \$6 per acre and additionally requiring a nutrient management plan in place for a total of three years. Don Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss construction insurance on conservation practices. Rod Webb informed committee

members he had contacted several agents in the Ellsworth area and is awaiting responses.

Update on Working Lands Initiative. Rod Webb reported the Farmland Preservation Program sunset date was June 29th, 2009, and all Farmland Preservation Program Renewal agreements not signed by DATCP by such date were returned. The Wisconsin Working Land Initiative program will modernize the old Farmland Preservation Program to meet current challenges and enhance tax credits for farmers. Additionally the new program will establish Agricultural Enterprise Areas and develop Purchase of Agricultural Easement Matching Grant Program (PACE).

Director's Report. Rod Webb reported he was informed according to the Fish and Wildlife Service, Pine Creek is listed as one of the top streams in the United States for Brook Trout. He also discussed the Wisconsin Buffer Initiative and the benefits of conservation buffers. Rod Webb reported the Pierce County Speaking contest is scheduled for Thursday, October 22nd at 4:00 p.m. and invited LCC members to assist with judging speeches. The Area Speaking Contest and Business Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 29th at the Plaza Suites in Eau Claire. Rod also reported Nonpoint Rules as part of the NR151 Administrative Rule will be discussed at a meeting on September 30th. The WLWCA 56th Annual Conference "Cradle of Conservation" is scheduled for December 9-10th at the LaCrosse Center in LaCrosse. Registrations are due November 6th. The Nugget Lake Emergency Notification System installation will begin in October.

Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items.

Discuss Next Meeting Place, Date and Time. 8:30 a.m., Thursday, October 22nd, @ EOC Meeting Room.

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

Pierce County Land Conservation Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 22, 2009 8:30 a.m.
EOC Conference Room, Pierce County Courthouse Annex, 1st Floor
414 W Main Street, 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
Others Present: Chad Alberg, 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 presented

Call to order. Jerry Kosin called LCC meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Adopt Agenda. Dale Hines moved to adopt the agenda as printed, Jim Ross seconded, motion carried with all in favor.

Approve September 24th, 2009 Meeting Minutes. Jim Ross moved to approve the September 24th, 2009 meeting minutes as printed, Dale Hines seconded, motion carried with all in favor.

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

FSA Report. Linda Paul provided an agency report which included discussion in regards to commodity loans, farm storage loan interest rates, DCP Signup, MILC Payments, DCP and ACRE Payments, FSA Office Lease, and the new MILC program.

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

NRCS Report. Mark Biel provided an agency report which included discussion in regards to CSP signup. He reported approximately one-half of 57 applicants have met with staff a second time to enter application into the software. Pierce County ranks the highest for applications for the entire state of Wisconsin. Mark Biel noted NRCS staff from other field offices have been available to assist with landowner interviews. In addition to entering data into the software program, all CSP tracts will be digitized and mapped as well. Applications will be ranked nationwide and Pierce County will be allotted a designated amount of contract acres. Contracts will be funded accordingly. Incentive for cropland will be \$12 to \$22 dollars per acre. Mark Biel answered questions in regards to producer landowner control. The EQIP Local Work Group meet earlier this morning to discuss EQIP 2010 Program Guidelines

Discuss/take action on 2010 Wildlife Damage Program Budget. Chad Alberg presented the 2010 budget for LCC members to review and take action. Chad reported the budget increased \$276 for 2010. The budget includes costs for basic operations for the agency. Jim Ross moved to approve the Wildlife Life Damage Program Budget of \$23,077 for 2010, Don Rohl seconded, motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss/take action on Agreement with National Weather Service for weather data collection station at Nugget Lake. Rod Webb reported Jim Kleinhans has been in contact with the NWS in regards to a five-year cooperator agreement with Pierce County. An agreement with NWS would include the installation of a weather reporting station at Nugget Lake which would be tied into National Weather Gauging Stations and Meteorological Stations. In exchange for unrestricted data, Pierce county will be allowed to use NWS frequencies free of charge. The agreement may be revised, renewed, extended. Mel Pittman requested that Corporation Counsel review upon LCC stamp of approval. Mel Pittman moved to approve the agreement with the National Weather Service, Jim Ross seconded, motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss/take action on cost share requests. Rod Webb presented two cost share requests from Dennis Swanson and Kurt Nelson for Nutrient Management Planning with SEG funds. Rod Webb noted upon completion of the plan, the department allocates \$28 dollars per acre and the contract specifies that the landowner then agrees to complete a plan annually which is in accordance with WI statutory language. Mel Pittman moved to approve cost share, Don Rohl seconded, motion carried with all in favor. Rod Webb also reported the City of River Falls has applied for Kinnickinnic Priority Watershed funds for a lined waterway outlet for two grade stabilization structures that were built with Kinnickinnic Priority Watershed funds. He reported total cost estimate is \$2,500, with cost sharing not to exceed \$1,700. Rod Webb also presented a request from Jennifer Conde of River Falls for cost share assistance for a well abandonment within the Kinnickinnic Priority Watershed. The total cost of the project is \$400, with cost sharing not to exceed \$280.00. Mel Pittman moved to approve all three Kinnickinnic Priority Watershed requests, Don Rohl seconded, motion carried with all in favor. Rod Webb provided an update in regards to the 50% cost share

<p>allocation to repair a structure damaged by heavy rainfall on the Zimmer property. He noted Gerald Zimmer has passed away since the construction of the grade stabilization structure and daughter, Jerry Zimmer is now the landowner. Rod Webb noted contract obligation is not transferrable and since Jerry Zimmer has no contractual obligation to repair the structure she is not inclined to contribute 50% to repair the structure. Ben Plunkett requested the LCC revise contract language to transfer contractual responsibilities.</p>
<p>Discuss/take action on 2010 County Conservation Aids Grant. Rod Webb reported he had a discussion in regards to the County Conservation Aids Grant with John Sours, Trout Habitat Crew Leader with the Department of Natural Resources. John Sours recommended the committee authorize the allocation to assist in funding the Eau Galle Stream Project. The Conservation Aids Grant LCD allocation is \$1,647.00 per year with DNR offering a matching grant amount. Rod Webb noted The Elmwood rod & Gun Club and the Eau Galle Sportsman Club will each fund \$10,000 for the project, as well. Rod Webb reported John Sours will solicit other agencies for additional funding. Mel Pittman moved to approve funding the Eau Galle Stream Project with the Conservation Aids Grant, Jim Ross seconded, motion carried with all in favor.</p>
<p>Director's Report. Rod Webb reported construction season is winding down and several projects will not be completed this year on account of the weather and therefore will be carried over for the 2010 construction season. Rod Webb reported he is working with Land Management to develop a Construction Site Erosion Ordinance. He noted revisions will be brought to the LCC for review. Rod Webb reported he and Jim Kleinhans will be attending a Weather Station Data Collection training session on November 6th. Rod Webb reported all the PL566 structures have been mowed and maintained and woody vegetation has been addressed. He noted structures are inspected spring and fall. He indicated pipe separation will be addressed on the Bay City Structure in the near future and there is a non-lapsing account to fund the repair. Rod Webb also noted there is a landowner change on Plum Creek #19 and office staff has been in contact with the new owners. The WLWCA annual conference registration deadline is November 6th. Efforts are underway to keep the association viable. The WLWCA Annual Area Business Meeting and Speaking Contest is scheduled for Thursday, October 29th. Rod Webb noted he, along with Debra Larson, and the county contest winner and family will be attending the event. DATCP will be present to discuss the Working Lands Initiative Program. Mel Pittman requested if the LCD should respond to request for comments in regards to Land and Water Board strategic planning. Rod will review the deadline date, draft a letter and provide to Supervisors.</p>
<p>Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items</p>
<p>Discuss Next Meeting Place, Date and Time. November 19th, 8:30 a.m. County Highway Shop.</p>
<p>Adjournment Don Rohl moved to adjourn, Mel Pittman seconded, motion carried with all in favor.</p>

Pierce County Land Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 19, 2009 8:30 a.m.

**Pierce County Courthouse Highway Office Conference Room
621 Cairns Street, Ellsworth, WI**

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

LCD/NRCS Staff Members: Mark Biel, Debra Larson and Rod Webb

Others Present: Linda Paul, 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 presented

Call to order. Jerry Kosin called LCC meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Agenda. Don Rohl moved to approve the agenda. Dale Hines seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Approve October 22, 2009 Meeting Minutes. Dale Hines moved to approve the meeting minutes as printed, Don Rohl seconded, motion carried with all in favor.

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

FSA Report. Linda Paul provided an agency report which included discussion in regards to commodity loans, farm storage loan interest rates, DCP Signup, MILC Payments, DCP and ACRE Payments.

DNR Forestry Report. Gary Zielske provided an agency report which included discussion in regards to timber sales, the Managed Forest Law program, the Gypsy Moth Trapping Program, the West Wisconsin Woodland Owners Conference, and DNR Budget Constraints.

NRCS Report. Mark Biel provided an agency report which included discussion in regards to CSP signup. Mark reported office staff has met with CSP applicants to complete the application process. Efforts are underway to digitize and determine official CSP acres. Mark Biel reported several individuals at the state and area level continue to provide assistance. Mark Biel noted Land Conservation Staff has provided assistance with field verifications to validate the applications which have been submitted. In addition, the Ellsworth Field Office must meet deadlines to satisfy CSP audits for existing CSP contracts. Mark indicated he has communicated with his supervisor that additional staff assistance is needed. Mark reported that NRCS budget has been allocated for the 2010 fiscal year and it appears relatively solid with programs funding well nationwide. Mark reported he will be taking leave December 18, 2009 through January 8, 2010. Dennis Reimers from the Durand Field Office will be acting DC in Mark's absence.

Discuss/Take Action on cost share requests. Rod Webb presented two Kinnickinnic Priority Watershed cost share requests for LCC members to review. Rod noted Karen Voss of DNR authorized an extension of the two Kinnickinnic Watershed projects for 2010. The projects include grade stabilization structures for Randy Deiss (total cost \$10,000) and for Duane Johnson for a roof runoff structure (total cost \$3,200) Mel Pittman moved to approve the cost share requests, Don Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discuss/Take Action on Resolutions for WLWCA Conference. LCC members reviewed both resolutions for the WLWCA Conference. Mel Pittman moved to vote yes to Resolution #1 supporting legislation to require comprehensive well water testing prior to real estate transfers.

LCC members agreed to postpone action on Resolution #2 regarding whitetail deer herd management in Wisconsin until resolution arguments are presented at the conference.

Working Lands Initiative Update. Rod Webb reported that DATCP is requesting petitions for Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEA) to be filed by January 4, 2010. He noted five eligible farmers in a proposed AEA may file jointly. Rod noted although the Farmland Preservation Program has terminated, Farmland Preservation Program Participants--whose contracts have not expired, will be requested to (annually) certify that they are complying with soil and water conservation standards and approximately 74 letters have been mailed to participants for certifications. In addition, staff has made efforts to identify landowners who purchased land already enrolled in the program but have not transferred paperwork.

Director's Report. Rod Webb reported he has been working with Jim Kleinhans to complete the Nugget Lake Emergency Notification System. He reported High Sierra Inc. completed a radio path study and determined that a tower at the Spring Lake Township location was not necessary as signal transmitted from the stand pipe at the lake successfully. Rod Webb reported that the work he and Jim Kleinhans completed at the site has helped to eliminate cost as well to help both gain an understanding how the system works. Rod reported that he and Jim attended a weather station operation and flood warning system training in LaCrosse. He noted many systems, like Pierce County's, have been installed throughout the states. Rod Webb indicated Gary Lepak, of DNR, completed the final inspection of Plum Creek #19. Rod noted that the county will receive the final payment on the repair project that occurred in 2002. Finally, Rod noted that extension requests for LWRM cost share contracts, that were not completed this construction year, will be submitted to DATCP. This will allow landowners to complete the projects in 2010.

Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items. 2010 LWRM Work Plan and Cost Share Program Funding Priorities.

Discuss Next Meeting Place, Date and Time. Thursday, December 17th, Pierce County Highway Office Conference Room @ 8:30 a.m.

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

Pierce County Land Conservation Committee Meeting

Thursday, December 17, 2009 8:30 a.m.

Pierce County Highway Office Conference Room

621 Cairns Street, Ellsworth, WI 54011

#	Action	Presenter
	<p>Public Comment: Jim Ross thanked Rod Webb for his assistance at the WLWCA Annual Conference in LaCrosse and noted it proves what great people we have working for us.</p> <p>LCC Members Present: Jerry Kosin, Mel Pittman, Ben Plunkett, Don Rohl, Jim Ross. LCD/NRCS Staff Members Present: Mark Biel, Debra Larson and Rod Webb. Others Present: Linda Paul.</p>	
	<p>Call to order. Jerry Kosin Called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.</p>	
	<p>Adopt Agenda. Don Rohl moved to approve the agenda as printed. Jim Ross seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.</p>	
	<p>Approve November 19, 2009 Meeting Minutes. Don Rohl moved to approve the meeting minutes, Jim Ross seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.</p>	
	<p>Review 2010 LWRM Workplan. Rod Webb reviewed the 2010 LWRM Workplan with LCC members.</p>	
	<p>Discuss 2010 Cost Share Program Priorities. Rod Webb reviewed the Pierce County Land Conservation Committee Application and Certification for Cost Sharing with committee members. LCC members reviewed levels of cost sharing as well as practices eligible for cost sharing. Rod Webb will make modifications per discussion and bring before committee in January for action.</p>	
	<p>Discuss/Take Action on Cost Share Requests. Rod Webb noted he will present cost share requests at next months' meeting after all have been reviewed and ranked.</p>	
	<p>Discuss 2010 Preliminary Allocation Plan from DATCP. Rod Webb reviewed the preliminary plan with LCC members. In addition, Rod Webb reviewed the Land Conservation Department funding sources. LCC members directed Rod Webb to draft a letter to DATCP addressing the conservation allocation shortfalls on half of the Pierce County Land Conservation Committee.</p>	
	<p>Discuss/Take Action on Certification Requirements for NRCS Conservation Partners Pertaining to Freedom of Information Act. Ben Plunkett moved to authorize Rod Webb authority to certify LCD staff will act in accordance of the Freedom of Information Act. Jim Ross seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.</p>	
	<p>Discuss/Take Action on Supplemental Dues to WLWCA. Jim Ross presented a request to grant \$1,000 in supplemental funding to WLWCA. Jim Ross and Rod Webb duly noted Julian Zelazny is an effective voice for conservation at the legislative level and conservation departments have benefited significantly from his work with WLWCA. Jim Ross moved to authorize \$1,000 in supplemental funding to WLWCA. Don Rohl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.</p>	
	<p>Director's Report. Rod Webb and Jim Kleinhans reported the Nugget Lake Notification System is complete and the system is running properly. Rod Webb noted he is planning nutrient management planning training in January and a livestock producer meeting in February.</p>	
	<p>NRCS Report. Mark Biel provided a CSP update. He noted because 2009 CSP application process has been extended one month, staff was able to meet the CSP audit deadlines. Mark Biel</p>	

also noted only one CSP participant has requested an early payment. Mark Biel informed committee members he will be out of the office December 18, 2009 through January 8, 2010. District Conservationist, Dennis Reimers of the Durand Field Office will be assuming NRCS duties at the Ellsworth Field Office in Mark's absence.

FSA Report. Linda Paul was present to report on FSA programs and activities. In addition, Linda Paul noted Tim Colbenson was chosen to serve on the FSA County Committee. He will come on board in January. He will begin his duties in January 2010.

UWEX Ag Agent Report. Greg Andrews was not present to provide a report. Mel Pittman reported UW Extension Resource Agent Darien Simon has accepted a position in England and work at Pierce County commences December 21st. Mel Pittman also reported he and Greg Andrews traveled to Pepin County to promote Farm Tech Days 2010 and to recruit volunteers. Jim Ross reported the trams have been picked up and are in storage.

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

Discussion Regarding Future Agenda Items. Cost share application. Cost share requests

Discuss Next Meeting Place, Date and Time. 8:30 a.m., Thursday, January 28th, 2010, EOC Meeting Room.

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