

# BAYFIELD COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

March 14, 2008

*Present:* David Good- Chair, Marco Bichanich, Jim Beeksma, Kenneth (Bucky) Jardine, Loretta Skaj, Peter Tetzner

*Advisors:* Tom Cogger-NRCS

*Staff:* Butch Lobermeier, Ben Dufford, Stefania Strzalkowska

1) **Call to Order** by David Good, Chairman at 9 am

2) **Minutes** from December 14, 2007 LCC meeting were accepted with no changes. Motion by Marco Bichanich / Bucky Jardine. Motion carried.

3) **Public Comment** – no public attended.

4) **Update on Admin Asst position** – We are sorry to lose Jen, she did good work, but because of personal problems she had to resign. Mark mentioned two folks in-house interested in the position, and we have a few interested good potentials. We are limping along, as before but we are making it. We hope to have someone in that position by the first of April.

5) **CREP** Comprehensive Reserve Enhancement Program - Chuck Ledin, DNR Great Lakes guy, DNR not even party to contract is putting some pressure on Bayfield County and Kay MacKenzie, LCC of Douglas Co, to sign a new contract with the state and feds. Contract is between FSA, NRCS, DATCAP, and the counties. Bayfield Co finished 2<sup>nd</sup> contract Dec 31, 2007. However, if county does not amend the contract to extend the expiration date, landowners do not get paid (Jan 10, 2008 letter of Keith Foye, DATCP). Discussion followed relative to the program and Wash. D.C direction (no farm bill yet, therefore no program yet), and tree planting (if trees died . . . are we ever out of the project?), and follow-through (Whose responsibility follow-up? Carry through is happening via county, not federal agencies) and a step-by-step guide needed to get through all the program logistics. Lobermeier cited Foye's example of a "working" CREP program—Outagamie County with 18 contracts but only 6 property owners for a total of 80 acres. Plus, these contract focus around a drainage district so its not a typical CREP program. The true CREP program is to buffer streams in active farmland with riparian plantings. Bayfield has no active farmland in program—just planting trees—not a bad thing—but—not really how CREP is suppose to work. For LWCDs, CREP isn't mandatory, farmland preservation is; other programs we can pick and choose. In 2010 CREP could be made a state priority for eligible counties. At WALCE training, DATCAP said state priorities are not being met. Well—land and water management plans are locally driven—so the state needs to look at local priorities. Butch has a meeting with Chuck Ledine April 4<sup>th</sup>. Motion made to sign back up with CREP program with the intentions of finding out the exact expectations of the program. Motion by Bucky Jardine / Marco Bichanich. Motion Carried Butch will write a letter inquiring of their expectations.

6) **Groundwater Program** - professor of UW-Superior wants to do a study to test 200 randomly assigned wells and study source, chemical content, contaminants, etc. Match would be county time to advertise for the study (in the context of our work) and help select "random" samples. Prof is still looking for ear mark money from the feds. Isn't this information already available? Each time a well is drilled, the driller has to send geographic info to the state. Unfortunately, all this info is sitting in a box—no data base yet. Landowners may have reluctance to participate in public testing of wells because the data collected is available to the public. For instance, if a background chemical is found like arsenic, if owner wants to sell, he'll have to tell potential buyers. Right now, Douglas Co LCC is the grant support lead [Reference-Douglas Co Resolution]

**7) Nutrient management**-\$20,000 given to Bayfield (first had \$0 before Co Cons wrote letters). We did have it in 2007. Presently, can't use funds until July 1, and maybe not ever because of budget crisis in state—may pull these funds. Overall it is a good program—very cost effective as fertilizer is \$700-800 per ton these days. We need to apply for 2009 funding by April 15. Also need to set up training schedule—if only can handle/pay five producers—that's all we can do. River Alliance report—nutrient management is not working—still have phosphorus, green lakes, report says it like it is—the program is not working! DATCAP was livid about the report (not defending themselves) just mad. Unfortunately, after publication of report, DATCAP has not received any response from citizens or agencies. \$28 per acre is what the program pays landowners and once paid they need to stay in compliance. Discussion followed on who is to have a plan (owners or renters), how does one write a plan? Need a plan for spreading manure. People get paid to be compliant. This is the carrot for conservation practices. LWCD will work with state for this program, and will continue and try and get producers to make a plan. Discussion about phosphorous in lakes. Discussion of biofuels, crop management, soil management, tilling with tines, minimum till, the need to minimize energy putting the crop in (fuel for tiller).

**8) LWRM Plan** – the state Land and Water Board is considering a 5-10 year plan, now 3-5 yrs only. (Forestry has been 10 yrs, now 15) Lisa Schultz from the state to help—Butch would like to pare it down including only the things we do, not what all agencies do as is in the current plan. We can hire consultant or do it in-house. Committee believes we can do in-house because we have lots to pull from—as long as it is pared down. We don't have to start the plan until the state decides five or ten years. Due 2009 with filed extension.

**9) Conservation Report** – On file.

**10) Technicians Report** – On file.

Other news: LWCD will get more into well abandonment reclamation, hopefully people will sign up for it after a press release. It is good project all around.

Slow the Flow work, Ducks Unlimited applying for grant for wetland conservation for our projects! We are going to get the money because of the good work we have done in the past.

**11) AIS Coordinator Report** – handout –Comments from reviewers are favorable for the AIS Strategic Plan, overall it is being well-received by agencies and lake groups alike. Motion made to approve final Draft of plan. Bucky Jardine / Jim Beeksma, motion carried. Summary of networking, outreach and education successes.

**12) Wildlife Damage Program** – Dave not present – handouts – Discussion regarding the need to meet one' shooting permit harvest objective before receiving a damage claim.

**13) Agency Staff Reports** - Tom Cogger for Gary Haughn, NRCS- Every year there is more and more layers of paperwork required (cultural resources report, endangered species report) which increases the time it takes for us to get out in the field. Presently working on 26 project plans--fencing, well, orchard people with pest management, all engineering for these projects is complete. Most projects in Bayfield and Ashland counties. Recent grazing conference had 72 attendees, many beef producers. Trend now is more beef producers, less dairy. Tom Cogger works mostly with grazing. Property taxes is the driver for doing something with you lands. Discussion followed on conference topics and grazing in general in the county.

**14) Other business** – GELNEC—Great Lakes groupl Nexxt meeting on March 27<sup>th</sup> at Marinette at 9am. Discussion on what this group does? LCC does not really know about this organization other than what Kay has said in past 4-County LCC meetings. Participation means what? The County Con of Marinette Co called Butch and strongly suggested he be at the next meeting. Committee agreed Butch should go and see what the organization is all about and what is expected of our participation.

**15) Next meeting date:** Third Friday of the month, June 20, 2008.

**16) Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn, Bucky Jardine / Marco Bichanich, motion carried, 11:36 am.

# BAYFIELD COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

June 27, 2008

*Present:* Jim Beeksma, Marco Bichanich, Kenneth (Bucky) Jardine, Peter Tetzner

*Advisors:* None

*Staff:* Butch Lobermeier, Ben Dufford, Dave Schultz, Jennifer Schieman

*Absent:* David Good, Loretta Skaj, Stefania Strzalkowska

- 1) **Call to Order** by Jim Beeksma, Chairman at 9:05 am
- 2) **Minutes** from March 14, 2008 LCC meeting were accepted with no changes. *Motion* by Bichanich/Jardine - carried.
- 3) **Public Comment** – no public attended.
- 4) **Introduce LWCD Admin Asst position** – Jennifer Schierman was introduced. She began work in the LWCD on April 7, 2008.
- 5) **Appoint Representative & Alternate to Pri Ru Ta and NLWCA** – Marco Bichanich is current rep. for both and will remain. Peter Tetzner volunteered as an alternate. *Motion* to appoint Peter Tetzner as alternate representative for both Pri Ru Ta and NLWCA by Jardine/Bichanich - carried.
- 6) **Approve Farmland Preservation Applications (Roy & Johnson)** – Two (2) applications have been at this point – Ron Roy & Bill Johnson. Thirty have opted out of the 25 year program. The incentive is income tax credit based. *Motion* the LCC approves application made by Ron Roy to be sent for approval by County Board Jardine/Bichanich – carried. *Motion* the LCC approves application made by Bill Johnson to be sent for approval by County Board Bichanich/Tetzner – carried.
- 7) **Status Report: Lake Superior CREP** – The current agreement with CREP expires in September of 2008. Bayfield & Douglas Counties stood out & can be commended for standing firm regarding their wishes. Bucky asked if LWCD can find a qualified person for one (1) year and provide a living wage. The incentive is for the individual to make the position for him/herself. A meeting is scheduled for July 9, 2008 to work out details and go over necessary paperwork for new agreement. Chuck Ledine, DNR will be in attendance as well as Butch.
- 8) **LWRM Plan** – The plan has been extended from Dec. 31, 2008 to Dec. 31, 2009. The state Land and Water Board is considering a 10 year plan, instead of 3-5 yrs.
- 9) **2007 Annual Report** – The LWCD 2007 annual report was reviewed. *Motion* to accept the 2007 annual report as presented by Jardine/Bichanich– carried.

JUNE 27, 2008 MINUTES – continued:

**10) Conservation Report** – Daily log briefly describing activities is - on file.

Other news: Received a letter from Friends of the St. Croix Headwaters commending the Bony Lake project and Bayfield County's involvement. Also, stating Bayfield County is on the forefront of this whole lake project and others will be looking to us for guidelines. DNR will be taking underwater photos in Bony Lake of CWH areas that were recently introduced. These photos will be used to track animal usage from year to year. A brief update on DATCP was provided. Keeping up with zoning mitigations has been difficult. Both Planning & Zoning and DNR are referring many people to our dept. Using the administrative assistant for fieldwork may be something put in place to help with keeping up on site visits, plans. Basic understanding by dept. staff of the mitigation process will be put in place. West End Park project is not moving forward at this point after the April election. Camp went really well this year. One girl from Bayfield County attended using the \$100.00 scholarship available. Butch was educator/counselor of camp. He noted there was a lot of "kudos" given to Bayfield County for their good work. Stefania did a fantastic job on the AIS project presentation at the Upper St. Croix River Conference. Again, Bayfield County is on the forefront of this. Veteran intern began working on the Bony Lake project 06/23/08. The County does not pay for this position, the VA does. He will be working with Northland College students providing direction. It was also noted the Bayfield County parks, of which there are four (4) are in need of attention. Butch may pursue a \$3,000.00 Lake Grant to be used for funding a demo lake project (ie: Twin Bear). Working with auditor and working on finalizing the NAWCA grant.

**11) Technicians Report** – On file.

Other news: Cozy Corner project is the largest project for the year at this point. Provided detail in regard to the status of current projects. Seem to be on schedule for the most part, waiting on permitting for some, otherwise good to go. Met with Prof. Hoops and a grad student who would like to do some monitoring on North Fish Creek.

**12) AIS Coordinator Report** – *Motion* to table report to next meeting by Jardine/Bichanich– carried.

**13) Wildlife Damage Program** – Dave provided handouts (on file). Also, detail was provided regarding current projects

**14) Agency Staff Reports** - None

**15) Other business** – None

**16) Next meeting date:** Fourth Friday of the month – **September 26, 2008** @ 9:00 a.m.

**17) Adjourn:** *Motion* to adjourn, Bichanich / Jardine - carried, 11:42 am.

Respectfully Submitted:

This 11<sup>th</sup> day of JULY, 2008

Jennifer Schierman, LWCD Secretary

# BAYFIELD COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

September 19, 2008

*Present:* David Good, Jim Beeksma, Marco Bichanich, Bucky Jardine, Peter Tetzner (9:07-10:50)

*Absent:* Loretta Skaj

*Advisors:* Gary Haughn, Fred Strand

*Staff:* Butch Lobermeier, Ben Dufford, Stefania Strzalkowska, Dave Schultz and Jennifer Schierman

*Attendance:* Jim Brakken, Jane Anklan, Bob Mika, Chuck Campbell

- 1) **Call to Order** by David Good, Chairman at 9:00 am
- 2) **Minutes** from June 27, 2008 LCC meeting were accepted with no changes. **Motion** to approve June 27, 2008 minutes by *Bichanich / Beeksma* - carried.
- 3) **Public Comment** – no public attended.
- 4) **Agency Staff / Partners Reports:**
  - a) **Sign Operational Agreement with NRCS:**

**Gary Haughn** – LCC can sign agreement and it won't need to go before the County Board.  
**Motion** for LCC to sign agreement *Jardine / Beeksma* - carried.
  - b) **Reports & Updates**

**Bob Mika, Grazing Specialist** – Reported that WI is losing revenue to outside states in regard to agriculture. Bob talks with farmers and does site visits. MB – What is biggest concern? Bob – People have to want to be a part of the process. People are not “held” to plans and they don't have to continue. Partnership with NRCS comes into play here for cost-sharing.

**Fred Strand** – Reported on bear & deer population within WI. *Deer* population is mainly healthy. CWD & bovine TB is generally confined to lower part of the state. Northern 18 counties will be sampling (approx. 500) from car crashes or nuisance animals. Bayfield County has already met its goal of 250 heads collected. There is a moratorium on feeding/baiting. *Bear Mgmt:* There are 4 zones in WI, sub-zone A1 is now zone “D”. Survey being done by feeding tetracycline shows discoloration in the bones once the bear is harvested. We've found that our density is more populated than originally believed. Also reported that there are turkeys all over and the wolf population is doing well. They are removed from the endangered list.

**Mike Mylarvek** – Primarily involved with Whittelsey Creek Refuge work along with private landowners. Mike is willing to assist in writing grants to be submitted by county. Very appreciative of working relationship with county. Brook trout restoration began in 2003 and has gone very well. Program stocking will end next year. Two different genetics (phases) are introduced. Army Corp is studying flowage & sediment change from Whittelsey Creek to Lake Superior. Working toward BMP with other agencies. There is a need to put wood back into the system for better habitats.
- 11) **Technician Report:** Ben Dufford – on file. He passed around photos of recent projects, including Gilbaugh pond installation.
- 5) **Wildlife Damage Program:**
  - a) **2009 Budget** – Dave Schultz presented the 2009 WDA budget. It is also on file for review.  
**Motion** to approve 2009 WDA & Claims Program budget as presented by *Beeksma / Bichanich* - carried.
  - b) **Specialist Report** – Crop damage in 2008 was down due to lots of green vegetation in the forests.  
**Motion** to set deadline at 90% on claims by *Beeksma / Jardine* - carried.

**6) Status Report: Lake Superior CREP:**

a) **Contract Extension Amendment** – \$100,000 grant is good for 18 months (approx. July 2010). Deadline for agreement was September 1, 2008. \*Job Description: pilot project required by grant to report what work and what doesn't. **Motion** to approve proposed job description as presented by *Beeksma / Bichanich* - carried. \* If successful, grant can be re-issued to go again.

b) *Chuck Ledin Retirement*

**7) Wisconsin Land Trust Partnership:**

a) **Opportunity to protect Bark River Coaster Brook Trout** – Jane Anklan: There is a piece of property for sale (Bark River Rd – Herbster) adjacent to Bayfield County land. Property owners are interested in stewardship & coastal grants. They need assistance from government to pursue these grants that help with the coaster brook habitat. Chuck Campbell, Ducks Unlimited is very interested in the potential project and would like to support the efforts.

**8) Updating of the Land and Water Resource Management Plan:** Butch – The plan will be downsized a bit. It could be done “in house” if budget remains at \$6,000. More staffing time may be necessary – cannot use a consultant. Plan doesn't have to be as detailed, just needs to include Bayfield County. A better end product can be obtained.

**9) 2009 Budget:** Presented by Butch – Reports/Graph/Proposed '09 budget are on file. We're building a BIG program with a modest budget. Working toward grants and have fees for some of the services we provide. **Motion** to approve 2009 budget as presented 09/19/08 by *Jardine / Beeksma* - carried. Discussion: Some suggestions to increase \$\$\$ are attempting to obtain funds from grants for administrative fees; increase elective service fees. LWCD has received several grants which require resolutions that amend the 2008 budget. The grants don't affect the bottom line of the budget. **Motion** recommend resolutions (seven) to amend 2008 budget be presented to County board for approval by *Beeksma / Bichanich* - carried.

a) **Reimbursement of Expenses for Conservation Congress Delegates:** Jim Brakken – reported that each county has 5 elected delegates to congress (360 total). Delegates are required to attend an annual conference which out-of-pocket expenses are incurred. Can the County reimburse for these out-of-pocket expenses which are approximately \$500/ea.? Should LCC budget for this or go to the full county board? The amount requested is \$1,800 which can be reflected in the 2009 budget. **Motion** adopt amendment to include additional \$1,800 to LCC 2009 budget or another department budget line which would cover cost of Conservation Congress Delegate expense from Bayfield County by *Beeksma / Bichanich* - carried.

b) **Vehicle Status:** Butch – There is a Taurus that can be assigned to our department, other departments could use as well. The 2000 Ford pick-up is a fleet vehicle. There are recommended repairs of approx. \$600.00. The repairs should be made and paid for out of the fleet budget.

**10) Conservationist Report:** Butch – provided a hand-out of his daily schedule and is on file. Butch noted that Farmland Preservation continues – “we have approx. 5 to re-sign”. Currently, the LCC signs the agreement then goes to county board. This means waiting for quarterly meetings to move forward. Can Committee authorize LCC Chair or Vice-Chair to sign? **Motion** to authorize LCC Chair or Vice-Chair to sign Farmland Preservation contracts or renewal agreements to move on to full county board by *Beeksma / Bichanich* - carried.

**12) AIS Coordinator Report:** On file

**13) Other business as authorized by law:** Stefania recommended changing the logo currently used. Stefania and Jennifer will work on coming up with logo designs for next LCC meeting.

**14) Next meeting date:** Third Friday of the month – **December 19, 2008 @ 9:00 a.m. (E.O.C. Room)**

**15) Adjourn:** **Motion** to adjourn *Jardine / Beeksma* - carried, 12:28 pm.

# BAYFIELD COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

December 19, 2008

*Present:* David Good, Marco Bichanich, Bucky Jardine, Jim Beeksma (9:07)

*Staff:* Butch Lobermeier, Ben Dufford, Stefania Strzalkowska, Darienne McNamara, Dave Schultz and Jennifer Schierman

*Advisors:* None

*Attendance:* Ted Koehler, USFWS; Mark A-A, Cnty Admin.

*Absent:* Peter Tetzner, Loretta Skaj

1. Call to Order by David Good, Chairman at 9:05 am
2. Introduction of CREP Technician – Welcome Darienne McNamara
3. Minutes from September 19, 2008 LCC meeting accepted with no changes. **Motion** to approve September 19, 2008 minutes by *Jardine / Bichanich* - carried.
4. Public Comment – no public attended.
5. Agency Staff / Partners Reports: **TK** reported that he had surveyed 4 culverts with Ben & Butch the beginning of December. Interested in finding out status of new CREP position.
6. Wildlife Damage Program – **DS**
  - a) *Activity Report: on file*
  - b) *2008 Crop Prices Established: Motion* approve average rate for reimbursement as presented on 2008 crop price quotes for damage claims (Bayfield County) by *Jardine/Bichanich* – carried. The rate is determined by: bud/stem damage, tree maturity/not baring fruit
7. Lake Superior CREP: **DM** – Since beginning on Dec. 1, 2008 focus has been boiling the program down to make more understandable. Met with contacts from Federal and State agencies as well as other CREP folks for insight on the program. Learning the process and developing new marketing material to provide eligible landowners in our region specific to their property. GIS will be an effective tool in finding potential sites that are ideal for the program. Information will be provided to landowners in newspapers. Packets will be sent to 4-5 landowners already on file. Participants enrolled will be asked to spread information about the program via word of mouth. **BL** – reported that new CREP work station has been installed. Waiting for computer and phone.
8. Land and Water Resource Management Plan Update: **BL** – All necessary documentation has been received in order to proceed. A \$3,000 Coastal Mgmt. Grant has been applied for to cover printing/meeting and work will be done “in house”. Focus of plan will be what we do (funding, staffing, etc.) and emphasis on what works. Can plan be “trumped” by DATCP or DNR? Butch is confident the plan will prevail considering our involvement with landowners/agencies. Timeline of the plan is to review during LCC June '09 meeting for approval during LCC Dec. '09 meeting.
9. 2009 Fee Schedule for Services: *on file* – **BL** commented that rip rap seems to be a bigger issue causing confusion. Hopes that fee will help lessen confusion. Also, looking into different permitting process which would notify zoning and LWCD permits issued by DNR. **Motion** to adopt the fee schedule as presented by *Bichanich / Beeksma* – carried.
10. Vehicle Status Report: **BL** – The F150 pick-up is out of commission. We have been assigned a Chevy Impala that is sufficient for our department to use.
11. FPP Contract renewal (Dennis Peterson & Terry Peterson) **Motion** to approve renewal of FPP for Dennis Peterson & Terry Peterson by *Beeksma / Bichanich* – carried.
12. WLWCA Annual Conference Report: **BL** – Butch and Bucky attended the conference. Seemed noticeable that folks down state don't seem too interested in efforts in our region.

DECEMBER 19, 2008 MINUTES – continued:

13. LWCD Staff Reports: **Motion** approve cost-share extension request *Beeksma/Jardine* – carried.
- a) *Conservationist* – on File **BL**: Year end grant reimbursements are being requested and should be received the end of January or early February.
  - b) *Technician* – on File **BD**: We had a good construction season. The LWCD provided information on each project and does the technical work along with installation oversight.
  - c) *AIS Coordinator* – **SS**: A 6 month extension has been requested for the grant that ended this year. A different grant opportunity will be pursued that can use funds as match. A certificate of appreciation will be given to volunteers. Municipalities will receive a binder with valuable information to help make better decisions. WAL conference in March '09 will focus on AIS.
14. Other business as authorized by law – **MAA** mentioned that the relationship between Zoning & LWCD is very good and much appreciated and we should give ourselves a “pat on the back”. **SS & JS** mentioned that logo implementation should be done by a professional design company.
15. Next meeting date: *Tentatively* **Friday, March 13, 2009 @ 9:00 a.m. (E.O.C. Room)**
16. Adjourn: **Motion** to adjourn *Beeksma /Jardine* – carried: 11:36 am.