FARMLAND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
Thursday, June 19, 2014
County Administrative Building – Room 3220 – 3rd Floor
4:00 PM – 5:35 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tina Wehrs, Rolly Bogert, Keith Valiquette, Leon Pfaff, Tim Goodenough, Marlane Anderson
MEMBERS EXCUSED: John Lautz, Mike Weibel
MEMBERS ABSENT: None
STAFF & GUESTS: Charlie Handy, Gregg Stangl, Angel Much (Recorder)

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – Meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM by Tina Wehrs, Chair.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM August 15, 2013.
Motion by Bogert/Valiquette to approve minutes from August 15, 2013 Meeting.
6 Aye, 0 No, 2 Excused (Lautz, Weibel) – Motion Carried.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Committee members and staff went around and introduced themselves.

UPDATE OF COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES
Stangl gave a Power Point presentation on the committee’s role and responsibilities in reviewing enforcement of conservation compliance standards for Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) participants. Handy provided a hand-out taken from La Crosse County’s ordinance which outlined some of the information covered in the presentation (and shown below).

Committee will review the recommendations of staff, and make a recommendation to the PR&D Committee. These recommendations could include discussion of the following:
• Recommend issuing (or not) a Notice of non-compliance (NON) on an FPP participating applicant’s farmland;
• Providing a forum for the landowner to discuss his/her concerns with the potential NON; and
• Providing a formal appeal process on the potential NON to the landowner prior to the recommendation going before the PR&D Committee.

Handy distributed a list of the action items for 2013-2014 and briefly went over them. Discussion ensued. Handy advised that the FPC (Farmland Preservation Committee) typically meets quarterly the same night as County Board.

MANURE STORAGE ORDINANCE UPDATE
Handy advised that this item was on the agenda/discussed at the last Planning, Resources, & Development (PR&D) committee meeting (June 2nd). The purpose for the update is to get an understanding of the standards in the manure storage ordinance.

Stangl explained that the changes weren’t anything new in the ordinance other than the format. The intent was to make the ordinance (language) more “user-friendly”.

A (draft) copy of the ordinance with Corp. Counsel’s analysis will be emailed to committee members. Handy will inform the committee when the date for the public informational meeting is set if they want to attend.

NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANCE PROTOCOL FOR THE FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM
Stangl provided each committee member with a folder that had information and sample documents relating to the agenda item. Stangl explained the protocol, the sequence of events, and the notice letters that are sent if someone is non-compliant, and the steps taken to try and get them back into compliance. Stangl advised that participants may choose to voluntarily leave the program if they don’t want to rectify the violations.

Questions from the committee were answered by Stangl and Handy.
Handy advised that this would typically go before the FPC first but due to the significant environmental concerns at the site and in order to get a decision made, it was on the agenda at the last PR&D committee meeting. The PR&D committee did find the farm in non-compliance with the Farmland Preservation Program and a schedule and deadline to get back in compliance were established and agreed to by McHugh.

Stangl gave a brief presentation to the committee which showed pictures of the violations and areas of non-compliance around the site. Questions from the committee were answered by Stangl and Handy. Discussion followed regarding enforcement and other violations at the site involving the DNR and La Crosse County’s Erosion Control Ordinance.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND DATES
None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bogert/Valiquette to adjourn at 5:35 P.M.
6 Aye, 0 No, 2 Excused (Lautz, Weibel) – Motion Carried.

The above minutes may be approved, amended, or corrected at the next committee meeting.
Angel Much, Recorder