

Meeting Notes

(Approved, no changes, at 6 Mar 2017 mtg)

Town of Greenville

Land Stewardship/AEA Committee

Monday, 6 February 2017 (5:00 pm)

Greenville Town Hall

Present: Larry Bentle, Sally Bowers (guest), Dave Johnson, John Julius, Amber Laska (guest), Tim Menning, Zen Miller, Steve Nagy, Pete Schroeder, Jeff Steinacker and Dave Tebo,

(Next Mtg: Monday, 6 March 2017 at 5:00 pm, Town Hall)

1. Called to order. 5:04 pm.
2. Approval of 13 Dec 2016 meeting minutes. Draft minutes were approved as written (motion by Pete S., 2nd Steve N.).
3. Welcome Tim Menning to our committee. Thank you Tim and welcome aboard as a committee member.
4. Community Ag education. Status/what is next.

Welcome to our guests, Amber and Sally, representing the Hortonville Area School District (HASD). An all day educator workshop was held on 19 January at Hortonville High School. Dave Tebo was present for select workshop sessions representing Greenville's Greenbelt and AEA to pass along and receive information on possible areas that our committee and area residents might interact with HASD to promote Agribusiness to local students.

As a result of the workshop, Amber returned a list of topics developed by the educators for which they seek input from our committee and community members to supplement their class curriculums (ref. Attachment I). These topics were the focus of our discussions this evening and determine where we could best assist.

Sally related that elementary and middle schools have established small gardens with numerous students involved. Resulting produce is used in the cafeteria and is advertised school wide. This effort promotes "farm to school" and health and wellness at an early age. Various grants have been approved to support the program. A \$6,000 grant is being written and submitted for constructing hoop house gardens so gardening can be done all year around. Also, Craig Anderson is promoting composting for garden use by composting 80-100 lbs. of food waste/day from the cafeteria.

There were several local contacts mentioned that could be of assistance to HSAD educators related to their stated areas of interest. For example:

- **Field trips:** Zen Miller can do tours of dairy, beef, poultry or anything relating to the animal husbandry industry. Jeff Steinacker can arrange various tours of his crop agribusiness that can be specifically structured to a wide range of academic interests.
- **Adventures in Dairy Land Program:** Zen Miller.
- **Soil sampling:** Jeff Steinacker can demonstrate how to take soil samples that accurately represent the land area of interest (e.g. garden or farm field) and interpret the results in terms of what is needed for the soil to produce effectively. Also, the UW-Extension office has factsheet on how to take soil samples.
- **Soil analysis:** Contact the Outagamie County Land Conservation Office or the UW Extension Office to locate a laboratory that will conduct the soil analysis. A certified lab is key to have confidence in the analytical results.
- **Ag mechanics, welding, maintenance.** Jeff Steinacker and perhaps local implement dealers.
- **Garden, obtaining seeds and plants:** Anne Dobkoski at Community Gardens (a part of Goodwill).
- **Planting gardens:** same as above.
- **FFA Chapter information:** Contact Paul Larson at Freedom High school or Kevin Champeau.
- **Marketing and Agribusiness (Finance, Accounting & Math/Statistical Analysis):** Nile Beck, a retired Fox Valley Technical Center farm instructor.
- **Wetlands:** Land Conservation Department Outagamie County
- **Fertilization and weed control:** Kevin Jarek at UW Extension Office.
- **Land conservation projects:** For example, construction of waterways to minimize soil erosion by directing water runoff. Mathematically how is this calculated for the proper size and how to then construct it? This spring Larry Bentle will construct a waterway in conjunction with Land Conservation Dept. A student(s) could job shadow to see how/why it is done.
- **GMO crops:** Larry Bentle.
- **Open land protection.** John Julius. Local environmental conservation topics can be researched and presented to students to heighten awareness in saving our local open land resources. The purpose to conserve open farmland and/or large green spaces for future generations.

Interest topics.

- “Breakfast on the Farm” is 2nd Sunday in June on the Steve Voight dairy farm, Shiocton, WI.
- UW Madison received the Middleton, WI laboratories from Monsanto Co. This reportedly includes the buildings and all the Ag seed research, state-of-the-art, lab instrumentation. Perhaps a tour of this facility could be arranged for science students.

Where to go from here?

1. Kristine Jackson will meet with Jeff &/or Loren Steinacker to learn soil sample techniques, its importance and perhaps also water testing. Zen mentioned UW soil testing labs could be used located in Marshfield and Bonduel.
 2. Sally suggested setting up a possible tour for 3rd – 8th graders; details to be determined.
 3. With proper notice it might be possible to arrange a tour of the Univ. of Wisconsin Research Farms located in Arlington, WI.
5. AEA signage opportunities. Review/choose. Attached with the agenda for this meeting was an electronic file containing 19 proposed sign styles for AEA landowner participants. These signs to be put up on their property next to the road right-of-way. We reviewed the proposed signs and choose two, one for its color (dark green with black lettering) and the other for its overall design and written content. These were #18 and #17, respectively, of that file. It was suggested to find a sign-design firm to combine the two into an acceptable sign (to then be approved by our committee) and give a cost proposal. John suggested Bob Marks, a local sign firm. Dave mentioned Intelcom. Larry will continue development work and get proposals. Zen suggested the possibility of designing an AEA logo to place on the sign. This suggestion bears some further thought.
6. Greenville Land Stewardship Committee Plan (dtd Dec 2011). Discussion.
- Existing goals, objectives & strategies. Still pertinent?
 - Determine how to update goals where appropriate.
 - We were running out of time for this topic. It was suggested that Larry and Eric get together to work on Greenbelt goals and objectives and present a proposal to review at a future meeting.
 - How to get residents of the Town more knowledgeable of our Greenbelt and AEA? Zen searched the Greenville website and suggested to upgrade it so the AEA was more prominent and easier to find. Also, build a Facebook page. *Perhaps this is a*

project that a few HSAD students would be willing to take on this challenge as part of an IT class?

7. Adjournment. Dave made a motion to adjourn, Tim 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Parking lot of topics for future meeting(s):

- a) PDR (Purchase of Development Rights) and TDR (Transfer of Development Rights).
- b) AEA tax credits.
- c) Committee membership.

HASD Areas of Interest Related to Agriculture

The following is a list of the topics developed by HASD educators, of which they would like to develop ways to connect more with community members. In addition, they would appreciate a list of farmer information regarding tour opportunities.

- Field trips
- Job shadowing
- Soil testing
- Garden (getting seeds and plants)
- Planting
- Land for school use
- Internship opportunities
- FFA club
- Ag mechanics
- Welding
- Maintenance
- Marketing/AG Business
- Finance/Accounting
- Community Service
- Yielding numbers/Math Concepts
- Wetlands
- Fertilization
- Organic Farming
- Weed Control
- Summer School Class (enrichment)