BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Brown County

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LAND CONSERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE
Norb Dantinne, Chair
Dave Kaster, Vice Chair
Bernie Erickson, Mike Fleck, Dan Haefs, Norbert Vande Hei(FSA)

LAND CONSERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE
Monday, September 28, 2009
Approx. 6:30 p.m. – Please Note Below Info.
Room 161, UW-Extension
1150 Bellevue Street

Land Conservation Committee Fall Tour

The Land Conservation Subcommittee Meeting will be preceded by
A tour of the Mike and Sandy Zirbel Farm that will be focusing on
Wind Turbines and **Animal Waste Dewatering equipment.**
5:00 pm leave Land and Water Conservation Department
5:30 pm arrive at Mike and Sandy Zirbel Farm, 6013 Morrison Rd., DePere
5:30 – 6:00 pm presentations by Mike and Sandy Zirbel
6:00 pm leave Zirbel Farm
6:30 pm arrive back at Land and Water Conservation Department/
Ag and Extension Service Center

I. Call meeting to order.
II. Approve/modify agenda.
III. Approve/modify minutes of Land Conversation Subcommittee of August 24, 2009.

1. Update on Animal Waste Storage Permit for N.E.W. Organic Digestion, LLC, 6601 County Road R, Denmark, Wisconsin (attachment: N.E.W. waste storage permit alterations)

2. Land and Water Conservation Dept Monthly Budget Update (to be provided at mtg)

3. Update 50 cent per Ag Acre Fee.

4. 2010 Pre-Budget Information.

5. Farm Bureau/ Land and Water Conservation Department Recognition of Agriculture producers who have done outstanding Conservation work. Conservation Farmer of the year award: Brightside Dairy of Greenleaf, WI, Conrad & Lisa Liebergen; Conservation Innovation Award - Wiese Brothers, Greenleaf.

6. Director's report.

7. Such other matters as authorized by law.

Norb Dantinne, Chair

Notice is hereby given that action by the Committee may be taken on any of the items which are described or listed in this agenda.

Please take notice that it is possible additional members of the Board of Supervisors may attend this meeting, resulting in a majority or quorum of the Board of Supervisors. This may constitute a meeting of the Board of Supervisors for purposes of discussion and information gathering relative to this agenda.

-----Original Message-----
From: Reichardt, Rick N - DNR [mailto:Rick.Reichardt@wisconsin.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2009 5:00 PM
To: Keuning, Jennifer
Cc: Wetenkamp_DL; Lemke_PA; Tewes, Tom A - DNR; Mugan, Tom J - DNR
Subject: N.E.W. Digester project

Jennifer,

As we discussed on 9/15, I'm sending the attached to outline my concerns on the proposed storage lagoon for the subject project. In general, the deeper I dig into this project and discuss various aspects with other DNR and County staff; the more I'm finding that the proposed site is questionable. If you have questions on the attached or wish to discuss, please contact me.

* Rick Reichardt
Environmental Engineer
Wastewater Section
Bureau of Watershed Management
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
(*) phone: 608-267-7894
(*) fax: 608-267-2800

N.E.W. Digester Project Comments
9/17/09

Concerns

- Several of the soil borings encountered saturated lenses of soil. This was attributed to perched groundwater on the site. For construction of the storage pond the Geotechnical Summary prepared by Hassan Gilani states that after dewatering, excavation should be extended to below the water bearing layer and this layer should be removed entirely vertically and horizontally. There is additional discussion on what should be done if groundwater seepage continues from this layer. Considering the proximity of the proposed lagoon to wetlands, it is likely there will be significant and possibly continual flow from this layer. This may even result in impacts to the wetland.
- The soil borings indicate the potential for artesian pressure under lower confining clay layers. Once upper soil layers are removed the artesian pressure may cause heave of the lower soil layers. Mr. Gilani recommended that during construction a test pit investigation be conducted. He suggests digging the pit down to the elevation of the lagoon bottom and gradually expanding the pit. If heave conditions occur he states that excavation should stop and CRA be notified. I can't approve such an "after the fact" site evaluation.
- The digester building and digester are proposed to be constructed 20 feet below grade. The soil borings show groundwater at this depth. Pressure caused by the groundwater could result in concrete buckling. It is not clear why it is proposed to construct the digester below grade, and particularly to such a depth.
- I am particularly concerned with the revised lagoon location that I received September 11th, as the groundwater is higher relative to the lagoon bottom than the previous location. Additionally, it is closer to the existing wetland area.

Follow-up

To justify the proposed locations the following should be provided:

- Test pits in the bottom of the lagoon(s) and digester locations. Three pits should be dug in each of the lagoons that you wish to pursue and one pit should be dug at the digester location. The pits should be dug to at least 10 feet below the proposed bottom of the structure or to groundwater. A report summarizing the findings of the pits shall be submitted. The information from the test pits will be used to further evaluate the groundwater seepage and heave conditions. (The appropriate safety precautions should be taken when constructing the pits.)
- Information regarding impacts on wetlands should be provided for the newer proposed location.
- Strong consideration should be given to raising the proposed elevation of the lagoon and digester bottoms.
- As an alternative to a large concrete storage lagoon, installation of 2 large above-ground glass-lined steel tanks may be more appropriate. These tanks would eliminate concerns over groundwater issues. Tanks could also be more easily retrofitted with odor control systems, if necessary.

Brightside Dairy name 2009 Conservation Farmer of Year by Brown County Farm Bureau

Brown County Farm Bureau is pleased to announce the winner of the 2009 Conservation Farmer of the Year award to Brightside Dairy of Greenleaf, WI. Brightside Dairy is under the ownership and management of **Conrad & Lisa Liebergen**. Conrad and Lisa have 4 children Rebeca, Brian, Gregory, and Theresa. Within the past couple of years their oldest two children have returned to the Dairy and are looking to become the fourth generation operators of this third generation farm.

In 1919, Conrad's grandparents (Henry & Elizabeth), purchased this farm. In 1955 Henry's son Clayton and his wife Lois Liebergen purchased this operation. For 43 years Clayton and Lois ran the farm until Conrad and Lisa purchased it in 1998.

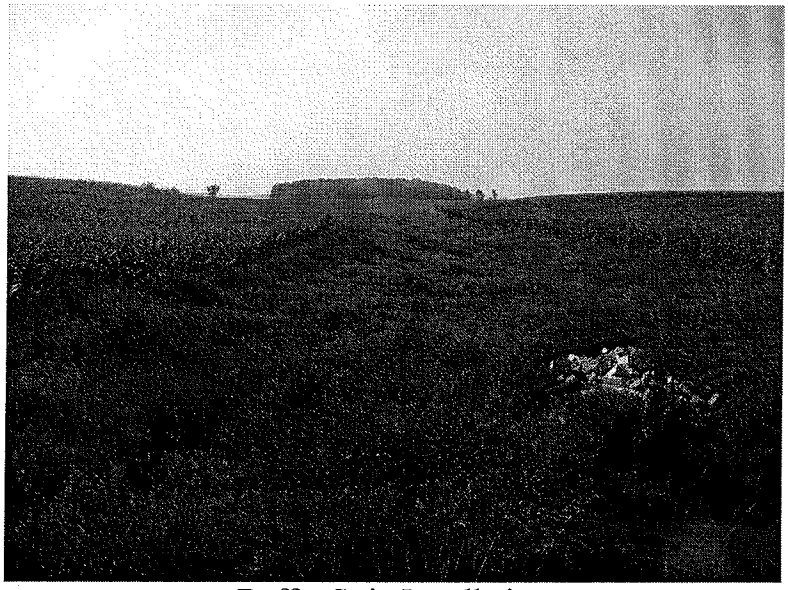
In 2000, Conrad and Lisa decided to take the bold step of expanding the operation by building a double 12 parlor and a new freestall barn. Currently, the operation is milking approx. 360 dairy cows and is operating 900 acres with 400 acres owned. This is no small task by any stretch of the imagination.

With the expansion of the dairy in 2000, the Liebergens took a series of steps to protect the environment and community by doing a nutrient management plan; (with the assistance of Diane Ott an agronomist with Country Visions Cooperative), establishing 1.7 miles of buffers along a series of perennial streams that meander through the Liebergen homestead, establishing grass on concentrated flow channels in all their fields and implementing many no-till and conservation tillage practices to minimize runoff into Plum Creek. The Liebergen family truly understands the concept of; "if you take care of the land it will take care of you."

Farm Bureau of Brown County is proud to present the 2009 Conservation Farmer of the Year Award to Conrad and Lisa Liebergen.

Brightside Dairy

Buffer Strip installation



Buffer Strip Installation

Wiese Brothers named 2009 Conservation Innovation Award by Farm Bureau

Brown County Farm Bureau is pleased to announce the winner of the 2009 Conservation Innovation Farmer Award. Located in the town of Wrightstown, Wiese Brothers Partnership was formed in 1982 when the Weise brothers purchased their parents 1200 acre cash cropping operation. Since then the operation has expanded to include over 5200 acres of cropland and a milking facility.

In 1995 a parlor and barns were constructed and cows were being milked for the first time at the facility. Today over 2300 cows are being milked 3 times a day and an additional 2000 heifers are being raised. To deal with all the waste being generated from such a large operation, several manure pits were built with some funding coming through the East River Priority Watershed and the Branch River Priority Watershed. As their operation continued to grow, land to spread the waste from the pits was becoming harder to secure and in 2003 construction began on a manure combustor. The current operator, Eco-Combustion Energy Systems in partnership with Wiese Brothers, operates the incinerator which dehydrates the manure then burns the dry material which produces steam that powers a large turbine. The turbine generates electricity that is sold to WPS.

In 1966 the Wiese family founded Fox Valley Alfalfa Mill in Hilbert, WI. The mill purchases 15,000 tons of hay annually within 150 miles and turns the hay into alfalfa pellets which is sold as feed.

Fox Valley Transport L.L.C., which is also owned by the Wiese family, is a trucking company that has 25 semi trucks which not only hauls all the feed and milk for the dairy operation and harvests all crops it also contracts to haul other commodities nationwide.

All of the Wieses' business enterprises compliment and support each other and all aspects of the partnership. Current business owners include **Mark, Ken and Dave Wiese**.

According to the Brown County Land and Water Conservation Department, the Wiese brothers have actively participated in several watershed programs since the 1990's and have installed or implemented such conservation practices as reduced tillage, cover crop, waterways, grassed buffers, and nutrient management.