

Members Present: Todd Rothe, George Bussey, Richard Ketring, Naomi Tillison, Riley Jolma and Charles Ortman

Members Excused: Courtney Remacle, Todd Berweger and Caryl Peck

Others Present: Jason Fischbach, Tom Fratt, Jeff Beirl, Amy Tromberg, Sara Chase report with the Ashland Daily Press, and 2 others who did not sign in

Call to Order: Ortman called the meeting to order at 12:04pm

Introductions

Tom Fratt is the Ashland County Land Conservationist, he has been with Ashland County since 2003 in various Land and Water Conservation Department roles. Jason Fischbach is the Agricultural Agent with UW-Extension Ashland and Bayfield Counties he is here to provide information and facilitate discussion. George Bussey lives in the Town of White River, his Father was a soil and water conservationist, he is a finance professional and registered nurse. Charlie Ortman is on the Ashland County Board, on the Land Conversation Committee (LCC) and Chair of the Ag & Extension Committee, he is willing to be the chair of this work group as the LCC will have to move any ordinances through to the County Board. He has experience with the passed mining ordinance and work on the Ashland County Comprehensive Plan and Farmland Preservation Plan which was passed last year. His goal is to protect land and water. Richard Ketring, is a business owner in the city of Ashland, he has lived here full time for 25+ years, on and off for a total of 40 years. Ketring is on the Ashland City Council, and a member of city's Source Water Plan Protection Committee. Riley Jolma, is a dairy farmer in Marengo, working with parents for 7 years, started a partnership and took over last year. Naomi Tillison is the Natural Resource Director for the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, she has worked with the tribe since 2007, first as the Water Resources Specialist and recently as the director after the past director retired. Todd Rothe is a small diverse vegetable and livestock farmer outside of Sanborn, he has lived here for 20 years, in his childhood he was the neighborhood dairy farm hand. Fratt and Ortman shared that Caryl Peck is a dairy farmer near Highbridge and a Land Conservation Committee (LCC) member. Courtney Remacle is a member at large. Todd Berweger is a dairy farmer off Highway 112 near Sanborn.

Agenda Items

1. Advisory Group Process

Appointment of Chairperson

- Ketring moved to nominate Charles Ortman as chair. Rothe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Work Group Process, Logistics, Scope of Work

- Fratt and Fischbach presented the [draft scope of work and timeline](#). This formal work group will be tasked to review ordinances and make recommendations to LCC,

who then would take action and if approved bring to the full Ashland County Board. Ortman noted that this charge was laid out in the Ashland County Comprehensive Plan.

- Fischbach walked committee through scope of work including overview of Ashland County agriculture and natural resource issues potentially affected by agriculture, Federal, state and county level regulations, and additional ordinances that other counties have adopted. Goal is then to present any ordinances to the LCC in mid-August and if passed they would be taken to the county board and public hearing.
- Committee reviewed and discussed draft scope of work and timeline. Ortman said that this is a county committee, we have 3.5 month timeline to put together recommendations for agricultural ordinances. Bussey would like to add Iron and Douglas Counties to examples of ordinances under the proposed third meeting. Tillison would like to add what other counties have done on the topics for the second meeting, Fischbach added examples of Douglas, Bayfield and Iron Counties to the scope of work.
- Ketring made a motion to accept Scope of Work as modified. Bussey seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Scheduling / Timeline

- Recommend meeting about every two weeks. Discussion regarding scheduling, preference to Thursday afternoons, Fratt will send out a Doodle Poll for afternoon meeting times.
- Meeting dates: Thursday, June 22nd; Fratt cannot meet on Thursday July 13th, so move to Tuesday, July 11th at a later time for Naomi; Thursday, July 27th; and Thursday, August 10th.
- LCC meeting likely set for August 11th or 18th, Fratt would like advisory group members there if available but this will be scheduled by others.
- Farm tour options include Dairy Days this Sunday, June 11th at the Deer Creek Anderson farm or schedule with Fischbach and Jolma regarding 2 or 3 people afternoon farm tours. Rothe, Bussey, Ketring and Tillison would be interested in a farm tour, Fischbach will confirm times by email.

Form of Public Input

- Fratt is in charge of keeping public records. Suggestion to have written public comment cards so that people could hand in written comments on topic of meeting. Handed out [comment sheet](#) for today for public input.
- With open meetings law and open records advisors and support staff assured committee that agendas are posted, and that agendas and approved minutes will be posted on the Ashland County website. Ortman would like public input, at three minutes each, but also needs meetings to stay on track.
- Bussey moved to have a public input comment period at the Thursday, July 27th meeting and accept written public comments at any of our meetings. Ketring seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. Ashland County Agricultural and Natural Resources Overview

- Fischbach presented a [34 slide PowerPoint with an Overview of Agriculture and Natural Resources in Ashland County](#). Fratt noted that forestry also counts as agriculture land. Agriculture in Ashland County is still dominated by dairy farms; currently best knowledge is 12 dairy farms in Ashland County. Fischbach clarified that BMP stands for Best Management Practices. See PowerPoint for maps, charts, Primary Resource Concerns from Agricultural Operations, and summary.
- 3. **Wisconsin Agricultural Regulations and Protection of Natural Resources**
 - Move to next meeting
- 4. **Introduction of Draft “Ashland County Agricultural Performance Standards and Animal Waste Storage Ordinance”**
 - Move to next meeting
- 5. **Next Steps**
 - Comment made that we are running out of time today, move other two agenda items to next meeting. Fratt asked committee to review three handouts as homework: Wisconsin’s Runoff Rules, Draft Ashland County Agricultural Performance Standards and Animal Waste Storage Ordinance from a state template, and [Chapter NR 151 Runoff Management](#) from the Department of Natural Resources.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned by Ortman at 2:11pm

Respectfully submitted by Amy Tromberg
Office Assistant, UW-Extension Ashland County