

Targeting Working Lands and Operations  
Calumet County Pilot Project  
Meeting 1 Notes, March 5, 2008, 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

**Attendance:** Doug Miskowiak, Mary Kohrell, Kenn Buelow, Mike Hofberger, Dena Mleziva, Deb Reinhart-Geiser, Joe Sprangers, Doug Thiel, Lylas Tremble, Dale Voskuil, Don Waldvogel.

Unable to attend: Eugene McLeod, Rose Moehn

### **Introductions**

Mary Kohrell, Calumet County UW Extension, and Doug Miskowiak, UW Stevens Point/UW Extension Center for Land Use Education welcomed participants and briefly described the meeting. Participants self-introduced.

### **Description/Background**

Miskowiak described the project, indicating that he intends the project to test and refine a LESA/GIS protocol; provide resources to Calumet County partners; develop appropriate educational materials; and provide a model that can be implemented statewide. Further information about the project is available in Miskowiak's Powerpoint presentation which is available upon request from the Calumet County UW Extension office. Information, presentations, and other project materials will be available on the project website: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/landcenter/workinglands>.

### **Decision-Making Procedures**

Kohrell lead the group in discussion of what type of decision-making process they wish to utilize in this process. The group decided that a quorum will consist of those committee members present at any given meeting. Staff (Miskowiak, Kohrell, Mleziva, McLeod) are advisory and are not considered voting members. The public is welcome to attend meetings, but will not have a vote. They determined the following decision-making preferences, in the order listed:

- Decision by consensus whenever possible;
- Utilize a yes/no vote when consensus is not practical; a 2/3 affirmative vote is required to carry an issue;
- If more than a yes/no option is necessary, the scale of agreement will be used to determine member's range of opinions on an issue.

### **LESA and GIS Education**

Miskowiak utilized a Powerpoint presentation to help members understand these tools. A copy is available upon request from the UWEX office.

### **Purpose for LESA**

Using a nominal group process, committee members brainstormed their individual purposes for using LESA. This list included the following suggestions:

- Determine conservation easement areas
- Purchase of development rights to preserve farmland
- Define operations under threat of development

- Locate farms in environmentally sensitive areas
- Core farmlands
- Threatened farmlands
- Preserve cropland
- Determine lands appropriate for nutrient application
- Inform zoning ordinance applications
- Determine where to site future dairies
- Assess and evaluate whether zoning is a good tool for an area
- Preserve environmentally sensitive areas
- Preserve working lands (PDR)
- Preservation of groundwater recharge areas

Miskowiak shared his ideas on three possible themes that seem to link all of the issues listed which could be used in zoning or purchase of development rights programs:

1. Identification of core farmlands – large contiguous areas of good farmland
2. Identification of threatened farmlands
3. Identification of environmentally sensitive farmlands or areas

Miskowiak requested participants to consider these themes and come prepared to discuss and refine them at the next meeting. Miskowiak stated that it is preferred to have a tool, such as PDR, in mind when developing a LESA system, so that LESA can be tailored to that tool. The county might be considering, but has not yet developed these tools.

### **Future Meetings**

Committee meetings will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, from 4:30 to 7:00 pm unless it is determined that a schedule change is required. Future meeting dates are:

April 9

May 14

June 11

July 9

August 13

Sept. 10

Oct. 8