

MINUTES
Clark County Land Conservation Committee
Tuesday, May 24, 2016, 9:30 am
Courthouse Auditorium

Committee Members Present: Don Koerner, Bryce Luchterhand, Judy Lonning, and Chairman Fritz Garbisch. A quorum of the Committee was present.

Committee Members Absent: Rick Opelt

Others Present: Jane Reigel – NRCS District Conservationist, Shelby Niskanen – FSA Prog. Technician, Jim Arch - County Conservationist, Sheri Denowski – Conservation Engineer, Shirley Iwanski - Office Assistant.

1. Fritz G. called the meeting to order at 9:34 am.
2. Roll call was taken.
3. Review of last month's minutes. Bryce L. made the motion to approve last month's minutes. Seconded by Don K. All ayes. Motion carried.
4. Review of last month's vouchers. Don K. made the motion to approve last month's vouchers. Seconded by Bryce L. All ayes. Motion carried.

5. **USDA Agency Reports**

NRCS

- I. Jane R. reported cover crop sign-up deadline is the first week of June. There is 20,000 acres in active contracts. CREP is continuing to re-enroll. Jane offered to hold a wetlands class at the next LCC meeting. The committee agreed there are landowners farming on wetlands and a class with guidance to determine wetlands would be helpful.
- II. Fritz asked if there were any incentives for allowing clover to flower. Jane explained the pollinator program.

FSA

- I. Shelby N. reported that the ILC program was doing better. Margin Protection Program (MPP) is paying a \$7 to \$8 margin.
- II. Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is available to improve water quality, wildlife habitat and preventing erosion. The Pollinator Program is part of CRP. Planting includes 9 species and includes different seeds depending on soil conditions, etc.

6. **Public Comment.**

No public comment.

7. Land Conservation Department Report and Update

- I. Wisconsin Land and water conservation Association
 - a. Our own Jim Arch was featured in an article of the Wisconsin Land+Water Association May newsletter. Judy and Bryce asked to be added to the list of those who receive the newsletter. Shirley will sign them up.
- II. Sportsman Lake Recreational Area and Wildlife Refuge
 - a. boardwalk recommendations – Jim A. reported that based on a survey it was recommended that a boardwalk not be installed. A gravel based walkway was suggested instead. The gravel based walkway would qualify as handicap accessible. The temporary boardwalk needs to be removed.
 - b. Dam Inspection – Jim A. reported that the brush needs to be cut back from the berm. Don K. mentioned that the berm cannot be mowed until August after nesting birds are gone. Jim also noted that rodents are burrowing into dike and they need to be trapped..
- III. Animal Manure Management Update.
 - a. Jim A. reported that the landowner of an illegal manure pit was sent a letter stating that they have 60 days from May 1st to either get an engineer to sign-off on the pit or the pit must be emptied and filled in,
 - b. Sheri D. reported that a grass waterway seeded last fall had washed away and the Land Con department would be seeding and mulching the area again.

8. Eric Anderson – Farmland Preservation Plan

- I. Presented a proposal to complete the Farmland Preservation Plan.
 - a. Eric stated the last plan was done in 1982 and plan requirements have changed since then. He referred to the DATCP Guide for Developing County Farmland Preservation Plans. The statutory requirements now need to include population and housing growth, Ag resources and land use, economic growth, utilities and infrastructure, etc.
 - b. Mapping would be done by the Planning and Zoning Depart.
 - c. Eric outlined what a basic plan would include for a cost of \$18,500.
 - d. Additional options could be included for surveys, public open house and developing a Land Evaluation Site Assessment (LESA) System.
 - e. Eric explained LESA is a two-part scoring system for farms based on soil type, zoning, where the farm is located, etc. Bryce stated that in order for Clark County farms to be eligible for the Farmland Preservation Program, they must be in an Ag Enterprise Zone, so the LESA system is not necessary.
 - f. Bryce supported the proposal for the basic plan but does not feel any of the extras are needed. Fritz said to discuss the proposal with the Finance Committee and add as an action item to the next meeting agenda.

9. No-Till Drill

- i. Jim A. proposed that the department purchase a no-till drill to promote no-till planting in the county. It could be rented for \$10 to \$12 per acre. Parks & Forestry Department has shown an interest in using the no-till drill for wildlife plots. Jim recommends a 10 foot drill so it can be pulled behind a pickup truck and no special equipment would be needed to transport the drill. A used drill would cost from \$9,000 to \$10,000. A new drill would
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be \$25,000 to \$30,000. Bryce questioned what fund the money would come from. Fritz suggested Jim A. present a proposal to the Land Con Committee and Finance Committee for the purchase of the drill.

10. Envirothon

- i. Don asked if the Committee would be interested in making a donation to the Wisconsin Land+Water Youth Education Committee for youth education and Envirothon. Fritz said he would rather see money go to sponsoring a student in Clark County to attend conservation camp.

11. Budget Items

- i. Budget for lodging is already over spent from the Wisconsin Land+Water annual conference. Committee discussed moving funds from another area for lodging.
- ii. Sheri D. needs a new computer. Jim A. will talk to Terri D. regarding these budget issues.

12. Cost Share Guidelines

- i. Sheri D. mentioned Cost Share funds for AMMO and SWRM are currently awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. Does the committee have directions for other considerations to determine who gets the cost share funding. Fritz suggested that waterways are more important than a manure pit. He would rather see money go for environmental reasons. Bryce wants to add this to the next meeting to discuss further. Sheri stated we have not used up the money for the year as yet. Fritz said the Committee would like to see each month where cost share is going.

13. Next Meeting Date

The next Land Conservation Committee Meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 24, 2016 at 9:30 am in the Clark County Courthouse Auditorium.

- 14.** Bryce L. made the motion to adjourn at 11:43 am. Seconded by Don K. All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared and submitted to the committee by Shirley Iwanski.