

MINUTES
Clark County Land Conservation Committee
Friday, June 24, 2016, 9:30 am
Courthouse Auditorium

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

Committee Members Absent:

Others Present: Jane Reigel – NRCS District Conservationist, Jim Arch - County Conservationist, 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. Rick O. made the motion to approve last month's minutes. Seconded by Bryce L. All ayes. Motion carried.
4. Review of last month's vouchers. Bryce L. made the motion to approve last month's vouchers. Seconded by Rick O. All ayes. Motion carried.
 - I. Bryce stated that for 8 checks written, the committee members received 15 pages of reports. It was recommended that if no checks were written, include a note in the reports that there was no activity and reduce the number of pages sent.

5. **USDA Agency Reports**

NRCS

- I. Jane R. provided guidance in wetland determination. Landowners or anyone questioning wetland determination should contact the NRCS. NRCS has 60 days if someone requests wetland determination, but that time might increase due to weather conditions, seasons, etc.
 - II. NRCS must survey for USDA. Land Con department cannot determine wetlands based on DNR rules. DNR determines wetlands on different criteria. Vegetation is not necessarily the boundary of wetlands.
 - III. Jim has concerns about the Mennonite farms in northern Clark County. The DNR said they must basically be "caught in the act" before crops are planted. Fritz said he has seen landowners create ditches 10 feet deep. Jane stated that if the land has been crop land prior to 1985, they are allowed to maintain the land and do additional drainage.
 - IV. Jane invited all committee members to attend the Clark-Price-Taylor Local Work Group Meeting to be held July 20th from 9 to 11 a.m. in Stetsonville.
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- V. Jane reported EQIP has been cost sharing less for manure storage. EQIP signup deadline is Sept. 2nd. EQIP can also provide assistance with waterways. Fritz said he would like to see extra footage on each side of waterways – 10 feet on each side.

FSA

- I. Judy L. reported there has not been any FSA meetings recently and nothing to report.

6. Land Conservation Committee joined the Finance Committee at 10:03 a.m.

I. Farmland Preservation Plan

- i. Jim presented to the joint committees that the Land Conservation Department needs assistance to complete the Farmland Preservation Plan. Land Con received a proposal from West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to complete the plan for a cost of \$18,500. DATCP has provided a grant of \$10,000 towards the project.
- ii. Brian Duell from Planning & Zoning said they would not charge for mapping.
- iii. Terry D. said funds would not be transferred from other accounts, but would be figured into the year-end budget.
- iv. Motion by Mark Renderman, seconded by Joe Waichulis, to approve cost of \$8,500 (with the \$10,000 DATCP grant) for West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to complete the Farmland Preservation Plan and move funds from other accounts at the end of the year. All Ayes. Motion carried

II. Purchase of no-till drill

- i. Jim proposed that the Land Conservation Department purchase a no-till drill in order to promote planting more cover crops and no-till planting to help prevent soil erosion.
- ii. He reported that Taylor County purchased a no-till drill three years ago. They charge \$60 plus \$6 per acre to rent the drill. Taylor County expects to have the drill paid off next year. Marathon County also has at least one no-till drill.
- iii. A new drill would cost \$24,191 from Chili Implement which includes a 10% government discount. Mondovi has a used drill with 340 acres used for \$19,000.
- iv. Wayne Hendrickson asked where the funds would come from to pay for the drill. Fritz suggested they use the funds from Sportsman Lake land rental to pay for the drill.
- v. Fritz said in addition to spring planting, the drill could be used in the fall to plant cover crops and to direct seed alfalfa. Jim said Parks & Forestry would also be interested in using it to plant wildlife plots.
- vi. Jim said it could be stored at the Health Care Center or Parks could store it at the fairgrounds.
- vii. Don suggested it should be advertised in the UW Extension newsletter that it would be available to rent. Bryce suggested it could be on exhibit at the county fair.
- viii. Motion by Wayne Hendrickson, seconded by Mark Rendersman, to approve the purchase of a no-till drill. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Land Conservation Committee left the Finance Committee meeting at 10:25 a.m.

6. **Action Item to hire outside firm to complete Farmland Preservation Plan**

- i. Motion by Bryce L. seconded by Don K. to hire West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to complete the Farmland Preservation Plan at a cost of \$18,500 (with \$10,000 from a DATCP grant). All Ayes. Motion carried.

7. **Action Item to purchase a no-till drill**

- i. Motion by Rick O. seconded by Bryce L. to purchase a new no-till drill from Chili Implement at a cost of \$24,191. All Ayes. Motion carried.

8. **Public Comment.**

No public comment.

9. **Land Conservation Department Report and Update**

I. Sportsman Lake Recreational Area and Wildlife Refuge

- a. Jim reported that muskrat trapping would be done on the wave berm from July 1 to September 1, trapper will be paid \$5 per muskrat.
- b. Don has replaced two hinges on the floating pier. Fritz said someone who knows how to fix floating piers needs to look at it. Rick commented pier maintenance should be turned over to Forestry. Fritz said the piers at Mead and Sherwood at not falling apart. Fritz suggested that maybe Forestry & Parks could fix the pier. Jim will contact them. Rick said we cannot rely on clubs to help out, as they are short on volunteers and funds in order to do so.
- c. Jim stated that since the boardwalk plan has been abandoned, they are looking into a crushed gravel walking path. Sam would complete a survey. Don questioned when the temporary boardwalk would be removed.

II. Animal Manure Management Update.

- a. Jim A. reported the landowner with an illegal pit was sent a letter stating he has 60 days from May 1st to do test pits by an engineering firm to see if the manure pit meets standards. Jeremy Haas has dug two test pits. He reported that 4.8 feet below the pit they hit sand. It was also discovered the landowner has a well 57 feet from the pit. If the pit is signed off on by the engineer, the well would need to be capped and a new well drilled. Bryce said he should still have a permit. Jim stated that after the engineer signs off on the pit and the landowner closes the well, he doesn't see how he can then tell him he needs a permit. Bryce said he should pay for the permit and a fine. The committee agreed that if the permit fee was paid then Land Co would not pursue a fine.
 - b. Jim reported that other pit closures have been done. An existing pit is being enlarged and the walls redesigned.
 - c. Fritz said the Land Con Department should not be doing engineering and approval of manure pits. We are essentially approving what we design. Land Con should be focusing on cleaning up waterways rather than designing. Fritz stated it's ok to approve pit closures but not design or redesign pits. Rick suggested Land Con should finish the engineering on the current pit but not to do any further pit engineering plans.
 - d. Jim reported that the owners of the hog facility in the town of Reseburg are planning on seven more facilities. Bryce questioned the size of the current
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facility. Jim stated they have 1600 hogs. Fritz explained that at 15 pounds the hogs are placed in a starter unit and at 45 pounds they are moved to a finishing unit. CAFOs are under DNR standards.

- e. Rick asked about poultry farms. Jim said they must have a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP). They can use acres from neighboring farms in their NMP. Bryce said there are Mennonite farmers with poultry barns in Clark County – Three in Unity and one in Curtiss. Jim said all poultry farms need manure storage permits and must update their NMP every year.

III. Land and Water Resource Management Plan

- a. The Land Conservation Committee had agreed to request an extension for the plan, which must be updated every five years. Motion by Don K., seconded by Judy L. to request a three year extension. All Ayes. Motion carried. Fritz provided the signature on the form.

10. Next Meeting Date

The next Land Conservation Committee Meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 25th, 2016 at 9:30 am in the Clark County Courthouse Auditorium.

- 14.** Rick O. made the motion to adjourn at 11:21 am. Seconded by Don K. All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared and submitted to the committee by Shirley Iwanski.