

MINUTES
Clark County Land Conservation Committee
Wednesday, August 17, 2016, 9:30 am
Courthouse Room 307

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: Deb Esselman - FSA, Jim Arch - County Conservationist, Sheri Denowski – Conservation Engineer, Shirley Iwanski - Office Assistant, Duane Boon - Guest

1. Fritz G. called the meeting to order at 9:39 am.
2. Roll call was taken.
3. Review of last month's minutes. Don K. 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 Don K. All ayes. Motion carried.

5. **USDA Agency Reports**

NRCS – No report from NRCS.

FSA – Deb E. provided report from the FSA. She mentioned crop reporting is done. For the Milk Margin Protection Program, prices have dropped. Feed cost was low and milk prices are up a little. Farms are breaking even now. Mink farms, which are big in Taylor County, are getting hit hard. Ginseng is way down.

6. **Public Comment**

No public comment.

7. **Opening Bids for Boon Farms.**

- i. Sheri stated she has been contacted by contractors from across the country and asked if we only want bids from local contractors. Fritz said the by-laws require that we only advertise in the county. We do not need to mail out plans. Sheri has also received requests from suppliers wanting a list of bidders. Do we give out those names? Fritz said no. Anyone wanting bid specs should have been at the bid showing or can pick up plans at the Land Conservation Department. As for the suppliers, we do not give out the names of the bidders – it is the bidders responsibility to get bids, etc. from suppliers.
- ii. Sheri asked if the Land Conservation Committee always opens bids at the LCC meeting. Fritz said yes, Duane Boon said they haven't in the past, Matt Z. opened the bids.

iii. Fritz opened the three bids received on the Boon Farm Project. Bids are:

Bid ID	Bid Amount
1	\$197,170.00
2	\$218,315.00
3	\$190,166.43

iv. No bids were awarded at this time by the Land Conservation Committee.

8. Office Assistant Job Reclassification

- i. Motion made to go into closed session at 10:21 a.m. in accordance with WI Statute 19.85 (1)(c) considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation date of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. All ayes, motion carried,
- ii. Topic: Jim Arch brought up the request to have Shirley Iwanski's position re-classified from Office Assistant to Program Assistant because Shirley is doing Database/Spreadsheet creation/maintenance & Data collection and research and this is not in the Office Assistant description of duties therefore Shirley is not being compensated for monetarily. The re-classification of Shirley's position would move her from \$12.39/hr. to \$14.70/hr. Also because of the extra work Shirley is doing requires more time, Jim Arch made a request to increase Shirley's hours from 16 hrs./wk. to 20 hrs./wk. A motion was made on the re-classification and increase in hrs. for Shirley and passed unanimously by the committee.
- iii. Motion made to go back into open session at 10:45 a.m. All ayes, motion carried.

9. 2017 Department Budget

Budget was discussed line by line with suggestions made to change some of the amounts budgeted. Jim will review budget with Terri D.

10. Land Conservation Department Report and Update

- I. Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association - Conservation Observance Day will be in Calumet County on August 26th. Jim will attend, Don May go as well.
- II. Working Lands Initiative
 - a) Jim reported that Amanda is now doing Farmland Preservation Plans. She went with Jim on 5 or 6 farm inspections. Now in the process of entering data into the new FP Tracking software to keep track of plans.
 - b) Eric Anderson will be coming to the next LCC meeting and wants to discuss forming a steering committee – needed as part of the update to the FPP certification.
- III. Sportsman Lake Recreational Area and Wildlife Refuge
 - a. Muskrat trapping – Jim reported 51 muskrats were trapped and the department paid \$5/per muskrat for a total of \$255.
 - b. Review of Habitat survey – Jim stated the report from Becky Davis has not been received yet. Becky did say there are plenty of cattails, which are good habitat for wildlife and fish. There is wild buckthorn and garlic mustard, an invasive species, on the spillway.

- c. Parks & Forestry has discussions on their agenda for their meeting today in regards to taking over Sportsman Lake. Fritz and Bryce would be in favor. Jim reported that Mary King said NRCS would help with dam maintenance.
- d. Boardwalk Removal – Don K. said Fin, Fur & Feather will be removing the temporary boardwalk. Don reported that 70 nuts and washers are missing from the pier. Don said Fin Fur & Feather has approved \$5,000 for fish restocking. Jim said the FF&F president said they put a hold on the fish restocking.

IV. Animal Manure Management –

- a) Another letter was sent on August 3rd to the landowner with the illegal manure pit. The engineer would not sign off on the pit so the pit must be abandoned. In the letter, the landowner was given until the end of September to abandon the pit. Sheri did the plan for the abandonment, which includes pumping out the pit, punch holes in the floor, fill with soil and concrete on top. Jim stated that corporate counsel advised that the department could fine the landowner up to \$389.50 per day in noncompliance.
- b) Old Fashioned Pork has submitted designs for a finishing barn. They want to build three by the end of the year. They will be hosting an open house on September 8th at their farm on Bills Road in Thorp.
- c) Jim suggested the Animal Manure Management Ordinance be updated so that the Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) must be completed prior to issuing a permit. It currently requires the NMP be done by the following spring. Sheri stated the ordinance should match the state requirements. Fritz agreed but mentioned that there would need to be a public hearing and then sent to county board for approval
- d) Sheri has farmers who want to convert old manure pits into ponds, She will be checking with the DNR for the procedure to do so.
- e) Sheri stated that there is still SWRM money left. Farmers don't want to commit to improvements.

V. Land and Water Resource Management Plan – Jim reported that DATCP has approved the three year extension to complete the plan,

11. Next Meeting Date

The next Land Conservation Committee Meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 16, 2016 at 9:30 am in the auditorium at the Clark County Courthouse.

- 14.** Bryce L. made the motion to adjourn at 11:56 am. Seconded by DonK. All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared and submitted to the committee by Shirley Iwanski.
