

MINUTES
Clark County Land Conservation Committee
Friday, September 16, 2016, 9:30 am
Courthouse Room 305

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

Committee Members Absent: Bryce Luchterhand

Others Present: Sarah - FSA, Jim Arch - County Conservationist, Shirley Iwanski - Office Assistant,

1. Fritz G. called the meeting to order at 9:30 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 Rick O. All ayes. Motion carried.
4. Review of last month's vouchers. Rick O. made the motion to approve last month's vouchers. Seconded by Don K. All ayes. Motion carried.
5. **USDA Agency Reports**
 - NRCS** – No report
 - FSA** – Sarah reported fall crop reports are due in October. Milk prices remain low. She noted farmers are selling their cattle. John Erickson is taking loan applications but funding is tight.
6. **Farmland Preservation Plan – Eric Anderson**
 - i. Eric Anderson from West Central Wisconsin Planning Region is in the process of updating the Farmland Preservation Plan (FPP). At this point he can either work with the LCC staff or establish a steering committee. The steering committee would have three or four meetings. The first meeting would determine a vision and set goals for the FPP. Meetings two and three would look at the goals and policies using the 1982 plan and making updates and changes. Meeting four would review a draft of the documents and take place 5 or 6 months after the formation of the steering committee. Eric anticipates each meeting would be 1 to 1 ½ hours.
 - ii. Members can be from the LCC or outside staff. Fritz suggested Duane Boon or Wayne Hendriskson as members. Fritz said the FPP has changed since 1982 and members should be aware of the changes and it will be a lot of work to update the plan. Sarah suggested Deb from FSA as a member.
 - iii. Eric said the steering committee would put the plan together and give a draft to the LCC for approval. The plan would then be presented to the county board. There would also need to be a public hearing.

- iv. Rick suggested Richard from UW-Extension as a member of the steering committee. He stated that Matt Z. had several meetings last winter. Fritz said Bryce might want to be on the committee.
- v. Eric will talk with Jim regarding who will be on the steering committee and when they will meet. Eric said members should attend all meetings. The county is doing all the mapping.
- vi. Sarah asked what happens a farm already in the FPP gets sold. Jim said the farm stays in FPP. Land in the FPP is committed for 15 years.
- vii. Eric suggested there should be six or so people on the steering committee. Eight or nine would be ok but advises no more than that. Jim will get a list of people to Eric so they can set up a meeting date.

7. 2017 Department Budget

- i. DATCP SEG funds which cover staffing has decreased and will be \$103,686 for the 2017 year. Kim Carlson at DATCP said the County Conservationist position is covered at 100% and the engineer is covered at 50%. Jim will be talking to Terri D. about where the rest of the funds will be coming from. Fritz suggested the Finance Committee should be informed of the loss of funds from DATCP.

8. Transfer of Bond/SEG Funds

- i. Jim stated there will be bond funds left over that Clark County will not be using. Polk County has asked for \$23,000. He explained that bond money should be used for waterways, barn yards, well closures, etc. Rick asked if we don't have any projects we could use the funds for. Jim said it has been too wet to do waterways and now it's too late in the year.
- ii. Clark County also has SEG money it will not be using and Jackson County has asked for \$7,700.
- iii. Motion made by Rick O. to approve transfer of bond money to Polk County and SEG money to Jackson County. Seconded by Don K. All Ayes. Motion carried.

9. Update on no-till drill

- i. The drill has been received and has been taken to the Health Care Center to be stored there.
- ii. It is available to rent for \$60 per use and an additional \$6 per acre. There have been some inquiries but nothing set for rental as of now.
- iii. The TRG newspaper will be running an article about the availability of renting the no-till drill.

10. Land Conservation Department Report and Update

- I. Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association - Conservation Observance Day
 - a. Jim and Don attended the Conservation Observance Day on August 26th in Calumet County. It was held at the Meuer Farm and Don said it was very informative. It is an organic farm and includes 5 acres of strawberries as well as grain, bee and maple syrup. They use rotational grazing.
 - II. Working Lands Initiative
 - a. Amanda has been working on inspections for the FPP. Fritz mentioned lots of new farms signed up for FPP two years ago and the department should start working on the new ones. Jim reminded everyone that an on-site inspection
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must be done for farms with livestock but an inspection is not necessary if they only have cropland.

III. Sportsman Lake Recreational Area and Wildlife Refuge

- a. Jim stated that Matt Blohowiak from NRCS said the erosion on the wave berm needs to be fixed. Matt feels that the lake's water level is too high and might be contributing to the wave berm erosion. He suggested the water level be lowered by four inches. In order to fix the berm the water level would need to be lowered by two feet. They would then put down a layer of wire mesh and cover it with rock. It would be best to fix the berm in the fall when the ground is starting to freeze. Jim will be checking with the biologist to see if they thought doing so in the fall would contribute to the winter fish kill. It might not need to be done this fall but then definitely by next year. Rick questioned why it must be done in the fall? Can't it be done in the summer so it doesn't affect the fish? Don questioned how they are going to get the rocks to the berm. Jim said there is a road to the berm but it is only six feet wide. It may need to be widened.
- b. Jim reported that Fur, Fin and Feather will not be restocking the fish this fall. They will be removing the temporary boardwalk. Don wondered if we can sell the ~~logs~~ treated planks. Fritz said that if Fur, Fin and Feather is going to remove them, they can have them.
- c. Jim reported that the Parks and Forestry Department does not want to take over ownership of Sportsman Lake.
- d. In July a habitat survey was done of the lake and Jim has not received the final report as of now. He will check with Becky Davis to see when the report can be expected.

IV. Animal Manure Management –

- a) Jim reported that the landowner with the illegal manure pit has until October 1st to abandon the pit. Jim talked to the landowner on Wednesday, September 14th. The landowner is still looking for an engineer to sign off on the pit. Rick asked what happens on October 1st if the pit has not been abandoned. Jim said the department could begin fining him \$200 per day according to our corporate counsel Jake Burnette.
 - b) Jim suggested that the Animal Manure Management Ordinance should be updated so that a Nutrient Management Plan needs to be submitted before a permit can be issued. Currently the ordinance states that the NMP doesn't need to be completed until after a project is completed. Fritz said there would need to be a public hearing and then go to county board in order to change the ordinance. Jim asked if the department can ask for a Nutrient Management Plan before issuing a permit. Fritz suggested they can recommend a NMP be submitted. Jim said there is planned new construction of a facility and they have no idea where they are going to put the manure. Fritz said 20 years ago farms were big enough and had enough land to spread the manure. NMPs were not that important then. Now farms have more animals and not the acres that go with it that are needed to handle the manure. Fritz suggested the department wait another year and then decide if we want to go through the process to change the ordinance.
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11. Next Meeting Date

The next Land Conservation Committee Meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 14th, 2016 at 9:30 am in the auditorium at the Clark County Courthouse.

- 14.** Rick O. made the motion to adjourn at 10:38 am. Seconded by Don K. All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared and submitted to the committee by Shirley Iwanski.