

**MINUTES**  
**Clark County Land Conservation Committee**  
**Friday, October 14, 2016, 9:30 am**  
**Courthouse Auditorium**

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: Deb Esselman - FSA, Jane Reigel – NRCS, DeWayne Snobl – Wildlife Specialist, USDA-APHIS, Wayne Hendrickson, Jim Arch - County Conservationist, Shirley Iwanski - Office Assistant

1. Fritz G. called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.
2. Roll call was taken.
3. Review of last month's minutes. Don K. corrected item III b. Change "logs" to "treated planks." Don K. made the motion to approve last month's minutes with the change. Seconded by Judy L. 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**

**FSA** – Deb Esselman reported they are currently signing up NPP for 2017. They are starting to look at the CRP that will expire. As of now, there are 23.9 million acres nationally in the CRP program, close to reaching the limit. They are enrolling now for 2018. There will be a ranking for 2017.

**NRCS** – Jane Reigel reported the CSP payments in 2016 will be made soon, They are currently restructuring the office and staff – combining offices, etc. Everyone is being trained in basic conservation planning. EQIP is in the application phase. Applications will be ranked, some will have a higher priority. They have only received a few calls as a result of the recent flooding/water damage.

6. **Phosphorous Crediting in Clark County** Davey Engineering – Mark Jensen was not able to attend meeting and will come to the next LCC meeting.

7. **APHIS – DeWayne Snobl**

- i. WDACP 2015 Summary Report – DeWayne Snobl reported that elk have been seen in Clark County. WDACP compensation includes damage from deer, bear, geese, turkey, elk and mountain lion. There is currently an estimated 55 elk in Wisconsin, most in Jackson County. Approximately 10 to 20 moose are in northern Wisconsin.

---

- ii. 2016 Crop Prices – DeWayne reported 2016 WDACP crop prices as follows:

<b>Crop</b>	<b>Price/Unit</b>
Corn	\$3.16/bu.
Soybeans	\$8.80/bu.
Alfalfa	\$81.54/ton
Alfalfa-mix	\$38.56/ton

Crop prices are monitored from October 2015 to September 2016. Corn is down some, beans are up slightly and hay is very low. Rick O. made the motion to approve crop prices as reported, seconded by Don K. All ayes. Motion carried.

- iii. Harvest cutoff date – DeWayne reported the harvest cutoff date was December 1<sup>st</sup> last year. This year the ground is wet – it could delay farmers in the harvest. The crops are dry. Don K. motioned to set the cutoff date as December 1<sup>st</sup> this year, Judy L. seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.
- iv. 2017 Budget proposal – The proposed 2017 Clark County WDACP Budget as presented by DeWayne is as follows:

<b>WDNR Allocated Funds</b>	
County Administration	\$450.00
Office Overhead	\$3,310.92
Abatement Materials	\$2,366.27
Permanent Fences	0
Salaries/Benefits	\$15,888.51
Mileage/Travel	\$4,341.39
Deer Donation Administration	\$160.00
Deer Donation Processing	\$1,000.00
<b>Total WDNR Funding Requested</b>	<b>\$27,519.09</b>
WS Cooperative Funds Allocated	\$7,727.06
<b>Total Proposed Clark County WDACP Budget</b>	<b>\$35,244.15</b>

DeWayne reported the budget is down 8%. They are looking for a meat processor in Clark County to handle deer donations. \$1,000 of the budget has been allocated to donation processing. Don K. asked what happens if there is no processor. DeWayne stated those funds can only be used for deer processing. Rick O. motioned that the WDNR funding request of \$27,519.09 be approved, seconded by Don K. All ayes. Motion carried.

- v. Wildlife issues – The elk population was discussed. DeWayne reported the elk are moving more than they thought they would. These elk came from Kentucky. Deb E. asked what happens that would make it necessary to trap and relocate an animal. DeWayne said animals that become a nuisance. In the case of bear, if the bear kills livestock or invades homes, they are trapped and euthanized.

**8. Farmland Preservation Plan – Eric Anderson**

- i. Jim reported they are setting up the steering committee, which will meet sometime in January, the exact date has not been set yet. Rick asked who is on the steering committee. Jim said it consists of Don K., Richard Halopka, Jim A., Wayne Hendrickson and Brian Duell.

**9. 2017 Department Budget**

- i. Jim reported the budget has been submitted to the county board. That budget includes the changes due to the DATCP amendment.

**10. Update on no-till drill**

- i. The drill is being used – 112 acres planted so far. Deb asked for a flyer to post in their office. Deb sees more grazing going on.

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

I. Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association

- a. Jim has contacted Thorp and Neillsville Schools regarding the 2017 Poster and Speaking Contest and plans to talk to Loyal and Greenwood. Fritz said Thorp schools have participated in the past. Rick suggested Jim contact the Neillsville FFA. Deb thought Colby schools might be interested.

II. Working Lands Initiative

- a. Amanda is working on the Farmland Preservation Plan and has completed the inspections for those farms with livestock.

III. Sportsman Lake Recreational Area and Wildlife Refuge

- a. Habitat survey – Jim has not yet received the report from Becky Davis.
  - b. Jim presented a proposal from Matt Blohowiak – NRCS to fix the Sportsman Lake wave berm. Matt believes the erosion of the berm is due to a combination of structure age, water level and damage from muskrats. Matt has been working on the design plan, which must be approved by a state engineer. Permits will be needed from the Army Corp and DNR and then it would need to go through the bid process. The plan would be for the work to be done when the berm is frozen. This will not be done this year due to the time it takes to get the permits, bids, etc. One proposal called for the lake to be drained completely. Deb said if you're going to drain the lake you would need to have a public hearing. Matt's proposal calls for lowering the water level by two feet, then construct an access road to get materials to the wave berm. Geotextile would be placed on the berm and covered with a minimum one foot of rock. Matt's construction estimate of \$49,855 does not include an access road. Rick asked who is managing the project. Fritz said we need to hire a construction management firm. Jim will look into finding a management firm.
-

IV. Animal Manure Management –

- a) Jim sent a letter to the owner of the illegal manure pit a couple of weeks ago. The landowner has been working with an engineer to bring the pit up to code by adding concrete to the base of the pit. Jim spoke with corporate counsel and it was suggested since the landowner is working on it to give him more time. He was given a deadline of October 21<sup>st</sup> to complete the modifications.
- b) Other pits are being finished. The department has received a new one and we are currently waiting for wetland delineation. One new pig finishing barn is under construction in the town of Reseburg, one is on hold.

12. Don asked if the committee should appoint a Vice-Chair, in the event the chairperson is ever not at a meeting. Fritz said that is not necessary. If he (Chair) were ever not at a meeting, the committee could pick someone to act as pro tem chair for that meeting.

13. **Next Meeting Date**

The next Land Conservation Committee Meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 18, 2016 at 9:30 am in the auditorium at the Clark County Courthouse.

14. Don K. made the motion to adjourn at 11:41 am. Seconded by Rick O. All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared and submitted to the committee by Shirley Iwanski.