

MINUTES

Clark County Land Conservation Committee

Wednesday, March 21st, 2018, 9:30 am

Clark County Courthouse, Auditorium

Committee Members Present: Don Koerner, Bryce Luchterhand, Martin Nigon – FSA, Chairman Fritz Garbisch, Dan Clough. A quorum of the Committee was present.

Committee Members Absent: None

Others Present: Jim Arch – County Conservationist, Shirley Iwanski - Program Assistant

Fritz G. called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Review of February minutes. Don K. made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Bryce L. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Review of February vouchers.

- a. Jim A. reviewed the vouchers for February. Don K. made the motion to approve February vouchers as presented. Seconded by Marty N. All ayes. Motion carried.
- b. An invoice has been received from Strangfeld's Body & Paint in the amount of \$3,354.35 for repair of deer damage on the 2011 Dodge truck. Payment will be reimbursed to the department in full from insurance escrow account. Dan C. made the motion to approve payment of deer damage claim, seconded by Don K. All ayes. Motion carried.

1. USDA Agency Reports

- a. **NRCS**
 - i. No report from NRCS.
- b. **FSA**
 - i. Martin reported that three new members have joined the FSA Board. Josh Nielsen, Mitch Malm and Holly Lindner. The MPP dairy program sign-up is getting close.

2. Land and Water Resource Management Plan

- a. Jim reported the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) had their first meeting on March 5th. The Committee discussed the current LWRM Plan and the biggest issues facing the county in the next ten years. It is felt the Nutrient Management Plans (NMP) are not accurate and that there is more erosion happening than what was thought to be the case. Approximately 25% of county farms do not have a NMP. The number of Mennonite farms in the county is increasing. Herd size is

increasing. Out of 74 DNR complaints, 50 were in fact violations. Jane felt tiling doesn't work in Clark County. Fritz and Marty disagree and feel tiling has made a big difference on their own farms. The TAC felt the county needs more stream monitoring and the county is under served from a monitoring standpoint.

- b. Dan C. received an email regarding the city of Neillsville and Water Quality Trading. Bryce opposes Water Quality Trading. Dan feels it should possibly be a part of the LWRM plan and the LCC needs to begin thinking about how the county will be impacted by Water Quality Trading.
- c. The first Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting will be on March 22nd.

3. Sportsman Lake

a. Emergency Dialer

- i. Jim reported a contract was signed to install a wireless dialer at Sportsman Lake as per terms and costs discussed and approved at previous LCC meetings.

b. Wave berm repair

- i. Jim checked out the area of the wave berm repair and Cole has picked up the rocks which fell off of trucks. Contractor is asking for payment. Bryce made a motion to pay contractor invoice after the As-Built plan is approved by the engineer, seconded by Dan C. All ayes, motion carried.

4. Department Issues

a. Department Truck

- i. Jim reported a notice was sent to the county newspapers requesting bids for a new department truck. He also provided a copy of a letter to be sent to car and truck dealers in the county for the committee review. Fritz suggested the tire requirements not be for the size of the tire but that it should be for six ply tires. Also on the letter, change the bid opening to be the next LCC meeting on April 24th, 2018.

b. EPA Grant

- i. Jim reported the Eau Claire River Watershed Coalition will be applying for an education grant. The funds would be used for giving demos, field days and education regarding no-till. Grant applied for in the amount of \$12,301.

c. Large Scale TRM Grant

- i. Large Scale TRM DNR grants are to be used for Best Management Practices, setbacks for waterways, buffer strips, barnyard projects, etc. Grant applied for would be used to lease land for three or four years, hire someone to plant crops, cover crops, inter-seeding, etc. and then use the

land/crops for field days. Funds could also be used for staffing costs. Grant could be for up to \$500,000. Jim and Amanda recently attended a Farmers Helping Farmers meeting and there is a great interest in cover crops, no till, etc.

5. Land Conservation meetings

- a. There will be a DATCP meeting on April 10th in Eau Claire open to all LCC members. Jim, Amanda and Sheri will be attending. Topics covered will include manure storage standards, changes to the NMP standard, etc. Please let Jim know if you would like to attend.

6. Land Conservation Department Reports and Updates

- a. Working Lands Initiative
 - i. Amanda has been working on an amendment to the Farmland Preservation Plan.
- b. WLWCA Annual Conference
 - i. The WLWCA conference was held in Lake Geneva March 14th to March 16th. Sheri and Amanda felt it was well worthwhile. Jim presented a written overview of the conference from Sheri.
- c. Engineers Report
 - i. AMMO Permits
 - 1. Old Fashioned Pork is planning to construct a hog finishing barn in Section 36, Town of Hendren. Test pits will be dug next week.
 - 2. Old Fashioned Pork is planning an open house at the Steiner site on Hwy O Northwest of Thorp on March 23rd at 4:30 p.m.
 - ii. SWRM Bond and DNR NOD Funds
 - 1. Sheri is working on waterway projects, pit closures, and shoreline work at Lake Arbutus
 - 2. Firtz suggested an article should be in the next Ag Extension newsletter regarding closure of old, unused pits and that cost share funds are available for pit closures.
 - 3. Jim reported he is still working on the NOD project.

7. Public Comments – No public comment.

8. Next Meeting Date

- a. Next regular committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 24th at 9:30 a.m. at the Clark County Courthouse in the auditorium.

9. Adjourn

- a. Bryce L. made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:02 a.m. Seconded by Marty N. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared and submitted to the committee by Shirley Iwanski.