

MINUTES
Clark County Land Conservation Committee
Tuesday, April 9th, 2019, 9:30 am
Clark County Courthouse, Room 307

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

Committee Members Absent: Bryce Luchterhand

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

Fritz G. called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.

Review of the minutes of previous LCC meetings.

- a. Don K. made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 18th, 2019 meeting as presented. Seconded by Marty N. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Review of vouchers.

- a) Committee reviewed the vouchers for March 2019. Marty N. made the motion to approve the March vouchers as presented. Seconded by Dan C. All ayes. Motion carried.
- b) Pending vouchers over limit
 - i) Don K. made the motion to approve payment of \$1,100 for land rental of demo farm. Seconded by Marty N. All ayes. Motion carried.

1. USDA Agency Reports

- a. **NRCS** - Jane R. could not attend but submitted a written report to Jim A.
 - i. The reported stated that NRCS is currently working heavily on EQIP signups
 - ii. CSP 2019 signup deadline is May 10th. They currently have 30 CSP signups.
- b. **FSA**
 - i. Marty N. said they are in the process of updating milk records for MPP.
 - ii. There is a joint FSA meeting for Clark and Taylor counties scheduled.
 - iii. Marty mentioned an Ag Review article which showed that in the last 15 years, 49% of dairy farms have gone out of business.

2. LWRM Plan

- a. Jim continues to work on the LWRM plan and hopes to have a draft of the LWRM plan available for the May or June LCC meeting.

3. Large Scale TRM grant

- a. Jim stated that it has been too wet so far to do soil tests at the demo farm site. The cover crop plan has been determined for this year.

4. Land Conservation Department Reports/Updates

a. Summer Intern

- i. Jim said that the personnel department needs to have the LCC approval for the summer intern job description. This position is not paid by the department. The intern would be working most days, however he will also be working with NRCS and attending technical college. It is anticipated he will be working until August and will be delivering the no-till drill, Amanda can have him to data entry into SNAP Plus, etc. After the committee reviewed the job description, Dan C. made the motion to approve the job description as presented, seconded by Marty N. All Ayes. Motion carried.

b. New department truck

- i. Jim presented the committee with the bid request for a new department truck to be sent to all Clark County dealerships and the ad to be run in county newspapers. The department is looking for a 2018 or 2019 mid-size truck such as a Chevy Colorado or Ford Ranger. It should have a 6-foot box and a 4-door crew cab. Jim wants a tow package as well. It will not be used to pull the no-till drill but might be needed to pull a trailer. Jim asked for thoughts if the under \$22,000 is reasonable. Marty asked if all bids are over \$22,000, can a higher bid be accepted or must the entire process be started over. Jim said the committee can accept a higher bid. Don K. made the motion to accept the bid letter and ad as presented, seconded by Marty N. All ayes. Motion carried.

c. Cost Share Rates

- i. Committee reviewed the Cost Share Rates from Sheri's report. Change was primarily to the limit of \$1,000 added to well decommissioning. Mary N. made the motion to accept the cost share rates as presented, seconded by Dan C. All ayes. Motion carried.

d. Farmland Preservation Plan (FPP)

- i. Amanda has not started with FPP inspections yet as it has been too wet.

e. Engineers Report

- i. Sheri D. provided a written Engineer report, presented by Jim A.
 1. Jim visited the site with the cracks in a new pit on April 8th and the cracks had not been repaired at that time.
 2. Much discussion followed regarding the closing of manure pits. Jim stated that from January 2016 until July of 2018 there were no attempted pit closures without a permit. Then in August of 2018 there were three. Those were not closed properly and had debris such as shingles, etc. which are not allowed to be buried in closed pits. Items in pits which are in violation must be removed.

f. Animal Manure Management Ordinance

- i. The committee reviewed the recent changes Sheri made to the ordinance and which had been suggested at the last committee meeting.
 1. Fritz stated that on page 3, the ordinance references the Wi Admin Code ATCP 50.62. He said that the statute should be included in the ordinance or not referenced at all. He would not approve the ordinance if it includes references to statutes.
 2. Marty N. questioned the late fee of \$100 for Nutrient Management Plans not received by April 1st. Is that \$100 per day? That would come to \$3,000 per month, sounds excessive. The amount of the late fee needs to be clarified in the ordinance.
 3. Don K. said the ordinance does not mention who pays the late fee. The farmer/operator or the landowner? This should also be clarified. Fritz said that might be covered in some individual rental contracts.
 4. Jim asked for thoughts on the permit fee schedule. Some sites Sheri works on the plans for a long time and the \$200 fee doesn't cover her time. Fritz G. mentioned that some of the surrounding county's ordinances do not have a fee schedule shown in the ordinance. Marty N. said that Sheri included in her notes that Taylor County charges \$2 per animal unit. We need to run that past corporate counsel for their opinion.
 5. Jim also asked if we should charge for transfer systems only.

g. Manure spills

- i. Jim reported there had been two manure spills reported last month.
 1. The first occurred on March 21st east of Neillsville. Farmers pit was getting full so he had it hauled to the field, where it then ran into the ditch. Jim presented pictures. Dan C. asked if, in the

photo, was that manure in the ditch. Jim said it was a mix of manure and melted snow, but included a fair amount of manure. Marty asked what can be done when this type of thing happens. Jim said we ask the landowners to call our department. We might have been able to help them find another pit that could be used.

2. Then on March 28th another farm had two runoff events simultaneously. A slurry store containing leachate overflowed and then the pit over topped and ran on the ground around the slurry store, then ran into the ditch. Estimated that 6,000 gallons of leachate came from the slurry store and another 6,000 gallons over topped the pit. They baled the ditch and pumped out the ditch.

h. Summer Tour

- i. West Central WLWCA Summer Tour will be on June 12th. Decisions on those plan to attend is needed by the May committee meeting.

5. DATCP video

- a. The committee viewed the DATCP video entitled Land and Water Resource Management Plans.

6. Public Comments – No public comment.

7. Next Meeting Date

- a. Next committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7th at 9:30 a.m. in the auditorium.

8. Adjourn

- a. Marty N. made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:23 a.m. Seconded by Don K. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared and submitted to the committee by Shirley Iwanski.