

MINUTES

Clark County Land Conservation Committee

Tuesday, May 22nd, 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, Sheri Denowski – Conservation Engineer (for a portion of the meeting), Shirley Iwanski - Program Assistant

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

Review of the minutes of previous LCC meetings.

- a. Martin N. made the motion to approve the minutes of the April 24th, 2018 meeting as presented. Seconded by Don K. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Review of April vouchers.

- a) Jim A. reviewed the vouchers for April. Dan C. made the motion to approve April vouchers as presented. Seconded by Bryce L. All ayes. Motion carried.
- b) Review of vouchers requiring LCC approval.
 1. Sheri D. presented an issue with a county approved storm water basin which has been determined to be technically in violation due to its proximity to a neighboring well. Legal counsel has advised the county should pay the cost of closing the basin. Cost would be approximately \$2,000. Fritz asked the size of the basin. Sheri reported 25' x 50' and holds about 8 inches of water. Sheri has looked at alternatives, such as a rain garden, however nothing is a good fit based on the size of the lot. Jim said there is still almost \$2,500 in the land conservation excess fund which could be used to pay for the closing. Jim will check if this is something which requires the committee approval and bring the issue back to the next meeting,

1. USDA Agency Reports

- a. **NRCS**
 - i. No report from NRCS.
- b. **FSA**
 - i. Marty N. presented the FSA report to the committee.

2. Nutrient Management Plans

- a. Jim reported Amanda has determined 22 landowners have not submitted their 2017 Nutrient Management Plans (NMP). Looking further, she has found 90 who

have not submitted required updates to their NMP. Anyone with a Farmland Preservation Plan (FPP) Agreement and the Animal Manure Management Ordinance (AMMO) requires that landowners with a manure storage pit must have a NMP. Jim presented a letter which Amanda plans to send to those in violation of the AMMO,

- b. Amanda has also found many questionable basins in which it is not clear if they are idle, empty or if they are being used. Any unused pits should be closed. Dan C. asked about the cost for a NMP. Jim stated it costs approximately \$8 per acre for a NMP, and we have cost share funds available. Jim said if they need to close a pit, there is costs involved in pumping it out, removing contaminated soil, etc. If pits are sound, even if the landowner is not using it, it could still be rented and used by others who have pits getting full.
- c. Fritz questioned if someone is not in compliance with a current NMP, do they still qualify for a tax credit. Jim stated only those in the FPP get a tax credit and they do not if they are not in compliance.

3. Land and Water Resource Management Plan

- a. Jim reported he is in the process of compiling a list of those who will receive the Natural Resource Opinion Survey.

4. Sportsman Lake

a. Emergency Dialer

- i. Jim reported the water level on the lake is back up and gate is still wide open, Due to the water level, Jim was not able to connect pipes necessary to install the new dialer. The water level has gone down about a foot now so he should be able to complete the pipe hookups soon.

b. Boat Landing Signs

- i. Jim reported the highway department will be installing the boat landing signs on Center Road. He has called the digger hotline to get things marked.

c. Piers

- i. Don K. reminded the committee about the broken pier and if it should be fixed or removed. The posts which hold the floating part of the pier are currently bent. Jim reported that pier is not used as much as the pier on Center Road. Fur, Fin and Feather has an interest in the broken pier. Fritz mentioned that Forestry and Parks has piers on Mead Lake and suggested Jim talk to Forestry and Parks to get their opinion on the best way to fix the pier or maybe move the pier. Jim said Rick from Forestry and Parks has already stated it would not be a good idea to move the pier near the

berm, as it would then cause people to walk on the berm, destroy vegetation, cause erosion, etc.

d. Berm grass mowing

- i. Jim mentioned that last year the grass on the berm was mowed twice, mostly because of the berm repairs. He asked if the committee thought we should continue to mow the berm twice each year. Marty suggested that prior to the berm repairs, the berm had been mowed just once a year and suggested we could go back to mowing just once a year to be done in August after nesting birds have left. The committee agreed,

e. Removal of pulp logs

- i. Jim reported that he received a couple of calls after placing an ad for selling the pulp logs at Sportsman Lake and those callers looked at the wood but did not seem interested. Harold Dillenbeck from Maintenance asked about it and Jim said he could have it for free if he would remove the good wood. That still leaves the pine and Marty suggested that should be burned in the winter.

5. Upcoming meetings

- a. There will be a No-Till Cover Crop field day on June 19th near Thorp if anyone is interested – free of charge.
- b. The West Central WLWCA Summer Tour, hosted by Dunn County, will be on June 21st. Jim, Sheri and Ananda will be going. Fritz, Don K, and Marty said they would attend. Anyone else, please let Jim know by June 1st if you plan to attend.

6. Land Conservation Department Reports and Updates

- a. Working Lands Initiative
 - i. Amanda has approximately 84 inspections to do this year. She will begin working on those inspections in early June,
- b. Engineers Report
 - i. Jim provided the committee with a written engineer report from Sheri D.
 - ii. AMMO Permits
 - 1. There are currently 14 applications in process or waiting for re-submittal. Two pit closures are in progress.
 - 2. Sheri is also working on 13 grass waterways (GWW), two rock crossings, and two rock plunge pools. Five GWW have been constructed and just need to be seeded and mulched. Eight GWWs are staked and ready for construction. Cost share funds have been used up for 2018.

- iii. The DNR is reviewing the NOD application for the farmer near Humbird to see if it is eligible for a Notice of Discharge. Terry Kafke will be looking at the site soon,
- iv. Jim reported the Lake Arbutus Association wants to hold another conservation dinner in mid-July and they are looking at having it in Neillsville. The Association is anticipating Will Wallstone, who is a farmer familiar with no-till, as the speaker. The Association is looking to Jim to obtain a list of farmers to invite to the dinner/presentation.
- v. The no-till drill is being used on a regular basis. Approximately 250 acres used so far this year,
- vi. The new department truck should be ready for pick up the first part of June. It is silver in color and does include a topper, Jim asked about what the committee wants to do with the old truck. Fritz suggested to wait until the next meeting to decide on the old truck – after we get the new truck.

7. Public Comments – No public comment.

8. Next Meeting Date

- a. Next regular committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 26th at 9:30 a.m. at the Clark County Courthouse in the auditorium.

9. Adjourn

- a. Marty N. made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 a.m. Seconded by Dan C. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared and submitted to the committee by Shirley Iwanski.