

MINUTES

Clark County Land Conservation Committee

Monday, July 23rd, 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: Jane Reigel – NRCS, Dewayne Snobl – Wildlife Specialist, Jim Arch – County Conservationist, Sheri Denowski - Conservation Engineer, Amanda Kasperek – Conservation Agronomist, Shirley Iwanski - Program Assistant, (Rick Dailey and John Wendorski, Forestry & Parks for part of meeting)

Fritz G. called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Review of the minutes of previous LCC meetings.

- a. Bryce L. made the motion to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2018 meeting as presented. Seconded by Dan K. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Review of June vouchers.

- a) Jim A. reviewed the vouchers for June. Don K. made the motion to approve the June vouchers as presented. Seconded by Marty N. All ayes. Motion carried.
- b) Review of vouchers requiring LCC approval.
 1. Jim A. presented the invoice from Energenecs for the installation of the emergency dialer at Sportsman Lake. The charge is higher than the quote received. Jim stated it was mostly labor – taking longer than anticipated to install. Dan C. made the motion to approve payment of the dialer in the amount of \$3,971.63 seconded by Bryce L. All ayes. Motion carried.
 2. Payment to USDA for wildlife damage, 2nd quarter 2018, in the amount of \$6,713.84 was presented, to be reimbursed by DNR. Motion by Bryce L. to approve payment, seconded by Marty N. All ayes, motion carried.
 3. Written report of payments for Cost Share Agreements was presented for three agreements, total of \$14,892.46. Motion by Bryce L., seconded by Dan C. to approve as presented. All ayes, motion carried.
 4. Jim reported the storm water basin project is complete and two of the bills have come in with a total of \$700, waiting on one additional bill. It is anticipated the cost will be around \$2,000 total, which could come out of the conservation excess fund, which currently is at approximately \$1,500. This would essentially zero out that fund. Jim stated the additional \$500 could come from the Sportsman Lake account which includes funds collected from the no-till drill rental. Bryce made a motion to approve payment of the two

bills received so far with a total of \$700 to be paid from the conservation excess fund, seconded by Don K. All ayes, motion carried.

1. USDA Agency Reports

a. NRCS

- i. Jane R. reported sign-up for the soil health initiative is on-going. Currently signup is available for 2019 for waterways, diversions, runoff, etc. CSP signup so far includes 6,000 acres.

b. FSA

- i. Marty N. provided a written report for the committee. The hiring freeze has been lifted and FSA will be hiring one office worker. Crops are looking good in the county. Armyworm is becoming a concern. There have been reports of armyworm in Illinois, Wisconsin and some even in Clark County.

2. USDA Wildlife Services

- a. Dewayne Snobl provided the USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services 2017 Summary Report and the 2018 DATCP Activity in Clark County update. In 2017, there was a total of \$809,526 in crop loss and of that, \$684,880 was damage caused by deer. Current activity so far this year is mostly for fencing to protect beehives from bears and deer damage. No elk currently being reported in Clark County. There were cougar tracks found in Clark County off of County Hwy P, probably from a young male cougar. Bryce said a poll of the members of the Marathon County Beekeepers felt that they have had an 80% loss of their bees. The group thinks the use of neonicotinoids on field corn is contributing to the loss of bees. Dewayne said mites or fungus could be killing the bees, nobody knows for sure.

3. Sportsman Lake

a. Transfer of Sportsman Lake acres to county forest land

- i. Rick Dailey and John Wendorski from Forestry & Parks Department presented a map of Sportsman Lake and information regarding entering 427 acres into the County Forest program.
 - 1. Benefits include receiving matching grant funding, and townships would receive portions of county timber sales. Hixon township could have received \$580 as their portion last year. Also, land in the county forest program needs a 2/3 majority vote of the county board in order to sell the land, whereas only a simple majority is needed for land not enrolled in the county forest program.
 - 2. Land enrolled in the program must be open to public access, including hunting, trapping and fishing. Ag land cannot be entered into the program.

3. Rick stated the LCC would still maintain ownership of the land.
4. Jim reported that Fur, Fin and Feather is not in favor of removing the wildlife refuge status.
5. Fritz said the Sportsman Lake cropland has had poor performance in the past and maybe it would be better to plant the cropland with trees. Jim said the cropland is under contract for another two years. Don K. said the oak and spruce planted in the area in 2005 did not do well.
6. Fritz stated the committee will need time to consider the county forest program before making a decision.

b. Forestry & Parks assistance with walking trail

- i. Marty inquired about developing trails at Sportsman Lake. Rick said F&P could provide equipment and help with labor. It would be best to cut the trees in the path of the trail close to the ground and treat the stump, but not to remove the root ball.
- ii. Jim stated Sheri will do the wetland delineation this fall or winter. The trail needs to stay out the wetlands.
- iii. Bryce wants to see just a foot trail, not wide enough for ATVs. A simple foot trail will be easier to construct. Rick agreed it would be best to restrict access to ATVs.

4. Nutrient Management Plans

- a. Amanda stated there are still issues with some landowners who have not submitted their Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) updates. Anyone in the county who receives a manure storage permit must submit a NMP update every year. Amanda has sent reminder postcards in January and again in April. What else can she do to enforce the requirement? Can she “threaten” action from corp. counsel? Bryce suggested they need to receive notice that if they don’t submit their NMP, there will be a fine. Bryce asked if someone has a pit, then sells their cows, how do they get out of the NMP requirement? Amanda stated they must close the pit. Marty suggested the notice should clarify that if they are not using a pit, it must be closed and if they are not using a pit but someone else is using their pit, the individual using the pit must submit a NMP.

5. Animal Manure Management Ordinance

- a. Permit size requirements
 - i. Marty and Bryce both said they could not find anything in the ordinance regarding the size of a pit. Sheri stated that Pat Schultz from DATCP said if manure is stored for two months or more, then it is considered manure

storage. Since the ordinance does not clarify, she has been going with guidelines from Pat.

- ii. Fritz said there is also a difference between created and natural storage. Sheri said there is a difference if it's in a production area or short term storage.
- iii. The committee agreed the ordinance needs to be changed to clarify these issues. Bryce would like to see recommendations from Sheri as to changes to the ordinance. Any changes must go to a public hearing and count board.

6. Land and Water Resource Management Plan

- a. Jim reported the tech advisory committee will be meeting next Monday, July 30. Jim presented a written report of the results of the Clark County Natural Resources Opinion Survey sent out to 1,571 residents of Clark County in June.

7. Sportsman Lake

a. Piers

- i. Jim reported the DNR has advised against moving the pier to the berm. Foot traffic on the berm would lead to erosion, etc. Jim suggested maybe moving part of the pier to the boat landing.

8. Land Conservation Department Reports and Updates

a. LCC Meetings

- i. The WLWCA County Conservation Meeting was held on July 19 & 20 in Wisconsin Rapid, attended by Jim and Amanda. The Foxconn project was discussed and how they plan on protecting the environment. Each county provided an update on what their county was doing.

b. Engineers Report

- i. Sheri D. provided a written report on current projects. Fourteen permits were issued this month. Sheri reported that during a restoration near Arnold Creek, some public access was torn up, but has been repaired.

c. Increase hours for Program Assistant position

- i. Jim reported that he is working on the budget and would like to increase the program assistant position from 20 to 30 hours per week. Fritz suggested Jim talk to Personnel Manager regarding any additional benefits which would be provided. Bryce L. made a motion that the LCC would support increasing the Program Assistant position from 20 to 30 hours per week, seconded by Marty N. All ayes, motion carried.

- d. Notice of Discharge site
 - i. Jim reported that the DNR does not support the grant for the Notice of Discharge for the farm near Humbird that he has been working with. Jim suggested applying for a TRM grant, which would provide up to \$150,000. The manure storage facility would cost the farm owner \$800,000. NRCS is providing some funds, but the farm owner is unhappy because he was looking to get the NOD funds. The DNR needs to see manure runoff in order to be eligible for NOD funding. Jim reported he is currently spreading heavy manure on 30 “sacrifice” acres. Bryce suggested he check with his neighbors to see if there is any place nearby where he could spread the manure. Jim said neighbors have been complaining about the odor.

9. Public Comments – No public comment.

10. Next Meeting Date

- a. Next regular committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 15th at 9:30 a.m. at the Clark County Courthouse in the auditorium.

11. Adjourn

- a. Bryce L. made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:47 a.m. Seconded by Marty N. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared and submitted to the committee by Shirley Iwanski.