

MINUTES

**Clark County Land Conservation Committee
Wednesday, August 15th, 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, Amanda Kasparek – Conservation Agronomist, Shirley Iwanski - Program Assistant. Sheri Denowski – Conservation Engineer (joined the meeting at 11:15)

Fritz G. called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Review of the minutes of previous LCC meetings.

- a. Correction needs to be made to page four of the 7-23-18 meeting minutes. Amend “increase the program assistant position from 20 to 20 hours” to read “increase the program assistant position from 20 to 30 hours.” Don K. made the motion to approve the minutes of the July 23, 2018 meeting as amended. Seconded by Marty N. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Review of June vouchers.

- a) Jim A. reviewed the vouchers for July. Bryce L. made the motion to approve the July vouchers as presented. Seconded by Dan C. All ayes. Motion carried.
- b) Review of vouchers requiring LCC approval.
 1. Written report of payments for Cost Share Agreements was presented for two agreements, total of \$7,757.29. Motion by Don K., seconded by Marty N. to approve as presented. All ayes, motion carried.
 2. Final invoice for the storm water basin project was presented in the amount of \$1,250. Total cost with previously paid invoices was \$1,950. Marty N. made a motion to approve payment of the final bill in the amount of \$1,250, seconded by Dan C. All ayes, motion carried.

1. USDA Agency Reports

- a. **NRCS** - No Report
- b. **FSA** - Marty N. provided a written report for the committee. ARC/PRC deadline was August 1st. CRP signup is in effect until August 17th.

2. Land and Water Resource Management Plan

- a. Jim reported the tech advisory committee will be meeting Wednesday, August 22nd.

- b. 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. Ground water appears to be the biggest concern. Don K. asked if the department was planning on testing well water. Jim said Matt Z. had done that in the past using Sportsman Lake funds. The lab in Stevens Point who would provide the testing is not able to do it this year. Bryce L. mentioned that other counties in the state are providing free testing for nitrates in well water. Water tested positive for nitrates are then recommended for further testing. Fritz felt that nitrates are not a big problem in Wisconsin, but rather Minnesota has more nitrates. We have a bigger problem with phosphorus.
- c. It was noted several comments were made regarding the high tax rate of forest land. Marty N. mentioned that recreational forest land is taxed higher than crop forest land. There are more restrictions on crop forest land, such as there needs to be forest management plan in place in order to take advantage of the lower tax rate.
- d. Marty N. asked what will be done with the results of the survey? Jim reported it will be discussed at the next LWRM advisory committee meetings. Jim and Fritz are scheduled to meet with DATCP in October. The LCC can discuss the survey further after receiving any advisory committee recommendations.

3. Department Budget

- a. Jim reported that he had requested Bond money from other counties not using their full grant funds. Marquette County was able to transfer \$10,000 in Bond funds to Clark County. Clark County in turn transferred \$20,000 in SEG funds to Marquette County.
- b. Jim provided the committee with the proposed 2019 department budget and reviewed it line by line. A new truck for Sheri is included in the budget at \$25,000. Dan C. thought the amount for a new truck should be \$29,000 or \$30,000.
- c. It appears there are some items in the budget for both revenue and expenses that should be separate from the tax levy funding and should be in the Sportsman Lake fund. Jim will check with Terri D. The committee will meet again on Monday, August 27th at 9:30 a.m. to approve the budget before it goes to the Finance Committee. No action on the budget taken at this time.

4. Sportsman Lake

- a. Transfer of Sportsman Lake acres to county forest land
 - i. The committee discussed the possibility of transferring Sportsman Lake acres to county forest land. Jim stated Fur, Fin & Feather (FFF) is opposed to doing so. Fritz suggested the committee meet at Sportsman
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Lake and view the acres anticipated to be included in the transfer to county forest land, as well as trail options and repair of pier. September meeting would be a good time for the meeting. Marty N. suggested that possibly a representative from Fur, Fin & Feather could attend as well.

- b. Pier repair
 - i. Jim presented pictures of the broken section of the pier. FFF has said they would help with the pier repair. The committee questioned if it is even necessary to fix it. Jim said the trail to the pier is worn down so people must be using it and it should be a fairly simple job to fix it. Dan C. made a motion to fix the pier if it could be handled within the department and bring it back to the committee if it turns out we would need to hire an outside firm to fix the pier. Seconded by Marty N. All ayes. Motion carried.
- c. Other Sportsman Lake issues
 - i. Jim reported that a farmer has asked him about cutting grass at the lake to be used for bedding. Jim granted him permission.
 - ii. Jim has closed the gate completely and it looks like the lake is still about a foot lower than where it should be. Bryce L. suggested it's just due to the lack of rainfall.

5. Land Conservation Department Reports and Updates

- a. Farmland Preservation Plan
 - i. Amanda stated she received the new map with the suggested changes to the Farmland Preservation Plan. The next step is to hold a public hearing for the amendments. Amanda asked if the committee thought it was appropriate to send a draft copy to DATCP before the hearing to be sure DATCP will approve the changes. The committee agreed Amanda should get DATCP's opinion prior to having a public hearing. Jake can assist with how and when the public hearing should take place.
- b. LCC Meetings
 - i. The West Central WLWCA will have a business meeting and LCC member training on September 13th in Menomonie. Bryce will most likely attend. Others will decide by the next meeting on August 27th.
- c. Engineers Report
 - i. Sheri D. provided a written report on current projects.
 - 1. There have been two calls regarding illegal pit closures this past week.
 - a. One pit near Grand and Granton Road had already been filled in with lumber, concrete block and various other materials. The pit had reportedly not been used since 1983

and nothing was in it. Sheri estimates it would cost approximately \$15,000 to close the pit properly.

- b. The second pit in Town of York had just started to close the pit and were told to stop.
- c. Jake has said that the county could be liable if the pits leak into the ground water. The Animal Manure Management Ordinance (AMMO) states unused pits must be closed. Sheri stated we need to enforce the ordinance. Jake told Sheri we would need to file a lawsuit to get the pit closed properly.
- d. Jim stated that if we are going to be concerned about ground water, we need to demand that old abandoned wells need to be closed as well.
- e. Fritz thought we need to check what was in the pit, which has already been filled in, before it was closed. Jim asked if the second pit closure mentioned could wait until next year. Fritz felt since the berm is still in place, then it can wait until next year.
- f. Cost share funds have been depleted for this year and no funds are available for either illegal closure until next year. The maximum amount for pit closures is \$5,000. Cost share funds would not apply to removing everything but could be used to close the pit properly.

6. Public Comments – No public comment.

7. Next Meeting Date

- a. Next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 27th at 9:30 a.m. at the Clark County Courthouse in the auditorium.

8. Adjourn

- a. Bryce L. made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:34 a.m. Seconded by Marty N. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared and submitted to the committee by Shirley Iwanski.