

**MINUTES**

**Clark County Land Conservation Committee**  
**Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 11:00 am**  
**Withee Public Library and Sportsman Lake**

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

Committee Members Absent: None

Others Present: Jim Arch – County Conservationist, John – Fur, Fin & Feather, Shirley Iwanski - Program Assistant.

Fritz G. called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

Review of the minutes of previous LCC meetings.

- a. Bryce L. made the motion to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2018 meeting as presented. Seconded by Dan C. All Ayes. Motion carried.
- b. Bryce noted correction to minutes of the August 27, 2018 meeting. Item 5.a. should be Don K., not Marty N., seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion by Bryce L to approve minutes of the August 27, 2018 meeting with correction. Seconded by Don K. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Review of August vouchers.

- a) Vouchers for August were presented to the committee. Marty N. made the motion to approve the August vouchers as presented. Seconded by Don K. All ayes. Motion carried.
- b) Review of Pending Cost Share Agreement Payments. Two grassed waterways have been completed and both look good. Marty reported the erosion mats work well. Bryce said he had an issue with the mats washing out because they were joined in the center of the waterway. The joint should not be in the center.
- c) Review of vouchers requiring LCC approval. Vouchers for brush cutting at Sportsman Lake was presented in the amount of \$750. Don K. made the motion to approve payment of \$750 for brush cutting at Sportsman Lake. Seconded by Marty N., All Ayes, Motion carried.

**1. USDA Agency Reports**

- a. **NRCS** – No report. Signup continues for the Conservation Stewardship Program.
- b. **FSA** - Marty N. provided a written report for the committee. USDA has launched a trade mitigation package with signup through January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**2. Land and Water Resource Management ( LWRM) Plan update**

- a. Jim reported the LWRM Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The committee went over the results of the Natural Resources Opinion Survey and what areas they should concentrate their efforts. Education seems to

be the primary concern. The DNR said they don't have enough staff to monitor wetland violations and suggested the contractors need to be educated on tiling.

- b. The Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) met on September 6<sup>th</sup>. In addition to groundwater and surface water issues, invasive species are a big concern. Again education is the key. Also of concern is unused manure pits which need to be closed. Jim reported two pits were recently illegally closed. Education is needed so farmers know what is required to abandon manure pits and that a permit is required. Also need to concentrate on abandoned wells. Cost sharing is available to close both pits and wells.
- c. Jim asked if the committee felt we should add something to the ordinance to require proper closure of abandoned wells. Marty felt that would be too hard to enforce. Fritz said the ordinance already requires abandoned pits be closed and that is not happening. Marty suggested there needs to be education on why abandoned wells need to be closed and how it affects the groundwater.
- d. The TAC and CAC will meet again in the spring of 2019 to go over the draft of the LWRM plan.

### **3. Department Budget**

- a. Jim reported the department budget was presented to the Finance board. Department Budget includes a new truck in 2019. Final decision on the budget will be in November.

### **4. Land Conservation Department Reports and Updates**

- a. New permits/Closures
  - i. Jim reported that with the illegal pit closure north of Neillsville, the department is having a problem delivering the notice of violation letter. The certified letter was returned from the postal service with no recipient available for delivery. Jim tried to deliver and was unable to make contact. Sheri will try again.
  - ii. Bryce suggested we get copies of a couple of ordinances from other counties and use parts of those ordinances to rewrite our ordinance. Fritz said it has been 10 to 12 years since our ordinance was updated.
- b. Working Lands Initiative
  - i. The update to the Farmland Preservation Plan will have a public hearing in November, which will then go to the county board. Fritz requested that Amanda check with Jake regarding the public hearing. Can it be held in conjunction with the regular LCC meeting?
  - ii. Amanda continues to do farm inspections.

- c. West Central WLWCA meeting
  - i. Bryce, Don K. and Amanda attended the West Central area Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup> in Menomonie. Bryce stated that it seems all the other counties in the West Central area are all concerned with ground water. Eau Claire county is working on a CAFO ordinance. Next WLWCA meeting will be in December at the Mead in Wisconsin Rapids.
- d. Engineer Report
  - i. Jim presented the committee with a written report from Sheri, LCD engineer. He reported Sheri is having issues with the hog finishing barns. The engineers don't always follow the rules and standards. They need to be watched closely.
  - ii. Marty mentioned he has talked to a farmer who wants to repair a current slurry storage, but Sheri has said no to the repairs he is requesting. Jim asked if he has had it inspected to find out what options are available for repairs. The farmer is concerned with winter coming as the storage gets full it might fail. Marty and Dan C. both said to leave it up to Sheri, she is the engineer and knows best.
  - iii. Jim reported Sheri has asked about the required setback from a wetland for Waste Storage Facilities. If the DNR has said it's no longer a wetland, does the setback still apply? Fritz asked if we have a wetland ordinance other than the DNR ordinance. Fritz and Bryce stated that if it is no longer a wetland, then the setback no longer applies. The committee agreed.
- e. Truck repairs
  - i. Jim reported the 2003 Chevy truck's brakes are making noise. Jim asked if should be repaired as the truck is going to be replaced. The committee felt it should be repaired, even if it is sold it shouldn't be sold with bad brakes.

5. Public Comments – No public comment.

**1. Sportsman Lake**

- a. Fish restocking
  - i. Jim reported that Fur, Fin & Feather has offered \$5,000 for fish restocking. We can get 3- to 4-inch fingerlings for \$1 each.
  - ii. Meeting continued at Sportsman Lake – Eric Totzke from Fur, Fin & Feather joined the committee at Sportsman Lake
    - 1. It was determined that the pier should be repaired. Fur, Fin & Feather as well as Parks & Forestry will help with the repairs. Looking at making the repairs in early October.

2. The committee would like to apply wood chips to the walking trails. Jim will look into if DNR approval is needed.
3. The wildlife refuge status will be revisited at a later date.

2. Next Meeting Date

- a. Next committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. at the Clark County Courthouse in the auditorium.

3. Adjourn

- a. Bryce L. made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:57 p.m. Seconded by Don K. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared and submitted to the committee by Shirley Iwanski.