

Land Conservation Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 10th, 2014

The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Paul Kinney. Those present were Paul Kinney, Larry Sebranek, Richard Rasmussen, Randy Heims, Ken Anderson, Kent Marshall, Cathy Cooper, Mark Guthmiller, Carlton Peterson, Gary Peters and Tammy Cannoy-Bender. Don Seep, Dan Goltz, and Greg Cerven arrived later in the meeting. JoAnn Cooley arrived to give the Farm Service Agency report.

Motion made by Richard Rasmussen to approve the agenda & proof of publication; second by Randy Heims. Motion carried.

Gary Peters made motion to approve the January 13th, 2014 minutes, seconded by Randy Heims. Motion carried.

Mark Guthmiller, DNR was at the meeting to give a brief update on the movement on the Gypsy Moth and the Emerald Ash Bore. Mark handed out some fliers to help identify both insects. Both of these pests are just east and north of Richland County. Firewood cannot enter a state park that is more than 10 miles out from state owned land. River corridors are natural to movement and the spread of both the Gypsy Moth and the Emerald Ash Bore

There was nothing new to report on Ash Creek Community Forest at this time. The building that came down with the flooding last year has not been removed as of yet, there is too much snow right now.

Cathy presented the Mill Creek Watershed. The committee was sent a letter from the DNR that 3 of the Mill Creek Dams need to be inspected by an engineer. In the past, NRCS has assisted the County with this task. Hopefully they can help the County again. This inspection is to take place every 3 years.

Chairman Kinney skipped the Working Lands Initiative Report for the time being as Kent has stepped out of the meeting.

Ken gave the Conservation Technician report; waiting for the weather to warm up a little before finishing up on the surveying of projects for the upcoming season of construction.

Cathy gave the County Conservationist Report. The cost sharing moneys from the state have not been finalized yet and the office will not offer contracts to land owners until the money is guaranteed which usually happens in March. Cathy is also working on the staffing grant application to the state for the upcoming year.

Back to the Working Land report, Kent reported that he, Cathy and Adam Hady, UW Extension held Nutrient Management classes at the campus in January for the small farmer to write their own plans for the application of nutrients to the cropland. OF the 8 that attended 3 have completed their plans, the others need to update some of their soil test.

Cathy gave the Southern Area meeting report that she and Larry Sebranek attended. Senate Bill 349 is opposed by the WLWCA and ATCP 50 will be in place on May 1st of this year.

Wildlife damages were next on the agenda. There are 5 claims this year 4 for deer and 1 for geese damages. Dean Scoville did not meet the requirements for his deer damage claim. The decision of Dan Goltz, Greg Cerven and Cathy Cooper was to deny this claim. The damages by deer incurred by W. Mike White, Eugene Hilby and Bob Moore were approved by Dan, Greg and Cathy. Doug Munz had Geese damages and was approved by Dan, Greg and Cathy. After discussing with the committee all of the claims the motion was make by Randy Heims to Deny Dean Scoville's claim, and approve the claims of W. Mike White, Eugene Hilby, Bob Moore and Doug Munz; second by Don Seep. Motion carried.

The Venison Donation program for this year only needs approval for the committee, all of the budgeting will be automatic thru the States Wildlife program. Motion made by Larry Sebranek to go forward with the program for the 2014 season, second make by Richard Rasmussen. Motion carried.

Cathy spoke with Jake form the NDR office. The only thing to is that Sally is no longer in the office so there may be times when the office is closed and it is suggested to always call first..

JoAnn Cooley gave the Farm Service Agency (FSA) report. The Farm Bill has been signed by the president and now the rules will be written. More information will follow after the rules have been established. At that point JoAnne will have some training available to the land owners.

Carlton gave the NRCS report. He handed out some information to the committee on the FY2013 for financial assistance programs and EQIP contracts thru out the state (handouts attached to master minutes). EQIP money for 2013 was a total of \$702, 425 within Richland County with the bulk of the funding going toward cropland and the DALCI program (Driftless Area Land Conservation Initiative) with a big help from the area foresters. For 2014 the state is looking at an 8 million dollar reduction. The EQIP sign up is done for 2014 and the ranking has been completed, we are still waiting on what will be available for funding. There was a total of 62 applications for this year, now the office waiting to know how many of the 62 will receive funding. The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) sign up ended last Friday, The goal set by the state was 15 sign up per county; Richland County had 22 applications. Now the office is in the middle of updating the computer programs that will be used for these sign ups. Randy Heims complemented Carlton for doing all that he does for the county. Carlton said thank you and reminded everyone that it is a total office effort both the Land Conservation and Field Office along with the local DNR staff.

The February bills were presented as follows; CK Norman Development, \$949.00; Greg Cerven, \$1,116.86; Woodstock Nursery, \$250.75; Spring Hill Design & Awards, \$82.05; Richland Locker Plant, \$330.00; Dennis & Diane Brown, \$500.00; David Hanzel, \$500.00; Southwest Badger RC&D Council, \$200.00; Cathy Cooper. \$37.18; Ken Anderson, \$70.00. Motion made by Don Seep to approve the February Bills as presented, second by Randy Heims. Motion carried.

The next meeting is set by Monday March 10th, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

Motion made by Gary Peters to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Randy Heims. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Cooper
CC/tcb