

**Land Conservation Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 14th, 2014**

The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Larry Sebranek. Present were, Larry Sebranek, Gary Peters, Marty Brewer, Virginia Wiedenfeld, Cathy Cooper, Kent Marshall, Ken Anderson, Duane Klang, Mike Finley, DNR, Cara Carper, SW Badger RC&D and Tammy Cannoy-Bender. JoAnn Cooley, FSA and Carlton Peterson, NRCS arrived later in the meeting. Marilyn Marshall was absent.

Motion made by Virginia Wiedenfeld to approve the agenda & proof of publication; second made by Gary Peters. Motion carried.

Motion made by Marty Brewer to approve the June 9, 2014 meeting minutes; second made by Gary Peters. Motion carried.

Cara Carper, SW Badger RC&D gave a report on what they have been doing so far this year. She reviewed the July Badger Report (copy attached to master minutes). They will be creating a steering committee in the near future regarding weed management in the county, should anyone be interested, Cara will be letting Cathy know when they will be meeting. Membership Dues for 2015 will be going up to \$2,500. Discussion at that point turned to how the department is going to be able to cover this increase. One thought was join with the Parks Commission to covering the membership due. Cara also spoke of the New Zealand Mud Snail that is in the Black Earth Creek. This snail is rather small and goes thru a fish's digestive system whole and leaves no nutritional value for the fish. This snail can survive out of water. Virginia asked why the fees are going up so much. Cara said that the counties get so much from them. The RC&D team is in Richland County a lot. More discussion regarding how to get this expense out of the Land Conservation budget and into a county expense followed.

Cathy & Ken gave the Ash Creek Community Forest report. Ken rented a mini-excavator to take out multiple beaver dams. Still need to do some trapping of the beaver. Ken also pick up some chemical to help get rid of the willow trees in the area and if we can get rid of the food for the beavers they will move on.

Cathy gave the Mill Creek Watershed report. We need to clean up the trash rack at the Brindley dam and do some clean up on a couple other dams by the end of the month and let the DNR know that it has been done.

Kent gave the WLI (Working Lands Initiative) report. Nothing much new to report Kent has done some spot checks while he was with NRCS doing their spot checks.

Ken gave the Conservation Technician report. Construction season has been a little slow this year due to the weather. Carl Oman started Norm Sandmire's dam last week. Todd Stittleburg's rip rap was done in May otherwise the weather has not been cooperating much so far this summer. There are still 10 projects to get done this year. He has one contract for approval this month for Jordan Maclay's grade stabilization, motion made by Virginia Wiedenfeld to approve Maclay contract, second made by Gary Peters. Motion carried. The permit process with the DNR has been the greatest obstacle for property owners to get permits thru the DNR. Mike Finley, DNR forester, suggested that we should contact Mark Aquino at the DNR; he is the leason to the secretary and oversees all of the departments in some respect, regarding these complaints. Cathy will write up a letter for Larry to sign. Discussion followed of a variety of issues regarding some of the messed up programs. Getting federal id numbers is one of the issues that property owners are having.

Cathy gave the County Conservationist report; the job descriptions are done and ready for the committees approval, these were handed out for the committee to review; these will be on the agenda for the committees approval at the next meeting. Cathy reminded the committee of the Southern Area Tour at the end of the month, she and Gary will be going. She also gave a brief update on the Japanese Knotweed status for this year. It seems best to cut it back once or twice and then when it is only about 3 feet tall going in and spraying with the chemicals. They will be spraying in August. Cathy also handed out manuals for the committee.

Mike Finley gave the DNR report. Bill Carlson has retired and John Nielsen will be retiring soon. A new forest ranger started in Boscobel. He and Todd will work with him more this coming spring. There were about 35 managed forest entries that have been approved and will go into effect in January of 2015, with most all of it going into closed hunting the timber market is strong and seems to remain strong for a few years. The emerald ash bore is coming our way. Mike, Jake and Todd will be spending most of the rest of the summer working on marking timber on the timber stand improvements that need to be done.

JoAnn Cooley gave the FSA report. Crop reporting is the main thing going on in the office right now, the deadline is July 15th. CRP sign up for expiring contracts or continuous sign up will be schedules for August and September. There are a variety of program that FSA has that ends in January of 2015. Staffing looks good for the office.

Carlton Peterson gave the NRCS report. Programs that are currently in place are: the Honey Bee initiative, with 20 applications and 2 people being funded. The EQIP general sign up has approximately 40 applications with 8 being funded. The DALCI (Driftless Area Land Conservation Initiative) program, has approximately 40 applications and 26 being funded. The CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program) program currently working on has 22 applications with 18 contracts being offered by the end of August. The first CSP program from 2010 will be expiring in 2015 and they will have an opportunity to renew their contracts for another 5 years by making some improvements and some enhancements. The cover crop application deadline was last Friday July 11th, there were 20 applications and he is getting them into the computer system to see where the applicants will rank for funding. The Local Work Group met recently to develop the question for the next EQIP ranking. Anticipated funding is \$750,000 for a 4 county area, this is a conservative amount. There are some questions on how the ranking is done; Cathy will be writing a letter regarding earned points with or without DNR permits to the state technical committee.

The following bills were presented; CK Norman Development, \$949.00; Greg Cerven, \$1,126.18; Wanless Bulldozing, \$450.00; Ken Anderson, \$62.50; Pine River Leasing Inc., \$200.00; Norm Fruit, \$8,778.00; Mork Farms LLC, \$1,615.60; Rhyme Business Supplies; \$101.35; Richland County Highway Commission, \$96.88; Fran Rott & Storer Pump Systems, \$770.00. Motion made by Gary Peters to approve the July Bills as presented second made by Marty Brewer. Motion Carried.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 11th, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

Motion made by Duane Klang to adjourn the meeting; second made by Virginia Wiedenfeld. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Cooper
Secretary Pro Temp
CC/tcb