

**Land Conservation Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 10th, 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, Marilyn Marshall, Virginia Wiedenfeld, Cathy Cooper, Kent Marshall, Ken Anderson, Duane Klang, Greg Cerven, JoAnn Cooley, FSA and Tammy Cannoy-Bender. Carlton Peterson, NRCS and the DNR Foresters were absent.

Motion made by Marilyn Marshall to approve the agenda & proof of publication; second made by Marty Brewer. Motion carried.

Motion made by Marty Brewer to approve the October 13th, 2014 meeting minutes; second made by Virginia Wiedenfeld. Motion carried.

Cathy gave the Ash Creek Community Forest report. We will need to talk about the mowing for 2015; it should be reduced to 3 mowing with the 4th only if needed. Motion was made by Marty Brewer to have the mowing put out for bids and have the bid opening in December, second made by Gary Peters. Motion carried.

Cathy presented the Mill Creek Watershed report. Ken will be going out with Mike Dreschmeier, NRSC engineer, to inspect the dams. There are a couple of the dams that the cradles are aging and need to be replaced within the next couple of years. This is something that needs to be budgeted for 2016 mowing season. When the DNR requires the cradles be replaced there may be some cost sharing from the state and we can look into the federal government also assistance.

Kent gave the WLI (Working Lands Initiative) the office is hoping to get money in the spring of 2015 for more nutrient management plans. The contracts for Nutrient Management will not be signed until we know for sure that the funding from the state has been allocated to the county.

Ken gave the Conservation Technician report. Currently working on Scott Hoffman's Spring Development. Steve Saucke and Jay Carlson projects have been completed.

Cathy gave the County Conservationist report. Motion made by Virginia Wiedenfeld to start negotiations with Carey Norman, current landlord, for the next five year lease, second made by Duna Klang. Motion carried. Next was the 2015 Conservation Banquet. It has been suggested to Cathy that the banquet needs to have something else with the program other than just the awards. Discussion followed. Chairman Sebranek suggested maybe moving the location of the banquet to the American Legion Hall, as it is a smaller location and would be cheaper. Cathy is still working on the Little Willow Grant.

Next was the Wildlife Damage – Greg Cerven presented the commodity prices for 2014. Prices are as follows; Corn, \$3.38/bu., Soybeans, \$10.02 bu., Alf, Hay \$105/ton, Mix hay \$82/ton, Christmas Trees, \$45.30/tree, fruit trees \$10.15/tree, fruit \$38/bu., and Buckwheat org. \$3/lb.. Motion made by Gary Peters to approve the prices as Greg has presented them, second make by Duane Klang. Motion carried. Next was the setting of the 80% harvest date. After much discussion the board decided to look at this at the December meeting.

There was no DNR report. Ken reported that he is on a committee that is looking at the number of deer per square mile. This group has been challenged by the DNR to set a goal of 20 deer per square mile. Ken stated that the group will not set a goal per square mile but rather a recommendation to the number. There are issues with setting a number as there are property owners that either do not allow hunting or only allow a select few.

Joann Cooley gave a brief FSA report. The office is currently taking enrollment from now thru December 5th for the Dairy Margin Protection Program. The new commodity program ARCPLC, the office is currently doing base reallocation and yield updates thru January 27th, 2015. The other part of this program is electing what commodities the producer wishes to participate in is from November 17th thru March 31st. The enrollment in the ARCPLC program will begin in mid-April that actual date has not been set yet. The fall crop reporting is happening now with the deadline being Monday, November 17th. The late file fees will be enforced this year, this is by mandate from Washington and along with the late filing fee will come a mandatory spot check from the FSA office.

Cathy gave a brief NRCS report. There were 52 applications for EQIP and are currently being ranked with a ranking deadline of December 19th. Contracts must be obligated and signed by April 1st, 2015. There is another Honey Bee Initiative with the application deadline of December 19th, 2014. The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) for new renewing contracts need to be complete by December 31st, 2014. The state office has mandated a goal of 15 new applications for each county for fiscal year 2015, the sign up has not been announced as of yet. The new Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is anticipated to be announced if the Baraboo watershed receives funding.

The following bills were presented; CK Norman Development, \$949.00; Greg Cerven, \$1,576.00; Todd Stittleburg & Krueger Excavating, \$4,459.00; Jay Carlson, \$6,160.00; Jay Carlson, \$1,505.00; Heavenly White Catering, \$552.00; Tammy Cannoy-Bender, \$14.77; Richland Center Community/Senior Center, \$95.00; R & K Tire & Auto Service, \$67.90; Cathy Cooper, \$21.50; John Peckham & Storer Pump Service Inc., \$556.00; Jay Carlson, \$1,622.11; Richland County Highway Commission, \$166.00; Ken Anderson, \$68.32. Motion made by Marty Brewer to approve the November Bills as presented second made by Virginia Wiedenfeld. Motion Carried.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 8th, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

Motion made by Virginia Wiedenfeld to adjourn the meeting; second made by Marilyn Marshall. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Cooper
Secretary Pro Temp
CC/tcb