

Land Conservation Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
June 8<sup>th</sup> 2015

The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Larry Sebranek. Those present were Larry Sebranek, Marty Brewer, Gary Peters, Marilyn Marshall, Virginia Wiedenfeld, Randy Heims, Cathy Cooper, Jake Elder, Stefan DeLong, summer intern and Tammy Cannoy-Bender. Carlton Peterson, NRCS and Joanne Cooley, FSA were both absent.

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

Hearing no corrections to the May Minutes Chairman Sebranek declared them approved as mailed.

Cathy gave the Ash Creek Community Forest report. The Parks Commission is working with Claire Hagg to set up a weekend walking tour throughout the county and with the trails at the Ash Creek Forest they are going to map the trails and mark them with temporary signs for the walk. The Commission is also looking at purchasing new signs for Rockbridge & Viola parks and they were thinking of replacing the Ash Creek sign on Highway 80 in the future.

Cathy gave the Mill Creek Watershed Report. Ken and Kent went out to inspect the dams. They opened the gate valve on the Dosch Dam; cleaned off the inlet on the Brindley dam; Ewers dam needs sprayed and mowed; Huth dam has a few willows but looks great; Durst dam will need to have the lone willow dug out with a mini excavator, this one will be discussed further with Ken; Newberry dam looks really good, all of the willows are dead.

Cathy gave the Working Lands Initiative (Farmland Preservation) Report. Kent is sick. Sue Porter, DATCP will be in the office on Tuesday for a farmland preservation program review and assistance with the new certificate of compliance. Cathy has received direction on the steps to take to start charging a filing fee with the self-certifications. Motion was made by Gary Peters to move forward with the filing fees that were discussed at the May meeting second made by Randy Heims, further discussion. Motion carried.

Cathy gave the Conservation Technician report. Ken is out to the Johnson property starting the leachate project. This project may be eligible for state funding thru the DNR, Cathy will know more on this by the 15<sup>th</sup> of June, should this happen it will free up the \$20,000 that was contracted through this office. John Sheahan has decided not to do the Nutrient Management Planning at this time. Therefore the money that was contracted with him is now available. Cathy contact Chad Johnson, farmer and there is a new contract with Jim Barnhart, land owner for \$3,164.00. Randy Heims made motion to approve the Barnhart contract, second made by Marty Brewer. Motion carried.

Cathy gave the County Conservationist Report. The Southern Area Tour will be Thursday August 6<sup>th</sup>. The lunch will be at Oakwood Fruit farm and a tour of the facility, the other stops need to be finalized yet. Tammy has been in contact with two different bus companies. Badger Lines has a 56 passenger coach for \$700.00. She has been in contact with the Southern Area Association and they will pay \$500.00 to put toward the cost of the bus. She has spoken with Paula White for the catering. The price for the tour will be between \$20 and \$25 to cover the cost of the bus, lunch and morning coffee and pastries. Cathy still needs to talk with Mark Cupp regarding Franks Hill on State Highway 193, also talk with David Huth if it is possible to see the new treatment plant.

The new phone system is still in the works with the office. With the new system the conservation line (647-2100) will need to be a stand-alone line, the phones have been purchased and the hook up is still pending. With the new system that the NRCS/FSA offices are going to are completely digital and the Land Conservation line will not be included. So when the computer is down so are the phones and with the stand alone line of 647-2100 we will still be able to have contact.

Ben Wegleitner is taking over as the Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, Don Barrett is no longer in the area. Ben, Don, Ken and Kent went out last week and inspected the areas of Japanese Knot weed that have been cut and treated, things are looking good.

Jake Elder gave the DNR report. The fire season had wrapped up, it was an above average year with approximately 15 wildfires in the county. Jake introduced Stefan DeLong, summer intern with DNR, He is working on a state wide project called WISLAND 2.0, Wisconsin is redoing all of its land cover mapping based on satellite photos, he will be going out in the field looking for plots based on different species in wooded, wetland and grassland areas. Once he has done this the information will be put into the computer and teach the computer to identify the different land cover areas. Once this is done across the state the hope is to have a map of all of the different land covers in the state out by early next year.

Joann Cooley, FSA is out of the office, Cathy gave a brief update. There is a potential for a CRP sign up this winter, this has not been confirmed as of yet. Crop reporting deadline is July 15<sup>th</sup>.

Cathy gave the NRCS report. Carlton Peterson, is out of the office. She reported on the joint project the LCD and the NRCS field office are working on. There is no money involved for the LCD staff. However the watershed project has been approved. There is a potential of \$5,000 for the area land owners to do some EQIP projects. The DNR has changed some of the requirements when it comes to riprap projects on stream banks. The property owners are now going to have a wetland delineation done before any project will be approved. The property owner will be responsible for hiring a private company to do the delineation, this will be cost prohibitive for most landowners.

Virginia Wiedenfeld gave a brief report on the RC&D meeting she attended. Her notes are attached to the master minutes.

Cathy went back to her report with an addition of the possible merging of the offices, she sent out a letter and did receive a letter back from Jimmy Bramblett, State Conservationist. The letter is attached to the master minutes.

The June bills were presented as follows; CK Norman Development, \$957.00 (Cathy stated that she had not been contacted regarding the new rental agreement); Greg Cerven, \$1,103.63; Wanless bulldozing, \$550.00; Junlyn Farms Inc., \$1,586.03; Rhyme, \$14.99; CDW Government, \$16.43; Cathy Cooper, \$86.42. Motion made by Gary Peters to approve the June Bills, second made by Marilyn Marshall. Motion carried.

The next meeting is set for Monday July 13<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m.

Virginia Wiedenfeld made a motion to adjourn. Second by Randy Heims. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Cooper  
CC/tcb