

Land Conservation Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 13th, 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, Cathy Cooper, Carlton Peterson, NRCS, Joanne Cooley, FSA, Wendy Warren, Southwest Badger RC & D, Patti Jackson-Kelly, NRCS assistant to the State Conservationist and Tammy Cannoy-Bender. The FSA representative was absent.

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

Motion made by Marty Brewer to approve the June Minutes as mailed, second made by Marilyn Marshall. Motion carried.

Cathy gave the Ash Creek Community Forest report. Nothing new to report.

Cathy gave the Mill Creek Watershed Report. Kenny is wanting permission from the board to do spraying on a few of the dams. Motion made by Gary Peters to have Ken Anderson do the needed spraying on the dams. Second made by Virginia Wiedenfeld. Motion carried. Cathy reported that she had listened in on a national webinar regarding the PL-566 dams. The program is called Dam Watch and this will maintain information on the dams that are within the county. This will maintain any information and notes on the dams for future use. Cathy will be notified if there is a storm event that may affect any of the dams in our area.

Cathy gave the Working Lands Initiative (Farmland Preservation) Report. Kent was unavailable for the meeting. Cathy stated that there wasn't much to report. Kent has been working on updating plans.

Cathy gave the Conservation Technician report. Ken is already out in the field. He currently doesn't have any new contracts for approval.

Cathy gave the County Conservationist Report. Cathy spoke of the Southern Area Tour that we are hosting on August 6th this year. Tammy handed out packets of information on the tour. As of right now nothing has happened with the phone system. At this point Cathy introduced Wendy Warren, New Executive Director at Southwest Badger RC&D. Wendy reported that they are working on Grants for a variety of issues. Recently they received a grant for beginning beef farmers.

Cathy also reported that the highway department will begin charging administrative fees as of September 1st. This fee will be added to the total bill. Discussion followed regarding this new charge.

There was no new DNR report, foresters were all out.

Joann Cooley, gave the FSA report. There is a lot going on in the office. Crop reporting needs to wrap up by July 15th and as of right now they have 96% done. The MPP Dairy sign up will be going thru September 30th, not a lot of activity is expected with the program until the deadline gets closer depending on what the markets are doing. ARCPLC sign up has started for contracts in program years 2014 & 2015. All of these will also need to be done by September 30th. CRP contracts that expire this fall will have 3 options to choose from. The options are a one year extension, check into signing up for a continuous contract or just letting it expire. A general CRP sign up may be this winter, with the contracts starting on October 1, 2016. There will be a new fly over this year.

Carlton Peterson gave the NRCS report. The EQIP program, DALCI sign up, the Targeted Watershed Sign up, the Cover Crop Sign up and the Honey Bee Initiative sign up have all been reviewed and the office will be developing contracts for the ones that have been approved. There were over 30 signups for the CSP program, 3 have been approved for funding. This is the first year that not all of the applications have been approved. The compliance

reviews have been done. The Little Willow Creek Watershed proposal to the state is still in the works. Carlton has been working with RC&D grazing specialist Dennis Rooney. Dennis will be working with clients and their grazing plans. NRCS Grazing Specialist Brian Pillsbury is also working with clients. The local work group for the next sign up is July 23rd at the Pippin Center and he encourages all to attend. The meeting will involve 4 surrounding counties Sauk, Crawford, Vernon and Richland. Patti asked Larry what he thought of the meeting last year. His comment was that it was a waste of time. There was a feeling that everything had been decided prior to the meeting.

Patti added that she had visited with Carol Nielson, DNR, had made comment that Richland County and the DNR forestry office have been working well together. She also informed the committee that she will take their concerns back to Jimmy at the state office.

The CRP disking and inter-seeding in year 2 and 6 has been changed to a mow only option.

There were no committee reports

The July bills were presented as follows; CK Norman Development, \$957.00; Greg Cerven, \$1,142.73; Wanless bulldozing, \$450.00; Chuck Abers & Wanless Construction LLC, \$4,900.00; Dave Hanzel & Wanless Construction LLC, \$7,451.50; Richland County Highway Department, \$53.00; Ben Miller & Storer Pump Systems, \$980.00; Dave Hanzel, \$611.56; Ash Creek Dairy LLC, \$33,600.00; Ash Creek Dairy LLC, \$18,985.60; Ash Creek Dairy LLC, \$13,818.00. Motion made by Marty Brewer to approve the July Bills, second made by Gary Peters. Motion carried.

The next meeting is set for Monday August 10th, at 9:00 a.m.

Gary Peters made motion to adjourn. Second by Virginia Wiedenfeld. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Cooper
CC/tcb