

Land Conservation Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 7th, 2016

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, Virginia Wiedenfeld, Marilyn Marshall, John Turgasen, Cathy Cooper, Ken Anderson, Kent Marshall, Jake Elder, Carlton Peterson, Don Barrett, Ben Wegleiner and Tammy Cannoy-Bender. Joann Cooley arrived later in the meeting.

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

Motion made by Marty Brewer to approve the December 2015 minutes Second made by Marilyn Marshall. Motion carried.

Cathy gave the Ash Creek Community Forest report. Ken & Kent have taken one of the signs to Larry for repair. Larry is concerned with the location of the sign at part of it is starting to rot. Jake reported that there may be some TSI work on the property getting things cleaned up and trimmed. This is something to review closer to the time of doing the work. The EMT issue was mentioned and as of this time we have heard nothing more.

Ken gave the Mill Creek Watershed Report. Ken has done the annual inspections of the PL566 dams. All 8 of the dams have some issues with varying degrees of needed repair. The Dosch dam was dredged out a few years ago and the dirt is piled below the dam and still needs to be removed. The Brindley dam needs to be dredged as there is 6' to 7' of sediment that needs to be removed. The Durst dam has a willow tree that the roots are growing thru the inlet and needs to have the roots (tree) taken out by using a small excavator. It will be costly for some of the repairs on some of the dams. The outlet channel on the Ewers dam needs to be cleaned out to lower the pool area elevation.

Ken gave the Conservation Technician report. Started surveying for projects for the upcoming season. Been assisting Dale Bender, City of Richland Center, with the kayak landing permit needed thru the DNR. The city is also working on laying out trails for students to have safe travel to and from school.

Kent gave the Working Lands Initiative (Farmland Preservation) Report. Working on the self-compliance forms, Tammy has mailed out the forms and they are coming back with some volunteering to opt out of the program. Some land owners are looking at getting into compliance so they can continue to claim the credit. There will be a class on January 27th, for property owners to do their own nutrient management plan. The proposed Fee ordinance was reviewed. (Draft copy attached to the master minutes. Motioned by Marilyn Marshall to approve the rates as presented and send it on the County Board for approval, seconded by Gary Peters. Motion carried.

Cathy gave the County Conservationist Report. The Voluntary Notices of Non-Compliance were presented to the committee for their approval for Cathy to sign them. Motion made by Virginia Wiedenfeld to approve Cathy to sign the notices and have them sent into the state, second made by John Turgasen. Motion carried.

Don Barrett and Ben Wegleitner representatives of Southwest Badger RC&D were in with an update of the various projects they working in the county with the office. Gary Peters will be the county representative for the RC&D committee.

Building Lease nothing has been heard of and Cathy has not heard back from the other property owners that she has been in contact with.

Jake Elder gave the DNR report. There has been some changing of positions in the office. Mike Finley has accepted a new position In Fitchburg. Jake has also accepted a new position, but he will remain at the Richland Center office. There will be 2 new Forester positions opening at the Richland County office.

JoAnn Cooley gave the Farm Service Agency (FSA) report. Not much new to report, still working on the general crop sign up and will end at the end of February. More property owners are going for the continuous sign up instead of the general sign up. The ARCPC program will be starting the 2016 process, the deadline is not until August 1st however once crop reporting begins the office will not have staff to do all of the programs at the same time. JoAnn Otto is retiring and her last day will be Friday January 8th, 2016. JoAnne Cooley is hoping to have the position filled before crop reporting begins. JoAnn also reported that there has been no movement on the building lease on the federal side.

Carlton gave the NRCS report. CSP payments have been completed and issued. The EQIP program is running along smoothly and he will let the committee know next month as to how many applications were accepted. The Mississippi River Basin Initiative "Kickapoo Watershed" with the majority of the land in Vernon & Crawford counties with approximately 10% in Richland County, Forest Township. The NRCS field offices of the three counties involved have been asked to spend \$300,000 in practices. Carlton will not have a lot of work in Forest Township as the bulk is forestry.

The January bills were presented as follows; CK Norman Development, \$1,914.00; Greg Cerven, \$1,037.50; WLWCA, \$1,316.00; Woodstock Nursery, \$361.00; Rhyme Business Products, \$32.11; Richland County 4-H Leaders, \$60.00; Kent Marshall, \$54.67; Ken Anderson, \$97.41; Kevin Eberle, \$12,404.00. Motion made by Gary Peters to approve the January Bills; second made by Mart Brewer. Motion carried.

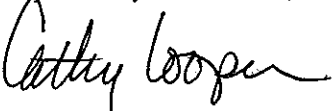
The next meeting is set for Monday February 8th, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

More discussion of the dirt that needs to be moved from the Dosch Dam property. Larry suggest to contact the new property owner of the dam regarding the dirt.

Motion made by Virginia Wiedenfeld to adjourn the meeting, second made by Marilyn Marshall. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Cooper
CC/tcb