

Land Conservation Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 13th, 2016

The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Larry Sebranek. Those present were Larry Sebranek, Paul Kinney, Randy Heims, Gary Peters, Cathy Cooper, Ken Anderson, Carlton Peterson, and Tammy Cannoy-Bender. JoAnn Cooley arrived for her report with Natalie, Director in training. Steve Williamson and Marilyn Marshall were both absent.

Motion made by Randy Heims to approve the agenda & proof of publication; second made by Paul Kinney. Motion carried.

Motion made by Paul Kinney to approve the May 2016 minutes Second made by Gary Peters. Motion carried.

Cathy gave the Ash Creek Community Forest report. She handed out the trails map to the committee for their review, she needed to get something from the office so while she was gone Ken Anderson reported the Don Wanless has mowed the trails. Tuesday the NRCS technicians will be having a habitat training on the property and Ken will be with them going over the project that was done 15 years ago to see how everything has held up for the last 15 years. They will also be working on other habitat projects thru out the day. Cathy has gotten back with the key of the color coding of the current trails on the property. The Yellow trails are the walking trails and the Orange trails are multi use trails. Cathy was asking the committee how they would like to have the trails named and mapped. It was suggested having maps with location markers. The community forest was created by the County purchasing 3 separate farms with the intent to create a water recreation place but the LaFarge Dam fiasco was created and the plans in Richland County were scrubbed. The main trails will be color coded with blazer markings. Cathy also reported that the parks commission had a sprayer donated to them and they have offered the use of the spray to the Land Conservation Department if needed for use at the Ash Creek Community Forest. Gary Peters also suggested having GPS coordinates posted with the blazers at certain point on the trails.

Cathy and Ken gave the Mill Creek Watershed Report. Last week Ken & Kent starting draining down the Dosch Dam, the DNR have given us permission to do this slowly until it get s down to a few feet left and then let it dry more before opening the gates completely and then the area can be seeded down. Cathy also reported that 2 of the dams need to be inspected and report submitted to the state. Mike Dreschmeier, NRCS engineer has done the inspection and has to finish the report before he submits it.

Ken gave the Conservation Technician report. We have received confirmation as to how much money we will have for cost sharing, so Ken will be working on projects plans for the committee to approve at the July meeting. Cathy has 2 nutrient management contracts for the committee to approve. First one is for Arvin & Irma Brown for a total of \$3,304.00 and the other is for Ron & Cheryl Dobbs for \$6,944.00. Motion made by Randy Heims to approve the signing of the 2 contracts Cathy presented, second made by Paul Kinney. Motion carried.

Cathy gave the Farmland Preservation/Working Lands report. Voluntary Non Compliance request were presented to the committee for approval of Cathy sign them. Mary Pringle and Cecil Miller. Motion made by Randy Heims to have Cathy sign the Voluntary Non Compliance reports and send them on to the state, second made by Gary Peters. Motion carried.

Since the state mailed out the letters regarding the certificate of compliance the office has been busy assisting with nutrient management plans and creating certificates of compliance for land owners. Also finding people who have been claiming the credit that should not be.

Cathy gave the County Conservationist report. Cathy needs money from Gary for the Southern area tour in a few weeks. The tour this year is in Iowa County.

The county truck was next on the agenda, Chairman Larry Sebranek reported that according to Finance/Personnel the Land Conservation Department will have to come up with the money within their own budget should we wish to have a new truck. We still shared a truck with Pine Valley Rehabilitation Center. Paul Kinney asked about how many miles does get put on the truck, Ken said that there are currently 28,000 miles on the truck but he would have to check on how many miles he puts on for the 6 months that the Land Conservation office has it. Pine Valley and General Fund money purchased the truck that we use. Randy mentioned checking into leasing a truck. It was suggested to start a savings account at the time the 2017 budget is created. Ken also mentioned maybe checking in with the Highway Department.

Building Lease to report. The federal offices need to put together a floor plan design by Friday with what they want for configuration of space that has closed doors. The Land Conservation office could still be co-located but we would not be within the same space. The current space that the LCD office actually uses is 694 sq. ft., with 100 feet of shared space (conference room & breakroom). Cathy would like to reduce the space we rent from the 799 square feet to only 750 square feet. NRCS will be paying for the requested remodeling and the LCD cannot pay for the remodeling. Cathy is thinking that with the reduced amount of floor space may make the monthly rent feasible for the LCD to stay co-located.

There was no DNR report.

JoAnn Cooley gave the FSA report. She introduced Nathalie Schattner, she will be in training to manage a different FSA office, and she will be with the office for the year. She will be another JoAnn in a different County. The office has to present a redesign for the building to Cary Norman by this Friday, Hannah Sorenson also started this week; she is the new full time program technician currently doing a lot of training. Crop reporting has begun.

Carlton Peterson gave the NRCS report. He has been busy with compliance reviews and CRP status reviews for the last 2 years. There were 34 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) applications with 15 being funded. The cover crop program deadline was last Friday. State office has sent down some new guidelines for the program and all of the landowners do not have a resource concern, therefore they are not eligible for the cover crop program. So the 7 application will remain active for the September 1st EQIP sign up. The Monarch Butterfly initiative also ended last Friday, this in similar to the Honey Bee Initiative. The Kickapoo Watershed project will continue on for a couple more years, however there is not a lot of crop land in Forest Township that would be eligible. The Driftless Area initiative, involving 23 different counties is also active right now but, there is not a lot of information for this yet. There is a local workgroup meeting for EQIP on August 3rd. Carlton has been informed that he is next in line for a soil conservationist, whenever this happens he does not know.

There were no committee member reports.

The June bills were presented as follows; CK Norman Development, \$957.00; Greg Cerven, \$1,135.70; Calvin Brown, \$281.96; Rhyme Office Products, \$22.98; Premier Co-op, \$65.61; Ken Anderson, \$4.20; Wanless Bulldozing, \$600.00. Motion made by Paul Kinney to approve the June Bills; second made by Gary Peters. Motion carried.

The next meeting is set for Monday July 11th, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

Motion made by Randy Heims to adjourn the meeting, second made by Gary Peters. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Cooper
CC/tcb