

Land Conservation Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 13th, 2017

The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Vice-Chairman Gary Peters. Those present were Gary Peters, Steve Williamson, Marilyn Marshall, Randy Heims, Paul Kinney, Cathy Cooper, Ken Anderson, Kent Marshall, Greg Cerven, Dan Goltz DNR Biologist, Tonya Loragan and Tammy Cannoy-Bender. Chairman Larry Sebranek was absent. Carlton Peterson, NRCS and Nathalee Shatner, FSA arrived for their reports. John "Duke" Welter, Trout Unlimited arrived later in the meeting.

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

Motion made by Paul Kinney to approve the December 2016 minutes and the January 2017 minutes Second made by Steve Williamson. Motion carried.

Cathy gave the Ash Creek Community Forest report. Nothing new to report at this time. Cathy was at the Personnel/Finance meeting last week and this property is not an item to sell at this point as it would be a short term fix and once the property is gone it is gone.

Cathy gave the Mill Creek Watershed Report. Cathy had more information regarding some of the dams that have structures below them. Tanya Lourigan, WDNR and Mike Dreschmeier, NRCS met with Cathy earlier to discuss what needs to be done. Dam #22 and #6 off of County Hwy G above Bosstown, did have structures below them and they have since been removed. There are 2 dams above Sabin #9A and #10 that have structures below them that have had flood proofing done previously. The other dams off County Hwy Z are #13A & #13B; have structures below the dams that still need to have some flood proofing done (Tanya reported that some of the dams are noted in the data base as high hazard and once the DNR has this final documentation showing the flood proofing has been done, then the hazard rating will change to low and the dams will have adequate spillway capacity.) Mike Dreschmeier now reported that the only structure that needs to be flood proofed is the structure below 13A, this structures will need some landscaping and structure alterations. The homes in Bosstown do not need to have anything done to them. Paul Kinney asked if the Sylvan Town Board was informed of anything regarding the dams, Cathy replied that they do not take care of the dams, we (Land Conservation) are responsible for the dams. Any cost for the flood proofing will come out of Mill Creek.

Ken requested to have his report moved farther down the agenda as John "Duke" Welter, Trout Unlimited was not at the meeting yet,

Kent gave the Working Lands/Farmland Preservation report. Working on Nutrient Management Plans, Tammy has been getting the Certificates of Compliance done (290 and counting). Kent reported that the programs has brought over \$550,000 back into the County for the property owners. Voluntary non-compliance for LeRoy Haffner, motion made by Randy Heims to approve his voluntary noncompliance, second made by Paul Kinney. Motion carried.

Greg Cerven, Wildlife Damages & Dan Goltz, DNR wildlife Biologist reported on the deer damages within the county. There were no claims contested, all had made their required quota. Motion made by Steve Williamson to approve the claims as presented by Greg (print out attached to mater minutes), second made by Randy Heims. Motion carried.

Cathy gave the County Conservationist report. Nothing really new as of now, the building is in the middle of being remodeled. Cathy has found some historically information that need to go to the History Room at the Library. Cathy, Kent & Ken will be going to the Wisconsin Land + Water conference next month for training and will bring information back at the April committee meeting.

Cathy also reported that the building lease has not been discussed yet with Cary Norman, Landlord. His negotiator still needs to contact Cathy to set up time to negotiate the lease. Cathy has gathered information from the DNR as to what they are paying for their office and she has from 2010 what it will cost for the office to move and what it will cost annually if the office moved. Should the office have to move from this location it will be a disservice to the county land owners as everything is at one stop. The moody rating was mentioned and Cathy is asking the committee for their support to stay at this location. The committee can't imagine moving the land conservation office from their current location.

There was no DNR report.

Carlton gave the NRCS report. EQIP sign up from September 2016 has had some applications approved and there will be another sign up in March of this year. The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) has been reinvented and they office is working on the processing. Carlton also re-interated how important to have all of the offices located in one location. There is a new Assistant to State Conservationist to Field Operations, Mark Kulig. Mark has had a wealth of information. The State Conservationist Jimmie Bramblett has left. The position is currently under acting Peggy Rose and the position will be filled soon.

Nathalee Shatner, COT in training, gave a brief Farm Service Agency (FSA) report. The ARCPLC sign up is currently underway and the first round should be done in the beginning of April. The office is fully staffed now. JoAnn is currently covering the Grant County office, she will be in the office here on Fridays.

At this point Vice-Chairman went back to the Conservation Technician report. John "Duke" Welter, Trout Unlimited arrived, Ken reported that he looking at a TRM grant that we would cost share with Ed Uhlenhake on a riprap project and if he would grant a fishing easement which would get additional cost share money from Trout Unlimited that would get the project almost completely funded. Ken handed out a draft of a fishing easement that is used in Vernon County. This easement would be between the property owner and Richland County, the WDNR are not currently buying easements. Ken would ask corporation council Ben Southwick to review the easement and then bring thing back to the committee for final approval. The easement and the project is 1,200 feet along Willow Creek. Duke spoke with the committee and explained that Trout Unlimited also works on getting parking availability. Discuss followed about the easement and erosion that may happen in the process of the project construction. Motion made by Paul Kinney to move forward with the easement process and have Ben review it, second made by Steve Williamson. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 17-18 non-essential and essential services was discussed. WI State statute chapter 92 regarding soil and water conservation and animal waste management. This states that the county shall create a land conservation committee and this committee shall run the Land and Water Resource program. By having a technician to monitor the cost sharing and the projects; these projects use local contractors who in turn spend money in the county. WI State statute chapter 91 Farmland Preservation, state that the County Land Conservation committee shall monitor compliance with Farmland Preservation. The farmland preservation program has brought back over \$500,000 to the land owners in the county. This money is spent in the county for a variety of items and this in turn brings sale tax money into the county. If the land conservation staff is not here the land conservation committee is responsible for both chapter 91 and 92 requirements. The committee is mandated to monitor farmland preservation and land and water resources. The money that this Department brings in does not go directly to the county but it does go the people of the county who pay the taxes that goes to the County.

There were no committee reports.

The February bills were presented as follows; CK Norman Development, \$957.00; Greg Cerven, \$1,089.52; Craig Huth, \$440.00; Wisconsin Land + Water Conservation Association, Inc., \$825.00; Woodstock Nursery, \$399.75; Richland Observer, \$35.10; Lola Schweitzer, \$1,550.08. Motion made by Randy Heims to approve the February Bills; second made by Marilyn Marshall. Motion carried.

The next meeting is set for Monday March 13th, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

Motion made by Paul Kinney to adjourn the meeting, second made by Randy Heims WI State statute. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Cooper
CC/tcb