

Land Conservation Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 10th, 2014

The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Paul Kinney. Those present were Paul Kinney, Larry Sebranek, Richard Rasmussen, Duane Klang, Kent Marshall, Cathy Cooper, Todd Cockroft, Gary Peters, Don Seep and Tammy Cannoy-Bender. JoAnn Cooley arrived to give the Farm Service Agency report.

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

Gary Peters made motion to approve the February 10th, 2014 minutes, seconded by Richard Rasmussen. Motion carried.

There was nothing new to report on Ash Creek Community Forest at this time. Waiting for the weather to dry the ground some. Jake (DNR) said they were looking at a Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) on the property where the walnuts were harvested last year. Cleaning out some of the weed trees and making it better for trees to reseed themselves to the area.

Cathy presented the Mill Creek Watershed. Just waiting for the weather to dry up the ground; once that has happened there are a couple of dams that need to have painting finished.

Kent gave the Working Land report; Tammy has sent out the self-compliance letters on Friday. There are a lot of farmers working on their nutrient management plans to be in full compliance by December 31, 2015. Cathy reported that there will be a teleconference coming up to discuss some of the new requirements that will be placed in effect on May first of this year. The new requirements will effect both Working Lands and Cost Sharing. Chairman Kinney informed the committee that Richwood Township has adopted the Richland County Zoning Ordinance. He was wondering what that will mean for land owners in the township that have agreements with the state for Farmland Preservation. There are a few more steps that will have to be done before the township is finalized with zoning. Discussion of zoning in the township followed.

Cathy gave the Conservation Technician report; Ken is out sick, waiting for the weather to warm up a little before finishing up on the surveying of projects for the upcoming season of construction. The office will not sign any contracts for cost sharing until we know exactly how much money will be available from the State. Once we know about the funds availability Ken will have a group of contract for the committee's approval.

Cathy gave the County Conservationist Report. As Cathy had mentioned earlier in the meeting there will be a teleconference that she, Kent & Ken will attend for the updated rules that will affect both working lands and cost sharing. At the end of the month Southwest Badger RC&D will be holding an invasive meeting at the conference room here from 6 to 8:30 pm. They will be inviting those who they have been working with. Cathy has been working on the Frac Sand Mining Committee. The committee will have recommendations for changes to the Zoning Ordinance. These were presenter to the Land Information & Zoning Committee at their last meeting. Don Seep asked if there was anyone from the highway committee in attendance. Cathy replied that she, Jim Chitwood (Highway Commissioner) have been working with the frac sand committee along with Marianne Stanek (County Nurse) and Mike Bindl (Zoning & Sanitation). Steve Kohlstedt and Connie Chapnoise represented the public. There was a conversation that followed about the frac sand and how much is actually in Richland County. There is a lot more in the county than anyone realizes.

Jake Elder gave the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) report. They will be holding a few classes out to the campus for people to learn about their land. Teaching people on how to sell the lumber, plant trees and forest health, Brochures have been sent out to property owners and if someone is interested they can contact the DNR office. Burning permits are now required until the end of May when there is no snow cover. There is a bill being presented to change the Managed Forest Law rules yet again.

JoAnn Cooley gave the Farm Service Agency (FSA) report. Not much to report on. The Farm Bill has been signed. The rules are being written and until they are completed there isn't any new news to report. The crop reporting this spring will happen as usual. The office is able to do mapping and re-constitutions of land splits. Larry Sebranek mentioned that he was at the RC&D meeting last week. They were talking about grazing and the lands that have come out of CRP. CRP contracts that will expire in September of 2014 will be quite small compared to other years. CRP contracts can be bought out at any time; however the owner of the contract will have to pay back everything that has been paid along with interest.

Todd Cockcroft gave the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) report. Carlton is out sick. Todd reported that there is a Honey Bee Pollinator sign up through EQIP. Applications are being taken until March 21st, 2014. Todd explained what this new effort will involve. The flier for the Honey Bee Pollinator Effort is attached to the master minutes. Discussion followed of how honey bees are used locally. Then the discussion went to how the insecticides are being sprayed and destroying the bee habitat areas.

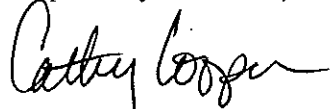
The March bills were presented as follows; CK Norman Development, \$949.00; Greg Cerven, \$1,086.55; Woodstock Nursery, \$204.75; Ken Anderson, \$47.04. Motion made by Don Seep to approve the March Bills as presented, second by Gary Peters. Motion carried.

The next meeting is set by Monday April 14th, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

Motion made by Richard Rasmussen to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Gary Peters. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Cooper
CC/tcb