

Land Conservation Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 10th, 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, Joann Cooley, FSA, Randy Heims, Kent Marshall, Jake Elder, DNR and Tammy Cannoy-Bender.

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

Motion made by Gary Peters to approve the July Minutes as mailed, second made by Marilyn Marshall. Motion carried.

Cathy gave the Ash Creek Community Forest report. Nothing new to report. The sign at the parking lot needs some maintenance done. Chairman Larry Sebranek volunteered to work on the sign this winter.

Cathy gave the Mill Creek Watershed Report. Nothing new to report.

Kent gave the Working Lands Initiative (Farmland Preservation) Report. Still working on getting Nutrient Management plans done by the end of the year. Sue Porter will be coming back to the office, there are a few farmers that will be ready to finish their plan by the end of the year. Cathy stated that in November we will start talking about issuing voluntary noncompliance for those that we know will not be filing for the credit. We will also have to start bringing in people that are not in compliance and issue non-compliance. Cathy also reported that the Department of Revenue and DATCP are working on a new numbering system with the certificates of compliance that are issued to landowners who claim the credit. This will be a cross reference for the Department of Revenue. We will have to reissue the certificates that have already been done to be in compliance with the new system, this will be implemented in 2017-2018.

Cathy gave the Conservation Technician report. Ken is at the state fair this week, nothing new to report.

Cathy gave the County Conservationist Report. The Southern Area tour was last Thursday 8/6, we received nothing but compliments, we toured Junction View Dairy, Ash Creek Dairy leachate system and then on to Oakwood Fruit Farm for lunch & meeting. After lunch we went over the pesticide containment area that Todd from the NRCS office gave an overview. Finally we went to Franks Hill off of Highway 193 for the effigy mounds on the hill. Mark Cupp, Lower Wisconsin Riverway spoke on the mounds and what they meant for the various tribes that traveled thru the area. Overall the tour was a great success. Senator Marklein also attend the tour in the morning and had lunch with us.

The new phone system is up and running, the LCD line is currently working with the new system however, it still needs to be on a standalone line. There is a learning curve involved with the new system and the office as a whole is learning.

Cathy also reported that we will be doing budget next month at the September meeting and then with the finance committee on the 25th of September.

Cathy has called Cary Norman (landlord) on 2 separate occasions regarding the rent and he has not returned her calls. She will be calling him again today to let him know that if he or his liaison don't get back to her before she goes to budget the current rate will be the 2016 rate that is budgeted for.

Chairman Larry Sebranek discussed the gas for the county truck. We do pay state tax on the gas but not federal therefore he has decided that it is a tossup with the Highway Department and Kwik Trip to purchase gas.

Jake Elder gave the DNR report. The Emerald Ash Bore has been found in the county. Richland was already under quarantine as the counties to either side of us had been quarantined. Randy Heims asked about firewood being taken out of the county, Jake stated that you can take firewood out of the county if it is going to another quarantined county. Most of the southern part of the state is under quarantine so moving the wood back and forth between these counties is ok.

Joann Cooley, gave the FSA report. The ARCPLC commodity sign up has begun with a deadline of September 30th. The MPP dairy program is currently underway with a deadline for sign up is also September 30th. Richland County has a large number of CRP contracts expiring on September 30th. There is no general sign up at this point for the new fiscal year starting on October 1st. Producers with expiring contact have a few options to choose from. One option is to extend their contact for 1 year. Another option is to let the contract expire. Or enroll the land into a continuous highly erodible land (HEL) contract with most of the rules being the same with one exception, no food plots. On different note, Duane Klang has served his maximum terms on county committee and the office has not received any nominations for the position. As of today the state committee can appoint two people to be on the ballot, the local office has received 2 late file nomination papers that hopefully will be accepted for the ballot.

Cathy gave the NRCS report. Carlton is on vacation this week, there was nothing new to report. Cathy did report that she, Kent, Joann & Mike Finley all attended the local work group meeting and it was a general consensus that it was a waste of time as the decisions had already been made.

There were no committee reports

The August bills were presented as follows; CK Norman Development, \$957.00; Greg Cerven, \$1,220.93; Richland County Highway Department, \$69.02; Century Farms LLC & Wanless Construction LLC, \$1,690.15; Eugene Hilby & Wanless Construction LLC, \$4,119.50; Eugene Hilby, \$375.36; Wanless Bulldozing, \$450.00; Rhyme Business Products; Papa's Donuts, \$42.50; Heavenly White Catering, \$598.00; Tammy Cannoy-Bender, \$46.10; Badger Bus, \$700.00. Motion made by Marty Brewer to approve the August Bills, second made by Gary Peters. Motion carried.

The next meeting is set for Monday September 14th, at 9:00 a.m.

Virginia Wiedenfeld, made motion to adjourn. Second by Marilyn Marshall. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Cooper
CC/tcb