

Land Conservation Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 12th, 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, John Turgasen, Kent Marshall, Ken Anderson, Rachel Kerian and Tammy Cannoy-Bender. JoAnn Cooley, FSA and Carlton Peterson, NRCS were both absent due to Columbus Day.

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

Motion made by Marilyn Marshall to approve the September 14th & 15th minutes as mailed, second made by Virginia Wiedenfeld. Motion carried.

Cathy gave the Ash Creek Community Forest report. Barbara Duerksen just wanted to make sure it was ok if she & her bird watching group went out to the property for a bird count. October 1st, 2016 will be last CRP payment that will be received for the property. Conservation Field Days were held October 6 & 8 for the 6th grade classes of the surrounding area schools. Both days had large classes, they were all well behaved. Rachel Kerian, Richland County EMT spoke with the committee about ways to have the trails on the land to be signed and have a current map of the trails. There were a variety of ideas that were brought up. Cathy informed Rachel that these are all great ideas however, the conservation office does not have the staff to do this. Rachel asked about have a key to the gates. Rachel is also asking about developing a task force to get the main trails mapped out and have the trails signed.

Cathy gave the Mill Creek Watershed Report. The dam reports need to be turned in to the DNR. Ken and Mike Dreschmeier, NRCS engineer have inspected all of them. The dam off of County Highway "G" has a low spot that needs to be monitored to see if it gets any larger. A couple of the dams need to have the cradles replaced as the concrete is crumbling.

Kent gave the Working Lands Initiative (Farmland Preservation) Report. He and Cathy are working on getting some classes put together with Sue Porter, DATCP for Nutrient Management planning. Ed Ruff, SWTC offered a grant to work with the local farmers to do Nutrient Management plans. It would cost the farmer \$400.00 up front, it will be reimbursed at the end of the classes along with the soil testing that will need to be done.

Ken gave the Conservation Technician report. Starting to wrap up projects for the 2015 construction season.

Cathy gave the County Conservationist Report. Japanese Knotweed had the last spraying and we will continue to monitor. Then turn this over to the actual property owners to keep up with the maintenance of the knotweed controlled. Discussion followed regarding the knotweed root system that continues to live and spread when not taken care of.

Cathy still has not got a letter from our landlord Cary Norman regarding the lease. It was agreed that they would honor the current price of \$957.00 per month until such time that a lease with the Federal offices has been done, then the Land Conservation Department can negotiate. Cathy will do some checking with other buildings as to cost per square foot and availability. Cathy also presented a letter to the committee that she received from the Parks Commission (letter attached to master minutes).

Wildlife Damage 2016 budget was next on the agenda. Greg Cerven was not present, this item will be back on the November agenda.

Conservation Banquet is October 21st, 7 pm at the American Legion.

Cathy gave the DNR report; they are out in the field currently and due to the dry weather they are also on fire duty.

Cathy gave the FSA report. The MPP dairy sign up has been extended to November 20th, 2015. They are still wait to hear if there will be a payment for ARC/PLC program. Fall crop reporting must be done by November 15th, 2015.

Cathy gave the NRCS report. Currently checking on cover crops, to make sure the property owners are doing what needs to be done. Finishing up the Conservation Security Program (CSP) checks, making sure that the participants are following through with their enhancements.

No committee reports. Cathy said that there is a Southern Area meeting on Tuesday October 13th in Madison that she will be attending.

The October bills were presented as follows; CK Norman Development, \$957.00; Greg Cerven, \$1,210.57; Richland County Highway Department, \$79.56; Wanless Bulldozing, \$550.00; Applied Ecological Solutions, \$1,500.00; Norm Sandmire \$404.47; Kirk Stibbe & Wanless Excavating, \$11,571.65; it was suggested at this point to obtain a gas card for the 2016 season. Motion was made by Gary Peters to have the conservation office to get a charge card from a local conveniences gas station starting in 2016, second by Virginia Wiedenfeld. Motion carried. Other discussion regarding the gas credit card. Back to the bills, motion made by Marty Brewer to approve the October Bills as reported, second made by Virginia Wiedenfeld. Motion carried.

The next meeting is set for Monday November 9th, 2015, at 9:00 a.m.

John Turgasen, made motion to adjourn. Second by Gary Peters. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Cooper
CC/tcb