

Land Conservation Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
December 14<sup>th</sup>, 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, Cathy Cooper, Randy Heims, Kent Marshall, Ken Anderson, Virginia Wiedenfeld, Carlton Peterson, NRCS, and Tammy Cannoy-Bender. JoAnn Cooley, FSA, arrived later in the meeting.

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

Hearing no additions or corrections Chairman Larry Sebranek declared the November meeting minutes approved as mailed.

Cathy stepped out of the meeting to get some information.

Ken gave the Ash Creek Community Forest report. Nothing new to report, Chairman Larry Sebranek reminded Ken that he will touch up the Ash Creek sign when he and Kent get it down for him.

Ken gave the Mill Creek Watershed Report. Nothing new to report, he suggested that he and Cathy or Kent will probably go out to check the dams after all of the rain we are receiving.

Ken gave the Conservation Technician report. There are some contracts that we need to extend. Ken and Cathy presented a list of contracts to extend. Cal Brown for a well abandonment, 7 nutrient management plans; Doug & Richard Munz, Doug Munz, Thomas Rand, Victor Swenson, Dean Aide, Chris and Deb Parduhn and Bluff View Farms LLC. Motioned by Randy Heims to approve the extensions as Cathy has listed them, second make by Virginia Wiedenfeld. Motion carried.

Kent gave the Working Lands Initiative (Farmland Preservation) Report. Tammy has sent out the self-compliance forms for the property owners who claim the Working Lands Credit. Tammy is also working on sending out the voluntary non-compliance letters for property owners who don't claim the credit. Cathy reported that the fee needs to be in ordinance form and approved by the County Board. Self-compliance forms will need to be returned by January 15<sup>th</sup> with a \$15.00 filing fee. Forms returned after the 15<sup>th</sup> of January will have a filing fee of \$30.00. Failure to return the form by March 1<sup>st</sup> a notice of non-compliance will be issued. Motioned by Randy Heims to approve the dates seconded by Gary Peters. Motion carried. This ordinance will apply to the entire county whether the township is county zoned or township zoned. We are working with DATCP to have a class for small farmers to do their own nutrient management plan.

Cathy gave the County Conservationist Report. Tied in with the Working Lands report.

Building Lease. Cathy is continuing to look into other space.

There was no DNR report.

JoAnn Cooley gave the FSA report. They are currently beginning a CRP general sign up that will go thru February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016. ARCPLC commodity program signup for 2016 contracts, this will end August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. Short staffed at the end of the year. Dennis Fuller is the new member for the COC at the FSA office. JoAnn reported that the FSA/NRCS is in the process of releasing the brokerage firm that was to do the negotiation for their contract as nothing has happened since August.

Carlton Peterson gave the NRCS report. All programs are running along smoothly. The EQIP signup for new contracts ended October 2<sup>nd</sup>, and there may be money available for an additional sign up in March of 2016. Rankings should be done by the end of January for the applications received by October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 and then contracts can be written. Should there be money still available after this round there will be another EQIP sign up in March, 2016. Other programs are the honey bee, monarchy butterfly and the cover crop programs. The Kickapoo Watershed program has 5 million dollars available for 5 different counties that will end on March 4<sup>th</sup>. 2016.

Chairman Larry Sebranek is asking for someone to replace him at the RC&D meetings that happen on a quarterly bases. Marty Brewer moved to nominate Gary Peters to go instead of Larry Sebranek, second was made by Randy Heims. Chairman Sebranek asked three times for any other nominations hearing none Virginia Wiedenfeld moved to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Gary Peters to take over the RC&D meeting attendance, second made by Randy Heims. Motion carried. Virginia Wiedenfeld will continue to be the alternate.

Committee reports, none.

The December bills were presented as follows; Greg Cerven, \$1,185.23; Kirk & Brent Stibbe, \$3,896.40; Rhyme Business Products, \$87.60; Richland County Highway Commission, \$48.45; Ken Anderson, \$200.61 Motion made by Marty Brewer to approve the December Bills as reported, second made by Marilyn Marshall. Motion carried.

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

Gary Peters, made motion to adjourn second by Virginia Wiedenfeld. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:36 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Cathy Cooper tcb*

Cathy Cooper  
CC/tcb