Land Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes March 14th, 2016

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, Virginia Wiedenfeld, Marilyn Marshall, John Turgasen, Cathy Cooper, Ken Anderson, Kent Marshall, Carlton Peterson District Conservationist NRCS, and Tammy Cannoy-Bender. JoAnn Cooley arrived for her report.

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

Motion made by Virginia Wiedenfeld to approve the February 2016 minutes Second made by John Turgasen. Motion carried.

Cathy gave the Ash Creek Community Forest report. Nothing new happening currently. The other sign is down for repairs. The other metal signs need to be updated as they have faded badly.

Cathy gave the Mill Creek Watershed Report. Nothing new at this point Cathy, Ken & Kent attended the tech update last week. There is a program called "Dam Watch" that once we are a part of it we will be able to track the health of the PL566 structures and record any issues on the dams of future use. We would also be notified when there is any weather issues that may have any impact on any of the dam structures.

Ken gave the Conservation Technician report. Dale Servais project surveying is finished. Dale is having a large 2500' riprap project done on the Little Willow. This is being funded through a TRM grant (Targeted Resource Management). This is about a \$60,000 project we will be piggy backing with the Southeast Chapter of Trout unlimited group. Other project that we are working on, Justin Pellet, Norm Sandmire, Joe Funk are all dams, Need to finish designing the Morsbach project. Gerard Braun has 2 spring developments and a cattle crossing. Ken will be meeting with the land owners for them to get bids before any contracts are signed.

Kent gave the Farmland Preservation/Working Lands report. Working on Nutrient Management plans most of the month. Tammy has a large number of the Certificates of Compliance done with a unique number for the state. Cathy has a number of voluntary non-compliance forms to be signed, John & Deb Sheahan, Carl & Joan Bethke, Sarah Grell, Perry & Heide Wilkinson, Gordon Mather and Bill & Elizabeth Perkins. Motioned by Virginia Wiedenfeld to approve Cathy to sign off on the non-compliance forms, second made by Marty Brewer. Motion carried,

Cathy gave the conservationist report. She, Ken & Kent attended the WI Land + Water conference that was held in Elkhart Lake this year. This was one of the better ones that they have attended. Cathy also reported that we will need to update the Manure Storage Ordinance with some wording correction and the correct standards and statutes are quoted. This will be something that will be done during the winter. Cathy also reported that there is an emergency watershed program thru the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) that would help in the event of a breech during a hard storm and the correction needs to be done immediately. There was a good presentation during lunch that was on soil health. With this presentation it was shown that organic farming with no till is good but there are some chemicals that a used in standard farming that help to keep soils from bonding. organic farming that tills the dirt too much is really tough on the soil. There were 3 different resolutions, 2 passed and 1 regarding fencing did not. Cathy also handed out the Southern Area Association tour date of Wednesday June 22nd, Iowa County is the host this year. The Lower Wisconsin Riverway is developing a master plan, Cathy has the contact information should anyone have suggestions or complaints. Lastly Cathy reported that the allocation grant we receive from the state is now asking for a work plan to be submitted over and above the 5 year Land & Water plan we already submit.

Building Lease nothing to report.

Cathy gave the DNR report. Jake informed Cathy that his position was been filled and that person will start April 4th. Mike's position has not been filled yet.

Carlton gave the NRCS report. The second EQIP sign up has ended, the applications have been ranked with 23 applications being shovel ready. Of those 23 applications he will not know who will receive funding until later in March or early April. The MRBI (Mississippi River Basin Initiative) Kickapoo Watershed will continue for the next 3 years. This watershed is basically in Forest Township. The cover crop, Honey Bee and Monarch Butter Fly initiative sign up will end on June 10th. CSP sign up is continuing. The amount of funding that will be available is still unknown with the signup ending on March 31st. The local work group meeting will be sometime in June.

JoAnn Cooley gave the FSA report. FSA is in the process of an ARC-PLC sign up (commodity program) this sign up will end on August 1st. With everything else going on in the office this sign up has been pushed up and they are about 91% complete and they wish to have this sign up complete before crop reporting starts. Jim is at national training this week for GIS and Crop Reporting. The office will be getting new software for the crop reporting that will be done this spring. JoAnn leave this Sunday for Washington DC for a National Management meeting. There are 2 positions currently open with FSA 1 full time and 1 temporary position with interviews be held Tuesday for the full time position. The temporary position will Tuesday this week, there are currently 2 applications. The CRP General Sign up closed at the end of February with the CP32 program that was originally done has been now approved. Judy will be working on general sign up just for this practice that will close at the end of this week. The ranking will be within the next two weeks so the office will know then as to who will get into the general signup. Most contract in Richland County are part of the continuous contract that does not have a bid process. JoAnn also reported that there has been no progress on the lease for the federal government.

There were no committee reports.

The March bills were presented as follows; CK Norman Development, \$957.00; Greg Cerven, \$1,130.65; Greeley Signs & Graphics LLC, \$30.00; Woodstock Nursery, \$908.75; Richland Observer, 35.10; Richland Locker, \$220.00; Mike Zimmer, \$65.94; Ken Anderson, \$258.06. Motion made by Marty Brewer to approve the March Bills; second made by Gary Peters. Motion carried.

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

Motion made by Virginia Wiedenfeld to adjourn the meeting, second made by Marilyn Marshall. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Cooper

CC/tcb