

Land Conservation Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 11th, 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, Randy Heims, Cathy Cooper, Ken Anderson, Kent Marshall, Brandon Bluer, Southwest Badger RC&D Stewardship Forester, Joe Schmaedick, DNR Forester, John & Betty Huth and Tammy Cannoy-Bender. JoAnn Cooley arrived for her report.

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

Motion made by Marty Brewer to approve the March 2016 minutes Second made by Marilyn Marshall. Motion carried.

Cathy gave the Ash Creek Community Forest report. Nothing new happening. Thank you to Larry Sebranek for refreshing the signs, Ken & Kent will get them put back up after they get the posts painted. The "no camping" signs also look as if they need to be replaced. They are metal signs that should be ordered possibly thru the highway department.

Cathy introduced the new DNR Forester Joe Schmaedick and Brandon Bluer, Southwest Badger, Stewardship Forester.

Cathy and Ken gave the Mill Creek Watershed Report. The Huth Dam needs to have some drainage clean out. NRCS engineer, Mike Dreischmeier gave the ok to clean out the area with a mini excavator. John Huth explained what he would like to have done. Also there is a willow tree at the Durst Dam that needs to be removed at the inlet pipe and Ken would like to get both dams taken care of. Marty Brewer made motion to rent a mini excavator and have Ken do the cleanup of both sites; second made by Virginia Wiedenfeld. Motion carried. Randy Heims asked about liability insurance, the difference between Ken doing the work or hiring someone to do the work. Chairman Larry Sebranek will check into the insurance issue and at this point Marty Brewer amended his motion to rent a mini excavator and have Ken do the work or if the liability insurance is an issue to move forward and hire the work out, second made by Virginia Wiedenfeld. Motion carried. Randy Heims made motion that if the insurance is an issue; go ahead and hire Reyzek contractor to do the work as soon as possible, second made by Virginia Wiedenfeld with a comment to check on if this will need a bid for the work, chairman Sebranek will check on this when he is checking on the insurance. Motion carried. Ken also reported that he and Kent were out to the Dosch dam to clean out the area and cut down and sprayed the junk trees stumps.

Ken gave the Conservation Technician report. Ken is getting the plans out to the land owners for the projects that will be done this season so they can contact contractors to do the work. Once the cost sharing money for this year has been confirmed contracts will be signed and presented to the committee for their approval.

Kent gave the Farmland Preservation/Working Lands report. Working on nutrient management plans for those way are looking at claiming for this year. Cathy presented the committee when the following people that are volunteering non-compliance, Kevin Frawley, Joe Cairns and 2 for Lawrence Seep. Motion made by Gary Peters to approve the volunteer non-compliance and have Cathy sign them, second made by Randy Heims. Motion carried.

Next was the modification to Greg and JoAnn Kinney's agreement and Greg, JoAnn & Kevin Kinney's agreement with the state, Kinney's want to convert their existing agreement to get the flat \$5.00 an acre and then when the zoning goes thru in Richwood Township they will be eligible for \$10.00 an acre for the life of the agreement. Motion made by Marty Brewer to approve both agreement modifications second made by Virginia Wiedenfeld. Motion carried.

Cathy gave the County Conservationist report. There is a Southern Area meeting in Fitchburg on May 4th and she needs to know by this Friday if anyone of the committee members would like to go. She will be attending the meeting. Cathy has filled out the allocation request for the 2017 grant. The total staffing that we are asking for is \$163,325, \$60,000 in bond money for cost sharing for hard practices and \$28,000 for nutrient management planning, this is for 1,000 acres. This will be sent in this week. Motion made by Randy Heims to have Chairman Larry Sebranek to sign the allocation request, second made by Marilyn Marshall. Motion carried.

Southwest Badger RC&D, Brandon Bluer introduced himself to the committee, he will be working on the urban forestry grant and organizing workshop for the urban areas. He is also working on an Oak Assessment Action with area property owners. He will be working with the county highway department. Gary Peters also reported on the meeting that he attended for Southwest Badger RC&D that was held in the conference room here. There was great attendance for the meeting. There were a variety of programs that were discussed. Cathy also reported that Ben Wegleitner, Southwest Badger Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, will be leaving, but before that he spoke with Bill Condon of the County Highway department regarding the inadvertently spreading of certain invasive species within Richland Township and other parts of the county.

Building Lease nothing to report.

Joe Schmaedick gave the DNR report. Joe has taken over Jake Elder's position as Jake has moved into a team leading position and Mike Finley has also moved on to the Fitchburg office, his position will not be filled for a year. Fire season is on right now. There is a new Managed Forestry Law that is sitting on the governor's desk for approval and when this does get approved it will effect current and new contracts.

JoAnn Cooley gave the FSA report. She introduced a new county operation officer that is training in the office, Deb Marge. She will be another JoAnn in another County. JoAnn is not leaving. The office has not heard anything regarding the CRP sign up that just ended. The office is doing general CRP crop reporting. The ARC-PLC sign up deadline is August 1st, 2016 however the office has over 90% of the sign up done as the annual crop reporting is due 15 days after and the office is currently short staffed. Sheila has done a great job at getting the ARC-PLC sign up done. The end of April most all of the staff will be in training leaving only Judy in the office for 3 days. There will be a temp employee should be starting on April 18th, proved all of the paperwork goes thru, the temp name is Heather Berry. The full time permanent position has also been filled sometime in May, her name is Hannah Sorenson. The last thing JoAnn had to report on was the building lease and she has heard nothing. Randy Heims asked JoAnn about the general CRP sign up and will all of them be accepted. JoAnn reported that within Richland County there was a relatively small general sign up as most people in the county qualify for continuous sign up that are called a HELI contract. Highly Erodible Land Initiative. The general CREP contracts that are expiring this year may also be eligible to renew their contract.

There was no NRCS report. Carlton is in Viroqua.

There were no committee reports.

Virginia Wiedenfeld thanked everyone for their time as this is her last meeting. She will still be involved with Ithaca town zoning. Everyone in the meeting also thanked her for her time and service on County Board.

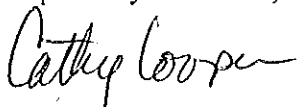
The April bills were presented as follows; CK Norman Development, \$957.00; Greg Cerven, \$1,151.25; Premier Co-op, \$37.12; Woodstock Nursery, \$448.50; Rhyme Business Products, \$49.68; Tammy Cannoy-Bender, \$17.54; Don Schuda, \$32.97; Cathy Cooper, \$46.41; Ken Anderson, \$186.66. Ken Anderson stated that he paid for the chemical from the Co-op therefore the \$32.97 should actually be paid to him. Motion made by Marty Brewer to approve the April Bills; second made by Randy Heims. Motion carried.

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

Motion made by Gary Peters to adjourn the meeting, second made by Marilyn Marshall. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Cooper
CC/tcb