

Land Conservation Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016

The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Larry Sebranek. Those present were Larry Sebranek, Paul Kinney, Randy Heims, Marilyn Marshall, Gary Peters, Cathy Cooper, Kent Marshall, Ken Anderson, Carlton Peterson, NRCS and Tammy Cannoy-Bender. Steve Williamson was absent.

Motion made by Randy Heims to approve the agenda & proof of publication; second made by Marilyn Marshall. Motion carried.

Motion made by Paul Kinney to approve the July 2016 minutes second made by Gary Peters. Motion carried.

Cathy gave the Ash Creek Community Forest report. Gary reported that he will be going out to GPS point locations to get the trails marked. He will have the assistance of EMT Rachel Kerian. He also asked if there were any other benches along the trail other than the ones at the fish tanks. Cathy said no. Not that we are aware of.

Cathy gave the Mill Creek Watershed Report. Ken reported that the Ewers and the Popp dams have been sprayed and the weeds are dead. Ben Robel, Vegetation Solutions, LLC along with Andy Keller have the goats and sheep that are currently behind the conservation building working on the brush on the bank between Starlight Ln and the building. This is something to consider in the future to have the goats on some of the dams that need to be cleaned up versus chemicals and man power.

Ken gave the Conservation Technician report. July was a busy month for construction. Spring development for Gerard Braun, dam project for Kathy Morsbach and a variety of well abandonments were completed. Ken handed out some pictures of the Braun project. Cathy had a couple of cost sharing contracts for Nutrient Management. Dave and Fran Ewing for \$6,048 and Steve and Cindy Schmidt are interested however we are asking another county for addition funds to complete this contract. Steve & Cindy's amount will be \$ 8,876. Should we get the money needed from the other county we will have some cushion if Ewing's or Schmidt's go over a little. Motion by Randy Heims to approve the contracts for both Dave & Fran Ewing and Steve & Cindy Schmidt, second by Paul Kinney. Motion carried.

Kent gave the Farmland Preservation/Working Lands report. Working on nutrient management plans for producers. First contour strip laying job for the summer is scheduled for Friday (8/12) provided the weather holds. There were no voluntary non-compliances for this month however, the office will start issuing non-compliances in October if necessary. Paul Kinney had some questions regarding cost sharing and Richwood Township. Cathy answered the questions for Paul and told him that if he knows of anyone interested to give her a call.

Cathy gave the County Conservationist report. Nothing new to report at this time.

Soil & Water Resource Grant Transfers next on the agenda. There are two different request. First we are requesting \$2,800 of SEG money from Jefferson County for nutrient management cost sharing. Motion made by Marilyn Marshall to accept the money transfer from Jefferson County, second made by Gary Peters. Motion carried. Second we are asking to transfer \$5,000 of bond money to Vernon County for helping them finish a large project. Vernon County gave us money last year for a project so we are just returning the favor. Motion made by Paul Kinney to transfer \$5,000 of bond money to Vernon County, second made by Randy Heims. Motion carried.

Building Lease to report. Cathy handed out the building reconfiguration plans that have been approved by both Federal (FSA & NRCS) offices and the landlord (Cary Norman). The Land Conservation office will have 651.4 square feet of office space with no shared space. The Land Conservation Office will not have any windows, Cathy has asked that if we could have a window thru the door for a little natural light. Cathy will lose her office. This is a done deal. The conference room that is currently used by all of the agencies will no longer be available in the next building lease. The new conference room will be maintained by the FSA office and we will be able to use it if neither the FSA nor NRCS are using it. On days that the Federal departments are not in we will not have access to the break room therefore Cathy will be asking for a dorm size refrigerator and a microwave in our office. We also will not have access to the land owner files on the days that NRCS is not in. Further discussion about the building and the reconstruction continues.

There was no DNR report.

There was no FSA report.

Carlton gave the NRCS report. EQIP program sign up for fiscal year 2017 is ongoing, the application deadline is September 2<sup>nd</sup>. This deadline is only for eligibility. The screening deadline for low, medium or high ranking will be December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The applicants will probably know in February of 2017 if they will be receiving funding for the practice that they signed up for. The Mississippi River Basin Initiative sign up has the same time deadlines. The Kickapoo watershed for the western half of Forest Township isn't as busy as there is not as not crop land in that area. NRCS has a contribution agreement with Trout Unlimited to start ringing door bells in that area to get more interest for that sign up. The local work group meeting was last week state office will take into consideration the issues that were brought up at the meeting. The fiscal year CSP program had 37 applications with 22 of them having contracts that have been obligated and are ready to move forward. The expiring CSP contracts will have an opportunity to renew their contracts for another 5 years provided they add additional practices. CRP status reviews are finally getting done with assistance from the farm biologist. There were 25 compliance reviews that have been done for the producers that participate in federal funding programs, should any of them be found out of compliance they will be given 1 year correct the issues and if after that year they have not corrected the issue(s) they will have 1 month to come into compliance or pay back all money they have received from the federal government. Patti Jackson-Kelly will be leaving the area office and is transferring back to Louisiana. John White will be filling in until her position is filled.

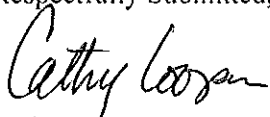
The August bills were presented as follows; CK Norman Development, \$957.00; Greg Cerven, \$1,187.08; Wanless Bulldozing \$600.00; Ben Meadows, \$130.38; Gerard Braun & Wanless Construction \$10,723.72; Kathy Morsbach & Riverway Trucking Hackl Construction, \$5,337.50; Brian Hiller & Storer Pump Systems Inc., \$591.50; Ken Gillingham & Storer Pump Systems \$1,043.00; John Lord & Storer Pump Systems Inc., \$346.50; Premier Cooperative, \$283.90. Motion made by Gary Peters to approve the August Bills; second made by Randy Heims. Motion carried.

The next meeting is set for Monday September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

Motion made by Randy Heims to adjourn the meeting, second made by Paul Kinney. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Cooper  
CC/tcb