

Land Conservation Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 12th, 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, Cathy Cooper, Kent Marshall, Ken Anderson, JoAnn Cooley, FSA, Nathalie Schattner, FSA, Carlton Peterson, NRCS, Joe Schmaedick, DNR and Tammy Cannoy-Bender. Steve Williamson and Gary Peters were absent.

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

Motion made by Marilyn Marshall to approve the November 14th minutes, second made by Paul Kinney. Motion carried.

There was no Ash Creek Community Forest report.

Ken and Cathy gave the Mill Creek report. Ken has spoken with Rich Wanless regarding the cleanup of the pool area below the Ewers and Huth dams along with the Popp dam. The Popp dam has a rear axle and a few tires that need to be taken out. DNR requested that these items be removed. Rich gave a quote of \$1,500 and a day to get all of them cleaned up. Basically this is based on time and material for the cleanup. There is money available for this clean up in the Mill Creek fund 64. This project may happen later this winter or spring before the thaw. Motion made by Paul Kinney to approve the repair and clean out of all three dams, second made by Randy Heims. Motion carried.

Cathy shared the letters that she received from the Department of Natural Resources regarding the 13A dam (Luttig Dam). Below this dam there is a house that the lowest entry level of the house is 6/10th of a foot below the flood level, this one the office could do some flood proofing around the entrance. The other 2 dams (Popp & Robins) both are above Boss Town. These 2 dams have 5 homes below them. The choices that the DNR is giving the county are 1. Upgrade the dams to a 1,000 year flood event, 2, Remove the dams completely, 3, Relocate people or 4. Flood proof all of them. The Boss Town homes would not be able to flood proof as they are all 5 feet below the flood stage. This was brought up to the finance committee several years ago and the committee chose to do nothing to prepare for this. There are some possible grants that we can apply for but this is something that needs to have more research done. Randy asked the question, "If the dams are removed, is the county responsible for the homes when there is a flood." Cathy will research this. Regardless of what is done it will have to be done by November 10th 2018.

Ken gave the conservation technician report. Wrapped up the last 2 projects for the year and the request for reimbursement will be sent in. We will be receiving approximately \$37,000 for cost sharing in 2017.

Kent gave the Farmland Preservation/Working Lands report. The farmland preservation plan update has been approved by the state. Still working on Nutrient Management plans to be done by the end of the year. The self-compliance reports have been mailed and the office is starting to get them back, no one has been complaining about the filing fee.

We have 2 voluntary non-compliance waivers for approval. Ken McBain and August & Shirley Shelbrack. Motion made by Randy Heims to approve the issuance of non-compliance for both and forward them on to the state, second made by Paul Kinney. Motion carried.

Cathy gave the County Conservation report. Nothing new to report, getting things wrapped up for the year and help Kent with nutrient management plans.

The building lease, JoAnn gave an update during the FSA report.

Joe Schmaedick gave the DNR report. Nothing new to report.

Joann Cooley gave the FSA report. Introduced her new employee, Sarah Eberhart. JoAnn reported that the MPP deadline for 2017 is December 16th of this year, there are a number of people to come in yet before this deadline. They have received 3 post cards and a phone call as a reminder for the producer to come in. Fall crop reporting went well, the deadline was met. Nathalie will be ready by March instead of June of 2017 for her new position. Judy is busy with CRP plans that will be expiring in 2017. Working on map changes as time allows. The election ballots will be counted on the 19th, there are 2 people on the ballot for this year. The building lease, according to Mr. Norman is moving forward and he is anticipating construction to begin late winter early spring. There will be a sit down meeting of the managers and Cathy to discuss the finer points of the construction (i.e. which way do you want the doors to open).

Carlton Peterson gave the NRCS report. EQIP 2017 sign up application had to be in by September 2nd, there were 68 applications and they are being processed, it will be early February before it is known who will receive funding. There will be another EQIP signup for any additional funds that may be left over and the deadline for those applications will be March 3rd, 2017. This will also include the cover crop initiative that will be a separate fund pool. The CSP program payments have been sent out. The application for the new CSP program is quite different from the last one and the deadline is February 3rd, 2017. Jean (Vodak) Kursave is back from her 7 weeks lay off. Patti Jackson Kelly has taken a position in Louisiana. Her replacement should be here by the end of January, 2017. Jim Bramblent, State Conservationist last day was Friday the 9th. He is moving on to Washington he will be the deputy chief of science and technology. His replacement will begin in early May.

There were no committee reports.

The December bills were presented as follows; Greg Cerven, \$1,149.70; Norm Sandmire, \$309.23; Cathy Cooper, \$10.20; Dean Aide, \$2,954.00; Ken Anderson, \$170.34. Motion made by Randy Heims to approve the December bills; second made by Marilyn Marshall. Motion carried.

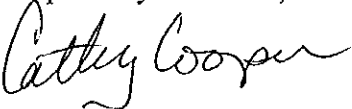
The next meeting is set for Monday January 16, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

Paul had some more questions regarding the Boss Town area, discussion of the options were reviewed.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Cooper
CC/tcb