

Land Conservation Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 8th, 2017

The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Larry Sebranek. Those present were Larry Sebranek, Gary Peters, Paul Kinney, Marilyn Marshall, Cathy Cooper, Ken Anderson, Kent Marshall, Joe Schmaedick, Nathalie Schattner, John Turgasen and Tammy Cannooy-Bender. Steve Williamson was on conference call for the meeting.

Motion made by Paul Kinney to approve the amended agenda & proof of publication; second made by Gary Peters. Motion carried.

Hearing no corrections or additions Chairman Larry Sebranek approved the April 10th minutes as mailed/emailed out.

Cathy gave the Ash Creek Community Forest report; the porta-a-potty has been delivered for the season, we still need to get the donation boxes still needs to be installed at both of the parking lot. Chairman Sebranek suggested to check out the box he did for the American Legion and if that would work he will get one made. Steve asked about the marking of the trails if they have been done yet and the answer is no.

Cathy gave the Mill Creek Watershed Report; NRCS engineer, Mike Dreschmeier has given her some ideas of flood proofing the house basement entrance on the corner of Tuck-Away Rd and County Highway Z, she needs to contact the property owner as to which one they would prefer. Ken reported that Rich Wanless assisted him with cleaning out the Brindley Dam and Ewers Dam, pool area/outlet area. Then went to the Huth Dam, there have been problems with the inlet pipe being plugged so Rich Wanless cleaned out the sediment around the area. A week later Ken & Kent went back out to the site; the pipe had broken off about a foot down, Ken handed out pictures of the area he is talking about. The pipe will need to be replaced in the near future. The dams were created and designed for 50 years and all of the dams are beyond that point, the dams have done their job and now we expect them to do more. All of the dams need to have the sediment cleaned out. The Dosch dam was cleaned out with assistance from the Federal Government several years ago.

Ken gave the Conservation Technician report. Corporation Counsel, Ben Southwick has the fishing easement and there are some areas that he wants changed; some of the changes that he wants would make it cost prohibitive for the land owner to go into the easement with the County for 20 years and then usually the DNR purchases the easement from the land owner. Ken will continue to work with Ben on this and bring it back to the June meeting for the committee to act on it.

Kent gave the Working Lands/Farmland Preservation report. Working on laying out strips for farmers, there doesn't seem to be that many this year. There were no voluntary non-compliance requests. Modification to Byron Hillberry's farmland preservation agreement with the state. He is in Richwood Township and has a few years left with his agreement and is now eligible for a larger credit at tax filling time because Richwood Township is now county zoned. Motion made by Gary Peters to approve the modification to his agreement, second made by John Turgasen. Motion carried.

Cathy gave the County Conservationist report; there is a Southern Area meeting coming up, she will get the information to Gary Peters, other than that there is nothing new to report.

Building lease; Larry and Ken met with Judy, Cary Norman's Liaison regarding the lease. Judy present a counter to the counter that we had given Cary. There is still a \$2.00 difference between what we offered and what CK Development wants. Cathy, Ken and Kent checked out the space available on Bohmann Driver, the space is a little smaller than what we currently have; she still needs to check with Barb Scott regarding the computer system that will be needed.

The only other space that may be available is at the Health and Human Services buildings. Motion was made by Steve Williamson to have Cathy get a price from Barb Scott as to what it would cost for the computer upgrade at the building site on Bohmann Dr., second made by John Turgasen. Paul would like to have Cathy bring copies of her finding to the June meeting. Paul also asked what would be our next move if there is not enough in saving. Motion carried. The answer to Paul's question is to talk with Pat Metz at the Health and Human Services building.

Deregulation of Wolves was next on the agenda; Chairman Larry Sebranek was approached by some that would like the County to pass a resolution deregulating wolves and keep the wolf count to 350. Motion made by Paul Kinney to take the resolution to the County Board for approval, second made by Marilyn Marshall. John Turgasen asked who was behind this resolution. Wisconsin Wildlife Federation is backing this resolution. Motion carried 5-1 with Gary Peters voting no.

Joe Schmaedick gave the DNR report; there are some changes that will take effect as of July 1, 2017. Services should be the same, however the people offering the services will be different. The people will be more specialized

Nathalie Schattner gave the FSA report; the agency is within ½ million acres of the CRP cap, so any 2017 starts have been shut off, the office can take 2018 start inquiries but not allowed to send them on. The new secretary of Ag will have the option of what to do with the last ½ million acres. There are 2.5 million acres expiring next year. The cap does not apply to CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program). The office is at 94% completion of the ARCPLC enrollment, the last 6% will be caught up at crop reporting. Crop reporting is schedule to been May 30th. The hiring freeze was off and now it is back on again, basically means that Joann will be in Grant County and Nathalie will be in Richland for the time being. Paul Kinney asked if there were any of the Richland County farmers lost their milk market (grassland), Nathalie stated not they have heard of.

There was no NRCS report.

Committee reports. Gary reported that there will be a Southwest Badger meeting at the end of this week. He also reported that the Parks Commission met last week and it was reported to them that there has been Jet Skis on the Pine River. Cathy gave Gary the Southern Area meeting schedule.


The May bills were presented as follows; CK Norman Development, \$957.00; Greg Cerven, \$1,112.47; Greeley Signs & Graphics, \$12.00; Walsh's Ace Hardware, \$16.98; Wanless Construction, \$675.00; Ken Anderson, \$208.08. Motion made by Paul Kinney to approve the May Bills; second made by Gary Peters. Motion carried.

The next meeting is set for Monday June 12th, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

Motion made by Gary Peters to adjourn the meeting, second made by John Turgasen. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Cooper
CC/tcb