

Land Conservation Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 8th, 2018

The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Larry Sebranek. Those present were Larry Sebranek, Gary Peters, Marilyn Marshall, John Turgasen, Paul Kinney, Cathy Cooper, Ken Anderson, Kent Marshall, Wendy Warren & Tyler Dvorak, Southwest Badger RC&D, Juli Van Cleve, DNR, Carlton Peterson, NRCS and Tammy Cannoy-Bender. Steve Williamson was absent.

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

Chairman Larry Sebranek moved to approve the December 2017 meeting minutes as mailed out.

Tyler Dvorak gave the Southwest Badger RC&D report. He suggested to continue with the Japanese Knotweed project on Willow Creek, discussion followed. Wendy Warren followed up with more information. Grant writing hours from last year were not fully used so those hours will be available this year for use. Farmers who mentor beginning farmers and are successful in assisting the beginning farmer in obtaining land to rent, the mentor farmer will receive a bonus of \$3,000.00. There is a no-till drill available for land owners who are already working with another agency within the USDA. Tyler reported on the New Zealand mud snail reminding the committee that people need to remember to clean of anything that may encounter stream water.

Cathy gave the Ash Creek Community Forest report. Nothing new to report currently.

Cathy gave the Mill Creek Watershed Report. Nothing new to report.

Ken gave the conservation Technician report. We will be receiving about \$48,000 in cost share money this year, this is up from last year. Still have some surveying to get completed for projects to be done this year.

Kent gave the Working Lands/Farmland Preservation report. Working on Nutrient Management Plans, have a few farmers that are wanting to have a class for doing their own plans.

Cathy presented the committee with a request from Mike Hanson to modify his agreement for farmland preservation, so he could receive a higher tax credit for the duration of his agreement with the state. Motion made by Gary Peters to approve the modification, second made by John Turgasen. Motion carried.

Cathy gave the County Conservationist report. The conference this year is March 14th thru the 16th in Lake Geneva. There is a silent auction with the proceeds going toward youth education programs, in the pass this committee has contributed money or products for the auction show casing from Richland County. Ken & Kent will be going to the conference this year as we are \$100 short of having both them and Cathy going to the conference.

Juli VanCleve gave the DNR report.

John Turgasen, gave a brief Farm Service Agency (FSA) report. John is currently the acting chairman until the elections are complete.

Carlton gave the NRCS report. They are in the process of getting this round of EQIP contracts that were approved signed. Updating current contracts, the field office has a new staff member starting today.

Committee reports; Gary Peters reported that SWB RC&D will be meeting this Friday at the Phoenix Center.

The January bills were presented as follows; CK Norman Development, \$1,758.00; Greg Cerven, \$1,97.68; Ken Anderson, \$60.18. Motion made by Gary Peters to approve the January Bills; second made by Marilyn Marshall. Motion carried.

The next meeting is set for Monday February 12th, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cathy Cooper".

Cathy Cooper
CC/tcb