

Land Conservation Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 14th, 2019

The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 3 p.m. by Chairman Steve Williamson. Those present were Steve Williamson, Melissa Luck, Chad Cosgrove, John Turgasen, Shawn Murphy Lopez, Cathy Cooper, Ken Anderson, Kent Marshall, Juli Van Cleve, DNR, Dave Trester, Crawford County Conservation, Forest Yaunkee, Eli Mandel and Tammy Cannoy-Bender. Marc Couey was absent.

Motion made by Chad Cosgrove to approve the agenda & proof of publication; second made by Melissa Luck. Motion carried.

Melissa Luck moved to approve the December 2018 meeting minutes as mailed out, second made by John Turgasen. Motion carried.

Chairman Williamson dropped down on the agenda the item 8A. County wide well testing; Forest Yaunkee and Eli Mandell, Crawford Stewardship project gave a presentation on the issue of contaminated wells in the counties of Crawford, Vernon and Richland Counties. Cathy first reported that the county had done something similar in the past. She handed out paperwork (attached to the master minutes) on the study done by Grant, Iowa and Lafayette Counties. Not sure where the money will come from if we were to do this testing. Forest Yaunkee reported that 42% of the wells tested are contaminated with nitrates and bacteria. Need to find some funding/cost sharing programs for the testing. The Crawford Stewardship Project is willing to assist in grant writing for well testing. The Land Conservationist of Richland, Crawford & Vernon need to get together to discuss what they can do together for grant writing and get a plan put together. Forest & Eli thanked the committee for inviting them to the office and presented the committee with a poster.

Cathy gave the Ash Creek Community Forest report. Nothing new to report currently. Nothing has been done with the signs until we know what is wanted to be on the signs. The AdHoc committee meeting will meet on Monday January 28th 8 a.m. at the service center.

Cathy gave the Mill Creek Watershed Report. Nothing new to report, still need to get together with Mike Dreischmeier, NRCS regarding some of the dams off the high hazard list.

Ken gave the conservation Technician report. Had to extend a few contracts (they will have to be completed in 2019). Working on surveying for the 2019 season. We will be receiving \$60,000 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 coming season. Still working with the city on their phosphorus reduction. Cathy reported that Ken will be going to a TU symposium in LaCrosse instead of the WI Land + Water conference in March. Kent and Cathy will go to the conference in March in Lake Geneva.

Kent gave the Working Lands/Farmland Preservation report. Working on Nutrient Management Plans, we have classes scheduled for January 18 and 22 for farmers who do their own plans. He brought up the silent auction and donation items that are sometimes provided by the counties.

Cathy gave the County Conservationist report. Ray Archuleta, NRCS, Marathon County, will be giving a discussion on soil health. He will be in Sauk County if anyone is interested on going to his discussion. Cathy will get something on Facebook also. Monetary wise it works out better for Ken to go to the TU symposium and the Cathy and Kent to go to the WI Land + Water conference.

Juli VanCleve gave the DNR report. She reported that they do have a new Secretary for DNR. New strategy for unengaged land owners. A person who owns woods in the county and has never been in the woods with a forester.

FSA is closed due to lapse in funding. Greg Kinney will be on the FSA board once they are back in the office, but in the meantime, he is not officially on the board.

No NRCS report; they are still working for now.

Committee reports; Shawn Murphy Lopez reported that he met with Cathy & Bill Condon, Highway Commissioner at the issues that Sylvan Township is having with an area on County Road G and one of the dams. No other committee reports.

The January bills were presented as follows; CK Norman Development, \$1,832.00; Greg Cerven, \$1,079.32; Woodstock Nursery, \$246.50; Rhyme Office Supplies, \$56.97; WI Land + Water, \$1,341.00; Fillback Ford & Chrysler, \$504.41; Boyd Veal, \$336.00; WI Land + Water, \$570.00; Southern Area Association, \$125.00; Ken Anderson, \$212.89; Cathy Cooper, \$17.34. Motion made by John Turgasen to approve the January Bills; second made by Shawn Murphy Lopez. Motion carried.

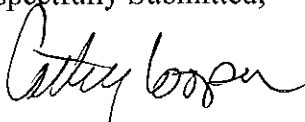
The next meeting is set for Monday February 11th, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

Shawn Murphy Lopez had checked his calendar of the AdHoc meeting will not work for him, Chair Steve Williamson will work on a date and get back to the committee on the new date.

Motion made by Shawn Murphy Lopez to adjourn the meeting, second made by Mellissa Luck. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Cooper
CC/tcb