

Land Conservation Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 11th, 2019

The Land Conservation meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Williamson at 3pm; those present were Steve Williamson, Chad Cosgrove, Marc Couey, Melissa Luck, Shaun Murphy Lopez, John Turgasen, Connie Champnoise, Carlton Peterson, Darrin Gudgeon, John Heinen, Britta Petersen, JoAnn Cooley, Juli VanCleve, Cathy Cooper, Ken Anderson, Kent Marshall and Tammy Cannoy-Bender.

Chad Cosgrove motioned to approve the agenda proof of publication, second made by Marc Couey. Motion carried.

Melissa Luck motioned to approve the February 11th, meeting minutes as sent out second made by John Turgasen. Motion carried.

Britta Petersen introduced herself to the committee, she is the newest NRCS employee as the new farm bill biologist for Pheasants Forever based out of the Richland Center office.

#4 Resolution regarding climate change; Melissa Luck presented the committee with a resolution (handout attached to master minutes) she would like to have this at the next full County Board session. Darrin Gudgeon gave the committee some information regarding the impact of the flooding that has happened in the last 3 years. 2016- \$1.7 million in damages in the County, 2017 \$382,000 in damages and in 2018 we had \$1.5 million in damages. These numbers encompass damages to township & county roads that don't receive federal funding, residential homes and business along with any for EMS, fire, law enforcement and temporary sheltering, public health, sand bagging, emergency pumping of water and damage to utilities and parks. Historic cresting of the Kickapoo River is also attached to the master minutes. There is no information available for the Pine River. The city of Richland Center has never agreed to have the gauges. The committee reviewed the resolution, it was suggested to have an addition where as clause, locally in Richland County, the largest impact is increases severity and frequency. After further discussion motion was made by Shaun Murphy Lopez to present the resolution to the full County Board at their next meeting, second made by Melissa Luck. Motion carried.

Chair Williamson then went to #12 FSA report. JoAnn Cooley is also managing the Crawford County office, now she has a more stable staff in Crawford and should be here more often. The farm bill was passed, she has found out that there will be Dairy sign up in June and it will be made retro active to January. The commodity program ARC-PLC will remain as is and that sign up will not happen until possibly September, the sign up will be for both 2019 & 2020, because of the delayed farm bill and the furlough both will be signed up. With this farm bill there will be a CRP general sign up every year, no guarantee of acceptance, however this sign up will probably not happen until November/December. Training will not happen until after crop reporting, there will be an additional staff member here that will be available for both Richland and Crawford counties as JoAnn does take staff members back and forth between offices, however the job has not been posted yet.

Chair Williamson then dropped down to item #13 NRCS report; Carlton Peterson presented the report; EQIP program policy is not written yet with the new farm bill. The November sign up applications are part of the 19-1 sign ups are mostly forestry practice and then there is a 19-2 applications are primarily for Streambank, grade stabilization, grass waterways. Now there will be a 19-3 sign up and this deadline will be May 17, 2019. This will be generally for beginning farms and cover crops. The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) has not be announced for 2019 yet due to the delay of the farm bill.

#11 Juli gave the DNR report; Not much to report just like everyone else waiting for the snow to melt. Getting ready for fire season. Working with the Ad Hoc committee getting trails GPS'd at the Ash Creek Community Forest.

#5 Ash Creek Community Forest; Grant Application for Trail Improvement, Melissa spoke with Sheryl Housley, Community Service Specialist for our region and she thought that the most appropriate grant would be the recreational trail program grant. This grant is a 50/50 grant. According to Sheryl maintenance and rehab of existing trails is the top-ranking thing that gets the highest ranking when applications are evaluated. Melissa will start gathering information for the application. The application is due May 1, 2019 and there will be a time line to use the grant once it is awarded.

Ken reported on the estimate for dam repair and the proposed parking lot. Ken handed out the revised construction plan. The parking lot will be created in conjunction with the repair of the dam and the equipment will already be on site. The project will be put out for bid along with a deadline of completion.

The Ad Hoc meeting was on March 7th and the minutes will be sent.

#6 Cathy didn't have anything new to report on Mill Creek Watershed; Once the snow has melted inspection of the dams will be done. Cathy will talk with Bill Condon about the dam on County Hwy G.

#7 Ken gave the Conservation Technician report; Has been helping the city at the industrial park, the have 2 sites left to complete. The project should be done this week. Finishing up plans and getting permits for some crossings and rip rap projects. Have a few more sites that need to be surveyed, once the snow has melted these will get done.

#8 Kent gave the Working Lands (Farmland Preservation) report. Working on nutrient management plans. We have a modification to the KRC agreement. Motioned by John Turgasen to approve the modification, second by Shaun Murphy Lopez. Motion carried.

#9 Cathy gave the County Conservationist report. The county wide well testing, She and Dave Troester, Crawford County Conservationist and Ben Wojohn, Vernon County will be getting together at the conference this week to figure out what needs to be done.

Melissa spoke about well testing quick. Assembly members Kurtz and Novak are on the task force with Novak being the Chair. Calls coming from the voting public and County officials have more pull than that of County employees.

Cathy reported that she & Kent will be leaving on Wednesday Morning for the conference in Lake Geneva and she reported on the resolutions that will be presented at the board meeting. Melissa will be able to vote on the resolutions. Cathy also reported that as of 3/16/19 the South West Badger RC & D will no longer be in existence (we already paid our dues for 2019).

#10 Wildlife, nothing to report.

#15 the following bills were presented for March, CK Norman development, \$916.00; Greg Cerven, \$1,093.64; Woodstock Nursery, \$315.75; Rhyme Office Supplies, \$45.37; Steve Schmitz, 545.54; Cathy Cooper, \$51.51; Ken Anderson, \$65.79. Motion made by Marc Couey to pay the March bills as presented, second made by Melissa Luck. Motion carried.

#14 there was no committee member reports.

The next meeting will be April 8, 2019 at 3pm.

Motion made by Melissa Luck to adjourn the meeting, second made by Shaun Murphy Lopez. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:02 pm.

Secretary Pro-Temp

Cathy Cooper