

Land Conservation Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019

#1 The Land Conservation meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Chad Cosgrove at 3pm; those present were, Chad Cosgrove, Marc Couey, Melissa Luck, Shaun Murphy Lopez, Connie Champnoise, Victor Vlasak, Cathy Cooper, Ken Anderson, Kent Marshall and Tammy Cannoy-Bender. Steve Williamson was absent. No FSA representative.

#2 Marc Couey motioned to approve the amended agenda proof of publication, second made by Melissa Luck. Motion carried.

#3 Shaun Murphy Lopez motioned to approve both April 8<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, meeting minutes as sent out second made by Melissa Luck. Motion carried.

#4 Climate Resolution; the resolution was reviewed as Ben wrote it and how Melissa had initially written it. The committee jointly agreed to move forward with the Resolution as Ben had written it.

#5 Outdoor Recreation Plan; there are some goals that need to be added, the Ash Creek Ad-Hoc committee, this will stay on the agenda for now. The plan expires in 2020 so when Melissa applies for the RTF grant the plan will need to be updated before May 1, 2020.

#6 Ash Creek Community Forest; A-B-C will be discussed at the June meeting when Steve Williamson is present. Cathy reported that Todd Kenefick had stopped in to the office; he said that he is looking at thinning some of the pines and having an Ash Tree sale before the emerald ash bore infest the trees, he doesn't have anything set up yet but this something that may happen within the next year. E. Bid opening for the dam repair; 2 bids were received, after reviewing the bids motion was made Melissa Luck to award the bid to Rich Wanless for \$2,450.00, second made by Marc Couey. Motion carried. D. Mowing of the property; 1 bid was received. Motion made by Marc Couey to accept Don Wanless' bid, second made by Melissa Luck. Motion carried.

#7 Mill Creek; the inlet on the Brindley Dam is plugged and the water is slowly going down. An excavator is needed to reach in to clean off the pipe. The little dam on County Highway G was reviewed by Mike Dreschmeier and the dam is doing what it was designed for.

#8 Ken gave the Conservation Technician report; working on more projects for bids. Working with the highway shop and the issue they have out on County Hwy Y. There will be contracts to sign but not until after we have the money for cost sharing.

#9 Kent gave the Working Lands (Farmland Preservation) report. Still working on Nutrient Management plans. Ed Ruff, Southwest Tech instructor, had a class in March and April for area farmers to write their own plans. They planned not quite 8,000 acres.

#10 Cathy gave the County Conservationist report. A. Well testing, we currently have 1 kit left. The samples will go to Stevens Point on Wednesday 5/15. B. Mileage payment, since the volunteers are taking the samples to Stevens Point there will be no mileage to claim. Melissa reported that the Gotham public hearing on water went well. There will be another one in the Viola area later either this month or in June. She mentioned that the county conservationist of Vernon, Crawford & Richland have met are looking at doing a joint water study. She met with one of the Researchers of the study done for Lafayette, Iowa & Grant counties and they are willing to help us develop a study to be done here. Representative Kurtz is asking for a name of the 3 counties collaboration as he is wanting to put in an amendment to the budget to include cost sharing monies to cover the study. The 3 counties will meet on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May. The name of the group should have Driftless in the name. One suggestion is Driftless Area Water Study "DAWS", Cathy will email the other county cons for their suggestions. This water study is not being done to get large farmers in trouble. Melissa suggested a farmer led watershed group, so the farmers are part of the study.

#11 Review and prioritize 2012 Land & Water plans goals; Cathy sends in a work plan to the state every year with what will be prioritized for the year. Melissa would like to see more strategically placed dry dams to help slow up

waters during major flood events. Much discussion regarding what farmers do with the land compared to what the conservation office offers and suggest how to conserve the land and still make money off the land while conserving the land. There were some suggestions made as to how we can get more information out to land owners above what we already Do.

#12 Wildlife, nothing to report. Melissa asked how this program works, Cathy explained how it works. Should the property owner wish to claim damage they need to comply with the rules of the program

#13 No DNR report.

#14 No Farm Service Agency (FSA) report.

#15 No NRCS report

#16 Tammy reported on the tree sales for 2019. Sold 1902 trees, the nursery had an issue with some back order and then the trees were down sized.

#17 Committee member reports; none

#18 The following bills were presented for May; CK Norman development, \$916.00; Greg Cerven, \$1,147.15; Rhyme Supplies, \$119.55; James Nee, \$21.10; Brandon Bartels, \$73.85; Mike Wamhoff, \$36.93; Richland Observer, \$39.31; Cathy Cooper, \$32.65; Ken Anderson, \$164.22. Motion made by Marc Couey to pay the May bills as presented, second made by Shaun Murphy-Lopez. Motion carried.

#19 The next meeting will be June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 3pm. Melissa will not be at the June meeting.

#20 Motion made by Melissa Luck to adjourn the meeting, second made by Marc Couey. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Secretary Pro-Temp

Cathy Cooper