

Land Conservation Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 8th 2019

#1 The Land Conservation meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Williamson at 3:00 pm; those present were, Steve Williamson, Marc Couey, Shaun Murphy Lopez, Melissa Luck, Juli VanCleve, Cathy Cooper, Ken Anderson, Kent Marshall, Connie Champnoise and Tammy Cannoy-Bender. Chad Cosgrove and John Turgasen were absent. JoAnn Cooley arrived to give the Farm Services report.

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

#3 Melisa Luck motioned to approve the June meeting minutes as sent out second made by Shaun Murphy-Lopez. Motion carried.

#4 Melissa Luck gave a brief update on the Water Study. The study group is ready for the next step. There are 3,769 +/- private wells in the county of those wells 507 samples have been sent into the UW Steven Point for testing of nitrates since they have been keeping report. 21% of these tests came back over the recommended limit of 10mg per liter for nitrates. This number is higher than the neighboring counties. Crawford, Vernon & Richland Counties are working together for the study cost, this will be determined by population, Vernon will have 50% of the cost and Crawford & Richland will each have 25% of the cost. Estimated cost for Richland is \$25,000.00. This would include well testing in a strategic pattern across the county and then the interpretation of the data that is collected. There are grants out there that could help subsidize the money from the county should the county and this committee decide to move forward. The water study group will be meeting on August 20th in this conference room. Both Crawford & Vernon counties have approved their dollar amounts for the 2020 budget.

#5 Ken Anderson gave the Ash Creek Community Forest report. Rich Wanless has made the dam repairs, the bill is \$2,450. Met with Don Wanless regarding the mowing, Don went back and mowed the areas that were discussed. He mowed last week, everything looks really good. Marc Couey asked about weed eating around the parking area. Ken will be taking care of this. Discussion about having another adhoc meeting to finalize the map, trails and signage on the trails. The committee decided to move forward with the map and colors, providing what colors the Forestry Supply catalog has. Basic rules on the brochure and the map on the back side. Need to finalize the ordinance with the ad-hoc committee. Steve will arrange the meeting date and get back to everyone.

#6 Cathy reported on Mill Creek; the Huth dam off Huth School Rd needs to have the pipe at the inlet repaired and it needs to be dredged out. The Brindley dam on Robson Rd. also needs something done, however the road appears to be in the pool area and preventing the water from draining properly. The weather has not been cooperating in regards for either of the dams draining and being able to get to the pipes to clear the debris from either of them. Discussion of the Robbins dam continued. This dam is doing what it should be doing. If this dam were to be taken out the area below will be inundated with water every time we get a large rain event. The committee suggested a letter being sent to the property owner.

#7 Ken gave the Conservation Technician report. We are short of cost share money for the projects that need to get done, Ken has put out request to other counties for any extra money.

#8 Kent gave the Working Lands (Farmland Preservation) report. Still working on nutrient management plans and doing farm reviews. The crop fields are all at different crop heights and some of the farmers are just now getting first crop hay down.

#9 Cathy gave the County Conservationist report. Nothing new to report. Have been working on the budget and the water study.

#10 2020 Budget will be reviewed at the end of the meeting

#11 Wildlife; nothing to report.

#12 Juli gave a brief DNR report. August first the "Wisconsin Forest Land Owner Grant Program "WFLGP" new round of grant money for forestry projects becomes available. Richland County has approximately 50 new contracts. This will represent around \$100,000 for the county land owners. This grant funding is for private land owners that are wanting to improve their woods. The only requirement for this program is for the property owner to have a forestry management plan.

#13 JoAnn Cooley gave the Farm Service Agency (FSA) report. "MFP" Market Facility Program was created because of the trade wars currently happening. The 2018 program is a one-year payment to farmers due to the trade wars will have another 2019 payment because the trade wars have not improved. The 2019 plan is completely different than the 2018 plan. JoAnn will keep the committee updated with the program. Crop reporting is almost done and the 15th of July is the last day for reporting. Currently taking DMZ dairy sign up to get money out to dairy farmers by the end of July. There are 1-year extensions on CRP fields for those that have expiring contracts and they are not at 15 years. There will be a general sign up for CRP in December however the rules for this have not been released. There is currently a sign up for some areas that qualify for "CREP" Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program for bottom fields that are next to streams. These property owners need to come in to see both Cathy and Judy in FSA to see if they would qualify. JoAnn also wanted to remind the committee that the extension agent for Richland and Crawford county has taken on a new position and this needs to be filled sooner rather than later. Farmers and land owners are referred to this person on a regular basis. The office will be having a new employee that will be working in both Richland and Crawford county but being based out of the Richland FSA office.

#14 No NRCS report

#15 Committee member reports; Shaun Murphy-Lopez did bring up the mowing along the highway right of ways needs to be done earlier than it is done currently because of the spreading of wild parsnip seed that is happening now.

#16 The following bills were presented for July; CK Norman development, \$916.00; Greg Cerven, \$1,169.08; Premier Coop, \$140.81; Don Wanless, \$1,125.00; Bill Troxel & Storer Pump Systems, Inc., \$483.00; Wanless Construction LLC, \$2,450.00. Motion made by Marc Couey to pay the July bills as presented, second made by Shaun Murphy-Lopez. Motion carried.

#17 The next meeting will be August 12th, 2019 at 3pm.

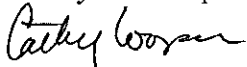
Connie Champnoise thanked the committee for passing the resolution on Climate Change, this was taken with her to Washington DC last month, Senators Ron Kind and Tammy Baldwin were both impressed.

#10 2020 Budget; After review of the presented budget, motion was made by Marc Couey to forward the 2020 budget on to the county clerk's office. Second made by Shaun Murphy-Lopez. Motion carried.

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

Meeting adjourned at 4:32 pm.

Secretary Pro-Temp



Cathy Cooper