

Land Conservation Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 9th, 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, Melissa Luck, Chad Cosgrove, John Turgasen, Shaun Murphy Lopez, Cathy Cooper, Kent Marshall, Ken Anderson, Juli VanCleve and Tammy Cannoy-Bender.

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

#3 Melissa Luck motioned to approve the August 12th meeting minutes as sent out second made by John Turgasen. Motion carried.

#4 Cathy gave the Ash Creek Community Forest report She is working on setting up the conservation field days, she wants to get the presenters set before calling the schools. The map was reviewed, there are a few things that need to be done on the map before it goes to the sign maker. The word "dash" needs to be removed, the miles need to be to the tenth, the dash trails indicate walking paths the solid trails indicate multiuse trails (hiking, biking & horses) the "P" needs to be larger on the map in the three parking areas. Tammy spoke with Lon Arbegust regarding the hidden valley ad. She informed him that the ad needs to include the Ash Creek Forest. We also need to get information to the visitor center in town regarding the community forest. Once the map is complete it will be noted on the web site.

#5 Cathy reported on Mill Creek Huth Dam, Brindley Dam, Robbins Dam. One bid was received for the draining of the Huth Dam, it was more than anticipated. The Huth Dam is slowly draining. Provided we don't receive anymore rain. Still discussing the cost of pumping the dam, there is more rain in the forecast this week. Brindley Dam; Ken & Cathy will go out to the site to see how it looks, the trash rack and the inlet needs to be cleaned out. Robbins dam seems (Shaun asked to have a map of the dams placed on the land conservation web site) to be dry. One thing to remember is that the town road goes through the flood pool of both the Huth and Brindley dams. Ken hopes to have the trash racks cleaned out at the end of the month. Marc did bring up that there is some federal money available from all of the flooding we have had in the last few years. The state grant for dam rehabilitation has money for 2020. Cathy & Ken will talk with Mike Dreschmeier about needed work and will bring back to the committee later this winter.

#6 Ken gave the Conservation Technician report. Ken has been busy with getting projects completed this year. There should not be any projects to carry over this year.

#7 Kent gave the Working Lands (Farmland Preservation) report. Still working on nutrient management plans and doing farm reviews. He gave a quick report on the fair that happened this last weekend.

Melissa suggested some "TLC" for the fairgrounds building "Log Cabin". Cathy spoke with Carla at the fairgrounds regarding the building. The roof is getting redone through the insurance (hail damage) they will get some boards replaced provided the LCD helps. There is some maintenance of the grounds around the building that will be done yet this year. Discussion of ideas for next year fair. A permanent sign on the building was suggested.

#8 Cathy gave the County Conservationist report. A. Staff evaluations have been done.

#9 Conservation Awards & Date. The date will be October 30th at 7:00 pm. We will have a list of names at the next committee meeting for the winners. The banquet has been held in the past few years at the American Legion with Paula White doing the catering. Paula is retiring and Jennifer Carter is taking over the business. The committee directed Tammy to check with Angie Arneson at the UW Platt-Richland as they are struggling, the cost of the banquet is less than \$500.00 to the County so Cathy can make the decision of as to where the banquet will be and inform the committee at the next meeting. Juli, DNR forester suggested Cheryl "Sherry" Scott for the forestry award this year. We will send a list of potential winners out with the minutes.

#10 Committee Structure; the Land Conservation committee is mandated by State Stats. 92., at minimum there has to be 2 members of the ag/extension committee and either the Chair or designee of the Farm Service Agency. It also list the duties of the Land Conservation Committee.

#11 Wildlife; nothing to report.

#12 Juli gave a brief DNR report, they are having a forestry field day at the Carlson property 4 miles North of Blue River off County Highway X on Saturday September 14th. Grant approval came out in August and there was over \$100,000 for Richland County property owners.

#13 John Turgasen didn't have anything to report for FSA.

#14 No NRCS report.

#15 Committee member reports; Melissa spoke about the water study; Vernon, Crawford & Richland counties are going to meet again on the 23rd of to iron out some issues regarding how to initiate the sampling. The meeting is in Gays Mills starting at noon. No other reports.

#16 The following bills were presented for September; CK Norman development, \$916.00; Greg Cerven, \$1,128.28; Joe Triggs & Wanless Construction, \$10,150.00; Premier Coop, \$72.15; Don Wanless, \$800.00; Mark Stoltz & Wanless Excavating, \$2,240.00; Richland County Zoning, \$30.00; Jan Glick & Wanless Construction LLC, \$6,285.75. Jim Weltzien & Wanless Construction, \$2,106.75. Motion made by Chad Cosgrove to pay the September bills as presented, second made by Melissa Luck. Motion carried.

#15 The next meeting will be October 14th, 2019 at 3pm.

#16 Motion made by John Turgasen to adjourn the meeting, second made by Shaun Murphy-Lopez. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Secretary Pro-Temp



Cathy Cooper