

Land Conservation Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019

- #1 The Land Conservation meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Williamson at 3:05 pm; those present were, Steve Williamson, Melissa Luck, Chad Cosgrove, John Turgasen, Shaun Murphy Lopez, Cathy Cooper, Kent Marshall, Ken Anderson, Juli VanCleve and Tammy Cannoy-Bender. Marc Couey was absent.
- #2 Chad Cosgrove motioned to approve the agenda and proof of publication, second made by Melissa Luck. Motion carried.
- #3 Melissa Luck motioned to approve the September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes as sent out second made by John Turgasen. Motion carried.
- #4 Ash Creek Community Forest report. Steve Williamson presented the committee with the new trails sign to be placed at the parking lot along State Hwy 80 South of Richland Center. Steve will check of the sign maker as to what would be the best way to mount the sign. The rules sign will be smaller and placed next to this sign once he ordinance is finalized. Steve also informed Melissa that the Judy has a friend that could help with the brochure. Summarized rules need to be posted yet. Post the ordinance on the web page. Conservation field days were cancelled because of the weather, the schools have asked if this could be done in the spring of the year, May would be a possible month. Shaun Murphy-Lopez asked about having an unveiling of the new sign. Discussion followed, Juli asked about painting of the trails. Motioned by Melissa Luck to go forward with the purchasing of the paint for the trails, second make by John Turgasen. Motion carried. The land conservation department will buy 2 cans of each color used for the trails. the unveiling of the sign will be Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00pm with a winter tree ID walk with Juli, DNR forester. Juli did her report at this point. She is working on getting the management plan done for the property before the next fire season.
- #5 Cathy reported on Mill Creek Huth Dam, we are still waiting to her from Rob Wanless of the time frame to et the pipe replaced, the water is down. It still may need to be pumped and the pipe fixed. Cathy reported that Dave Huth would like to take the dam out. We as the County would have to turn the dam over to him if possible and he would in turn have to come up with the liability amount to cover liability while taking the entire dam out. All of the waste will have to be hauled off premise. Brindley Dam just needs to get the trash rack cleaned off. Robbins Dam, nothing new to report, however we need to have a meeting with Mike Dreschmeier. NRCS engineer to develop a plan of what needs to be fixed along with approximate cost, then we can apply for a grant for the 2021 fiscal year that could be a capital expense with the County.
- #6 Ken gave the Conservation Technician report; There is 1 more project to do this fall for Ed Chitwood, if weather becomes an issue this contract can be extended. We are looking at \$48,000 in cost sharing for the 2020 season.
- #7 Kent gave the Working Lands (Farmland Preservation) report. Still working on nutrient management plans. There was a buy out of a contract that is in Bloom Township. A farmer sold the buildings off a piece of his farm. Some Certificate of Compliance will need to be updated this year as the land owners' agreements with the state will be expiring and the amount of the credit the farmer is receiving will change.
- #8 Cathy gave the County Conservationist report. She spoke with Dave Russel, DATCP regarding the issues they are having with ground water at the Tri-County airport area. There have been some things done that should not have been done.
- #9 Fund 10 budget cuts was held to the end of the meeting.
- #10 Conservation awards. Mark Stoltz is the farmer of the year and Juli Van Cleve will have a forestry winner. The banquet needs to be rescheduled for later in the year. The banquet will be held at the Richland Campus this year on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 7pm.

#11. Land and Water plan update; goals and objectives were reviewed from the last update. There weren't any contour strips laid out this year only a line or a buffer. We need to have more public exposure, promoting more cost sharing availability for farmers and land owners. This is something that will be on the agenda for the next monthly meeting. Need to work more with the papers/radio station in the area to get information out. Motion made by Melissa Luck to have a day on the radio by the end of the year to discuss drinking water, second made by Shaun Murphy Lopez. Motion carried. Discussion followed.

John Turgasen left the meeting.

#12 Committee Structure administrator. Nothing to report, this will be taken off the agenda.

#13 Wildlife; Venison Deer donation for this season is on again with a few extra steps for the donator needs to do.

#14 DNR report, Juli did her report with Ash Creek.

#15 FSA report. Department is off for Columbus Day.

#16 NRCS report. Department is off for Columbus Day.

#17 Committee member reports; Melissa Luck gave a quick update on the water study; all samples will be taken at the same time on a given day. 6 samples per township randomly selected, first sampling would be May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The letter will go out to the randomly selected properties after the first of the year.

#16 The following bills were presented for October; CK Norman development, \$916.00; Greg Cerven, \$1,153.27; Walsh's Ace Hardware, \$5.97; Premier Coop, \$68.86; Cathy Cooper, \$38.76; Steve Williamson, \$371.00. Motion made by Chad Cosgrove to pay the October bills as presented, second made by Melissa Luck. Motion carried.

Back to #10, Cathy received an email from Derek, County Clerks office that our department was to cut \$30,000 from the land conservation budget fund 10, the only large amounts from this fund is rent and salary for Cathy & Tammy. Cathy will leave to cut to the committee. She presented options for cutting, there is space at the health & human services building to move into, the down side is that we will loose contact with the people we work with most (farmers/land owners) they will not associate the conservation department with HHS. The committee went over the 4 options that she presented. If we move the department will be over budget for the year, new filing cabinets, a new computer for Kent as his computer is a federal computer, we will have to have new licenses for the computers 2 just Microsoft office and 1 would be Microsoft Pro and banker boxes for the move. Also, if the department moves some of the programs that we work on have to be done at the building that we are currently in. Cathy reminded the committee that if they cut staff the department will in turn loose state funding. Motion made by Shaun Murphy Lopez will take option1 back to Finance and Personnel if needed, second by Melissa Luck. Motion carried.

#15 The next meeting will be November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 3pm.

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:06 pm.

Secretary Pro-Temp

Cathy Cooper