

**Land Conservation Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2020**

The August 10, 2020 Land Conservation meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Chair Steve Williamson in the conference room of the Ag Service Center. Present were Steve Williamson, Bob Frank, Greg Kinney, Cathy Cooper and Kent Marshall. Melissa Luck, Lee Van Landuyt and Jason Marshall were present via Webex. JoAnn Cooley joined a few minutes later.

Bob Frank moved to approve the amended agenda and proof of notification. Seconded by Greg Kinney. Motion carried.

Steve asked for any corrections or amendments to the July 13th minutes. Hearing none, Steve declared the minutes approved as mailed.

#4 Ash Creek Community Forest. Cathy reported that Ken mowed the trails on the property with tractor and mower rented from Pine River Leasing. Cathy received an email from the state that the grant awards would not be announced until late September or early October. Melissa asked the rest of the committee if we should go ahead with the trail marking and parking lot projects or wait. The committee members all said to wait.

#13 Farm Service Agency. JoAnn Cooley had to leave so Steve jumped down to agenda item 13- FSA report. She said the crop reporting deadline is this Friday, August 14th. They have several producers that have yet to sign their crop reports. The ARC-PLC signup deadline has passed, yields need to be updated by September 30th. The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program sign up deadline is August 28th. The fall crop reporting deadline is November 15th. There was no June dairy payment. She also reported that one of her staff, Sara, will be leaving and going to Juneau County Farm Service Agency office.

#5 Mill Creek. Rob Wanless went out and cleaned up the pool area of the Huth dam. The Land Conservation Department rented the mini excavator last week from Pine River Leasing. Ken and Kent cleaned debris off of the inlets and risers, removed beaver dams, and removed trees off the abutments of the Ewers, Dosch, Brindley and Durst dams. Ken was asked by Dale Gasser of DNR to look at the old Harris Lumberyard in Boaz. There was a complaint submitted about hogs on the premise and the lot area being too close to the waterway with manure running off in the waterway. The landowner agreed to put the fence up further away from the waterway and to seed that part. Ken went out last week. The fence had been installed and the seeding is starting to come up.

#6 Conservation Technician Report. Ken is out and there is nothing new to report.

#7 Working Lands Initiative/Farmland Preservation. Kent reported that he is working on both conservation plans and nutrient management plans. He has assisted both Ken and Todd, NRCS Technician, on surveying and construction inspections.

#8 County Conservationist report. Cathy reported that she received an email from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture about a 2nd round of the Wisconsin Farm Support Program. She will post the information online. Signup ends on Monday, August 24th.

The Hub-Rock Sanitary district is working on a water quality trading agreement with a landowner to install riprap to reduce phosphorus from the bank erosion from entering the Pine River. The agreement involves the Hub-Rock district, the landowner and the county as the broker. The agreement has been looked at by Ben Southwick. The county's role involves design, construction inspection and monitoring of the site. The county would only be providing staff time.

Cathy reported on the Lake Monitoring and Protection Network grant. This is the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) grant that the county would be eligible for every year. It is currently at \$9578 and there is no match required. Cathy listened to another webinar on the subject. They are looking at this being the amount that we would be eligible for each year. An "Intent to Apply" application is due September 2nd each year. The county is required to state in that application whether the county would be doing the work or that a designated agent would be completing the work. Also, the county has to decide what items they would be doing with the money and the approximate cost of each. Cathy has spoken to 2 non-profits, Golden Sands RC & D and Upper Sugar River Watershed, and they are not able to do the work this next year. The actual grant application is due November 1st. Melissa said she would look at the application and give Cathy some feedback.

Tammy will be back to the office September 14th.

#9 Office space. Cathy, Clinton and Branden Fetterly met at East Hall to look at potential space. Being that close to extension would be nice and there would be a separate entrance. The only area that will truly work, it's the big art work space. The issue with that it is currently being used by the University. A decision needs to be made by October as the county needs to let the landlord know by October 31st if the county will be renting the current space next year.

#10 Well water testing. There will be a zoom meeting with the Crawford and Vernon counties next Monday. Because of potential budget issues, Cathy had asked that Clinton be included in this. Cathy and Melissa are concerned about the budget because of the space rent not being in the budget. Bob Frank said it would be a shame if we didn't participate with the counties. It would make the results less valid if we didn't. The other committee members agreed. Melissa and Cathy will participate in the meeting and hopefully Clinton can sit in on the discussion. They will bring back the information next meeting.

14 Wildlife Damage. Nothing to report

#12 DNR report. There was no one present.

#14 Natural Resource Conservation Service. Nothing to report

15 Committee Member Reports. Nothing to report. Cathy welcomed Bob to the committee.

#16 Bills. The following bills were presented: CK Norman Development, \$926.00; Greg Cerven, \$1,141.54; Pine River Leasing Inc, \$465.00; Premier Co-Op, \$58.97; Joe Triggs & Wanless Construction Inc, \$5174.40; Wanless Excavating, 950.00; Ken Anderson, \$53.95. Greg Kinney moved to approve the bills. Seconded by Lee Van Landuyt. Motion carried

Next meeting was set for September 14, 2020 at 4:00 pm at the Ag Service Center.

Bob Frank moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Greg Kinney. Motion carried. The committee adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Cooper

Cathy Cooper
Secretary pro temp
County Conservationist