

**Land Conservation Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

The September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Land Conservation meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chair Steve Williamson in the conference room of the Ag Service Center. Present were Steve Williamson, Greg Kinney, Melissa Luck, Lee Van Landuyt, Cathy Cooper, Ken Anderson and Kent Marshall also Barb Scott, Shaun Murphy-Lopez and Tammy Cannoy-Bender were present via WebEx. Bob Frank arrived later in the meeting.

Melissa Luck moved to approve the agenda and proof of notification. Seconded by Greg Kinney. Motion carried.

Steve asked for any corrections or amendments to the August 10<sup>th</sup> minutes. Motion made by Melissa Luck to approve the August minutes, second made by Lee Van Landuyt. Motion carried.

#4 Ash Creek Community Forest. Email received from the Web Site asking if someone could place game cameras on the property where the individual hunts. After further discussion motion was made by Melissa Luck to add a line to the ordinance not allowing game cameras unless placed by the county second made by Lee Van Landuyt. Motion carried. Shaun Murphy-Lopez joined the meeting at this point via phone. Bob Frank also arrived at this point. Ken Anderson let the committee know that he will mow one more time this year. Parking area mowing was next. Chair Steve Williamson had asked for this to be on the agenda, he informed the committee that the highway department is looking at higher an individual for \$10 to \$14 versus the rate of having one of their own at a much higher rate for mowing waysides and right of ways. This position would include the mowing of the bike trail and around the parking lots at Ash Creek Community Forest but not the trails. We did not get the RTV grant that was applied for. It didn't rank high enough, however there is a County Conservation Aids Grant every year for a 50% match of up to \$1,558.00, Cathy would like to submit for this that is due October 1<sup>st</sup>., as she has everything already ready to go for the parking lot. This will go to County Board for approval at the September board meeting. Motion made by Lee Van Landuyt to approve applying for the County Conservation Aid Grant and sending it to County Board, second made by Melissa Luck. Motion carried. Steve Williamson has a place to get blazers for the trails at Ash Creek that may be less expensive.

#5 Mill Creek. Cathy and Ken are working on getting some numbers for dam projects that will be part of the capital barrowing for next year. In the next couple of years all of the dams will need to be inspected by a professional engineer. As of right now then inspections have been done by the Federal Government however this may change, and the cost of the inspection is \$750 per dam. We are trying to get all of the dams down to low hazard which in turn will have fewer inspections. Ken reported that the brush piles on the dams have been burned and cleaned up the dams.

#6 Conservation Technician Report. Ken reported that the Cty. SR & Hwy 80 project will be started soon, this project is for parks however it is also part of the phosphorus reduction plan. There are 2 more projects to be done after crops are off the fields.

#7 Working Lands Initiative/Farmland Preservation. Kent reported that he is still working on updating plans and he is doing his spot checks.

#8 County Conservationist report. She will be reporting on items further down on the agenda.

#9 County Conservation Aid Grant this was reviewed and approved in the Ash Creek report.

#10 Office space; Cathy went to the UW meeting this morning and reviewed the space that might be available at the extension office. The only space that would be viable is where the art room is at, this room is used for 1class in the summer. The space at HHS is not a good fit for everyone all around.

#11 Well Water testing, this is happening at the end of October. Letters will be going out by the end of September. The sampling pick up will be October 26<sup>th</sup>.

#12 Wildlife Damage. Nothing to report

#13 Surface Water Grant, Cathy submitted the pre application for the grant. The full grant needs to be submitted by the first of November and submitted to the County Board for approval in October.

#14 2021 Budget. Cathy reported, fund 10 (this is general budget and wages & benefits for Cathy & Tammy) and fund 72 (this is wages & benefits for Ken & Kent). Personnel/Finance committee is proposing to cut the planner/technician position (Kent). This would save \$40,000. Further discussion regarding the budget for 2021. Services that will be impacted with the loss will affect farmland preservation. Shaun Murphy-Lopez spoke up at this point with more ideas that will be reviewed at Personnel/Finance. Shaun reminded Cathy to have a one-page report as to why cuts in the department will not work.

Shaun left the meeting.

Greg Kinney discussed what the impact to the farmer would be if the planner/technician position is cut.

#15 DNR report. There was no one present. Juli had her baby.

#16 FSA (Farm Service Agency). There was no one present. Cathy reported that the office will be replacing Sara Schultz as she has moved to another office.

#17 NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service). Nothing to report.

# 18 Committee Member Reports. Melissa Luck reported that she had a Land & Water committee meeting.

#16 Bills. The following bills were presented: CK Norman Development, \$926.00; Greg Cerven, \$1,191.01; Premier Co-Op, \$70.52. Greg Kinney moved to approve the bills. Seconded by Melissa Luck. Motion carried

Next meeting was set for October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 4:00 pm at the Ag Service Center.

Melissa Luck moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Lee Van Landuyt. Motion carried. The committee adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cathy Cooper*

Cathy Cooper  
Secretary pro temp  
County Conservationist