

**Land Conservation Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 12th, 2020**

The October 12th, 2020 Land Conservation meeting was called to order via WebEx at 4:05 p.m. by Chair Steve Williamson. Present were Steve Williamson, Greg Kinney, Melissa Luck, Lee Van Landuyt, Bob Frank, Cathy Cooper, Tammy Cannoy-Bender and Greg Cerven. Barb Scott was in and out of the meeting, Shaun Murphy-Lopez was absent.

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

Steve asked for any corrections or amendments to the September 14th minutes. Motion made by Melissa Luck to approve the September minutes as sent out, second made by Lee Van Landuyt. Motion carried.

#4 Wildlife Damage. A. Deer Donation – Greg Cerven reported that the Richland Locker will again be participating with the program at \$85.00 per deer process for the food pantry. This money will be covered by the Wildlife state program as is Greg's annual budget. Motioned by Melissa Luck to approve the county participation again this year, second made by Lee Van Landuyt. Motion Carried. B. Agreement – Greg Cerven's agreement of service is up for renewal for the next 5 years 2021- 2026, motion made by Lee Van Landuyt to approve the agreement and have Chair Steve Williamson sign it. Second made by Mellissa Luck. Motion carried. C. 2021 Budget – Greg presented his budget for the upcoming year, nothing has changed, motion made by Melissa Luck to approve the 2021 Wildlife Damages budget, second made by Lee Van Landuyt. Motion carried.

Commodity prices will be on the November agenda

#5 Ash Creek Community Forest. A. Parking area mowing - Cathy, Roger from Highway, Clinton, County Administrator and Carla Doudna, Fair & Recycling Coordinator got together to discuss mowing areas within the county. Cathy told them that there would be areas to mow and trimmed around the parking lots however the trails need to be mowed differently. Roger said that he would like to have a test run to see how much time it would take and then he would give a price, this will be on the agenda in November.

On a fun note Cathy reported that the 4-H medallion was placed behind the sign for the hunt that was done last week. This got more people out to explore.

#6 Mill Creek - Cathy reported currently have nothing new due to the COVID outbreak. The borrowed money is something that Cathy will do more on when she is back in the office. While in quarantine Cathy has been working on the inspections, operations and maintenance plans for each of the dams. She is also working on the emergency action plans that has not been updated for a while.

#7 Conservation Technician Report - Ken is not at the meeting. Cathy reported that he is finishing up a few jobs and getting things put together for the 2021 construction season.

#8 Working Lands Initiative/Farmland Preservation - Kent is off and he has been working on updating NM plans and has looked at a couple of potential contour buffer jobs.

#9 County Conservationist report - Cathy got an email before she was quarantined. The preliminary allocation for 2021 looks like a slight increase for staff & support (approximately \$2,000) and a slight increase in cost sharing money. When she gets back into the office, she will share this information with personnel/finance and Clinton. Greg Kinney asked about Kent's position, Melissa Luck reported that as of right now personnel/finance have come up with a county budget for 2021 in which that position would not be cut however, this still has to go to full county board on October 27th.

#10 Office space - The extension building space is not available, so the Land Conservation Department is back to square one. Clinton was not on for the meeting at this point. According to the lease agreement we need to notify Mr. Norman by certified letter by the end of October as to what our intentions are for the office. We have a 5-year agreement with the landlord that goes through 2021 however the rent is not in the 2021 budget.

There is no space available within any of the County buildings for the Land Conservation Department. The rent may need to be put back in the 2021 budget and go over for 2021. With the preliminary allocation from the state and the possibility of the grant on line #12 The office may be able to cover at least part of the 2021 rent. The committee members agree that we will stay where we are at as the cost of a temporary move is just wasted money. Cathy will be in contact with Clinton with these possible pieces of extra money in the 2021 budget.

#11 Well Water testing - The bottle distribution is happening this week as a contactless pick up. There is a table set up in the hallway for people to pick up a sample bottle and write their name & phone number by the number listed on the bottle. At the beginning of the pick-up things were not running as we had hoped. Cathy notified the radio station with better directions. The drop of date is Monday the 26th and then Melissa will be taking all of the samples on Tuesday morning to the lab.

#12 Surface water grant – Cathy sent in a preliminary request in September for this grant and the formal request needs to be sent in by November 1st. This is the lake monitoring surface water grant there is no matching funds, no competition. We let them know that we are interested in aquatic invasive species work, we will write out what we would be working on and it would be approximately \$9,500.00 should we receive the grant. The office personnel would do the work. Cathy needs a County Board resolution to send with the application on November 1st. We could set up at various kayak landings and monitor those kayaks that people are bringing in. Melissa will help Cathy get the grant written for November 1st Deadline. Motion made by Melissa Luck to send this to the county board for approval, second made by Bob Frank & Greg Kinney. Motion carried.

#13 2021 Budget – has actually been covered earlier in the meeting regarding Kent’s position.

#14 DNR report – nothing to report.

#15 FSA (Farm Service Agency) – nothing really to report.

Clinton arrived at the meeting at this point, Melissa asked since there is no space for the Land Conservation office and the rent is not in the 2021 budget what are they supposed to do. Cathy will get the lease agreement to Clinton and he will do the outreach to the landlord. This will be a budget amendment on the floor at the County Board meeting. Cathy will give Clinton the information of what she had in the works for 2021.

#16 NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service) – nothing to report.

17 Committee Member Reports - Melissa Luck reported that she has a Land & Water committee meeting coming up later in the week.

#18 Bills. The following bills were presented: CK Norman Development, \$926.00; Greg Cerven, \$1,150.21; Bill Hilleman & Wanless Construction, \$3,353.00; Napa Auto Parts, \$228.00; Premier Co-Op, \$56.58. Melissa Luck moved to approve the bills, seconded by Lee Van Landuyt. Motion carried

Next meeting was set for November 9th, 2020 at 4:00 pm via Web Ex.

Melissa Luck moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Greg Kinney. Motion carried. The committee adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Cooper

Cathy Cooper
Secretary pro temp
County Conservationist