

**Land Conservation Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2021**

The March 8th, 2021 Land Conservation meeting was called to order via WebEx at 4:01 p.m. by Chair Steve Williamson. Present were Steve Williamson, Bob Frank, Shaun Murphy-Lopez, Lee Van Landuyt, Melissa Luck, Kent Marshall, Ken Anderson, Cathy Cooper and Tammy Cannoy-Bender. Barb Scott was web-ex monitoring.

Lee Van Landuyt moved to approve the agenda and proof of notification. Seconded by Shaun Murphy-Lopez. Motion carried.

Steve asked for any corrections or amendments to the February 8th, 2021 minutes. Motion made by Shaun Murphy-Lopez to approve the minutes as sent out, second made by Lee Van Landuyt. Motion carried.

#4 Ash Creek Community Forest – A. Trail marking, the office has received the blazers, Steve Williamson will be speaking with Pete from Walsh’s Ace Hardware regarding the post if he will donate the post for this project. We still need to get fasteners for the blazers to the posts. Steve and Juli from the DNR will be out to the property on the 19th of March checking out the ash trees that need to be taken down. Back to the agenda, B. upper parking lot, Steve, Ken and Roger from Highway Department were out to inspect the site for the lot. Motioned by Shaun Murphy-Lopez to put the job out for bids, second made by Bob Frank. Further discussion of the bid process. Motion carried. C. Private citizen asking to cut fallen trees for firewood, the answer is no.

#5 Mill Creek - Cathy reported that Ken & Kent have gone out and burned a pile of downed tree last fall at the Luttig dam. Shaun Murphy-Lopez asked about the spending of the borrowed money. Ken Anderson is working on the plan to get the dams updated with fixing the cracks on the cradles and repairs to be done on inlet pipes on some of the dams.

#6 Conservation Technician Report - Ken reported that he is getting bids on some projects. Jason Campbell, manure storage abandonment, Tom Shanahan, 765 feet of Rip Rap, Dan McCauley, 295 feet of Rip Rap, Matt Otto for a dam and Greg Braun, 265 feet of Rip Rap and a few well abandonments provided we have enough cost sharing money for all of the projects.

#7 Working Lands Initiative/Farmland Preservation - Kent has a voluntary non-compliance for Kathy Maly, motion made by Melissa Luck to approve the voluntary non-compliance and have Cathy sign the form. Second made by Lee VanLanduyt. Motion carried. Cathy reported that there are some changes in the works for the program.

#8 County Conservationist report – Cathy reported that the copy machine had an issue, we were able to have the Rhyme repair person come out and fix the machine, things are working well at this time however, Tammy did get a price quote on a new machine if needed. The bid is for either \$5,565.00 out right or a lease for \$119 a month for 60 months. At this point the machine is working and it is connected to the federal system so we are able to be networked. The copy machine is 10 years old and is obsolete. Cathy needs direction/assistance from the committee and the County Administrator regarding the lease agreement for the office. We will need to have this done before October 31, 2021 as this is the last year of the current lease. Melissa suggested that we negotiated a new lease and put in into the 2022 budget. The committee directed Cathy to put together a letter for the committee to sign regarding the Governor’s upcoming budget. Cathy also reported on the staffing grant for 2022, motion made by Bob Frank to approve the application and forward it on to the County Board for final approval, second made by Shaun Murphy-Lopez. Motion carried. Cathy is starting to work on the annual work plan. There are a couple of issues with manure. One is spreading on frozen ground within 300 ft a stream and the property owner is being contacted by the DNR. The other is off of State Highway 60 with manure running off a lot and from a pile under the barn cleaner into a culvert directly into the Wisconsin River. The Department of Natural Resources met with Cathy at the site and a notice of discharge will be issued and there will be 2 choices to either cost share and fix the issue or cease and desist. The problem is that the property is owned by another and the property is rented to another. The land and water plan has to be presented to the state in 2022 and Cathy is starting to work on it now.

#9 Well Water Report – Letters have been mailed out for the next round of testing on April 19th, 2021. We did receive some calls of people who had recently had their wells tested.

#10 Wildlife – nothing to report.

#11 DNR report – Cathy reported that there is a new Forest Ranger, Rebecca Vasquez.

#12 FSA (Farm Service Agency) – Cathy reported that both the FSA & NRCS offices are down to 25% capacity and locked door with no visitors.

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

14 Committee Member Reports -

#15 Bills. The following bills were presented: CK Norman Development, \$938.00; Greg Cerven, \$1,160.14; BCE Sign Shop, \$2,132.50; Rhyme, \$217.85; Premier Co-op, \$72.34. Melissa Luck moved to approve the bills, seconded by Bob Frank. Motion carried

Next meeting was set for April 12th at 4:00 pm in person with masks at the County Board room and via Web Ex.

Lee VanLanduyt moved to adjourn the meeting. Second made by Shaun Murphy-Lopez. Motion carried. The committee adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Cooper

Cathy Cooper
Secretary pro temp
County Conservationist