

**Land Conservation Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2021**

The April 12th, 2021 Land Conservation meeting was called to order in person and via WebEx at 4:05 p.m. by Chair Steve Williamson. Present were Steve Williamson, Shaun Murphy-Lopez, Ken Anderson and Cathy Cooper in person. Melissa Luck, Bob Frank, and Tammy Cannoy-Bender via web-ex. Barb Scott was web-ex monitoring. Lee Van Landuyt arrived in person late.

Shaun Murphy-Lopez moved to approve the agenda and proof of notification. Seconded by Melissa Luck. Motion carried.

Steve asked for any corrections or amendments to the March 8th, 2021 minutes. Motion made by Melissa Luck to approve the minutes as sent out, second made by Bob Frank. Motion carried.

#4 Invasive Species Grant – Cathy presented; The clean boat clean water grant has been issued, we received an advancement for the training and any equipment that will be needed to purchase. Cathy has contacted Ron Fruit with WRCO, to set up a time to get on the radio to get volunteers and talk about the program. We will have workshops a few times at the Port Andrew Boat Landing and possibly at a couple of Kayak Landings.

#5 Ash Creek Community Forest – Upper parking lot bid openings. Received 2 bids. Wanless Construction (Rich Wanless) for \$5,750.00 and Wanless Excavating Inc. (Rob Wanless) for \$5,576.00. Discussion followed regarding the balance in the Ash Creek Fund, motion made by Shaun Murphy-Lopez to table this until Tammy has the balance of the fund second made by Lee VanLanduyt, Tammy got the balance which is currently \$6,800.00. The mowing of the trails is done by Ken Anderson and we rent some equipment from Pine River Leasing for approximately \$600.00 for the 2 mowings. We could always reapply for the grant next year if needed. Melissa Luck reminded the committee that there is a safety concern at this site as people are parking on the side of the road on the curve. Shaun Murphy-Lopez at this point withdrew his motion to table and Lee VanLanduyt withdrew his second, motion redrawn. Motion made by Bob Frank to accept the lowest bid Wanless Excavating Inc. (Rob Wanless) for \$5,576.00 and move forward on the project, second made by Shaun Murphy-Lopez. Motion carried. Cathy will get a draft resolution for Corporation Counsel.

Trail markers on the trails at Ash Creek Community Forest. The Birch brothers Daytona & Montana with supervision and assistance from their Dad have placed most of the markers with the assistance of other boy scouts. 25 of the t-post for the signs were donated by Walsh's Ace Hardware and the balance of t-posted needed will be given at cost. Shaun Murphy-Lopez suggested a resolution from the land conservation department/committee to thank the Birch brothers for their assistance on the trail signs, especially Daytona as this was his Eagle Scout project.

#6 Mill Creek - Ken has a variety of things to talk about. Starting with the repairing of some of the dams. We need to purchase a special caulk for repairing the cradles on the dams. This is called Belzona caulk, \$497.00 for a 5-gallon bucket we will need at least 4 buckets for the Huth Dam and the Ewers Dam. The Robson Dam inlet has broken, it is still intact however, it is broken at the elbow. The riser, a band a pipe and a trash rack will need to be purchased. This is a repair that Ken could do by renting a mini excavator from Simpson's. Ken could haul it with his fifth wheel trailer for cost of mileage. All of the expenses incurred for the repairs of the dams could be put against the borrowed money. The dams will all need to be mowed and sprayed this year. this hasn't been done for a few years as there was an issue with Ken doing this. Ken has the equipment for the spraying and it only cost the county the rental of his equipment. Ken has a track skid steer that he would use for the mowing and the mower deck would be rented from Simpson's. Shaun Murphy-Lopez will check with Clinton on the ethics of renting equipment from a county employee when there is nowhere to rent from. Shaun Murphy-Lopez suggest that the this should be on the Rules and Resolutions and Ethics committee and in the meantime, bring a cost estimate of what will be needed from the borrowed money to the committee for approve and then take it on to the finance committee. Also, the willow trees are coming into the pool area of the dams, these all need to be taken care of in the winter when the ground is frozen. Not sure if this would be considered maintenance or could be part of the capital budget.

#7 Conservation Technician Report – Ken has a few cost-share contracts for approval. Tom Shanahan Riprap project for \$15,368, Jason Campbell for a manure storage abandonment for \$3,640. Matt Otto for a dam, for \$8,316, Dan McCauley for Riprap for \$6,765 and Tom Jorgensen for 2 different well abandonments for \$1,312. Motion made by Shaun Murphy-Lopez to approve all of the contracts for 70/30 cost sharing, second made by Bob Frank. Motion carried. Ken will have a few more later. He has been working with the Hub-Rock Sanitary district and Davey Engineering for phosphorus trading near Yuba.

#8 Working Lands Initiative/Farmland Preservation - Cathy reported that we have 2 voluntary non-compliance to approve, Randy Durst and Michelle Nolen-Karras and Durst-Ueeck-Karras LLC, motioned by Melissa Luck to approve the voluntary non-compliance, second made by Lee VanLanduyt. Motion carried.

#9 County Conservationist report – Cathy reported that there will be a zoom meeting on May 27th at 9am for the spring southern association meeting. Melissa will be attending.

#10 Building Lease – Cathy contacted our landlord and him will have his leasing agent get something set up. Cathy has not heard back from the agent as a yet.

#11 Well Water Report – Semi good response, we have issued 65 bottles at this point.

#12 Wildlife – nothing to report.

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

#14 FSA (Farm Service Agency) – nothing new to report. The FSA committee member should be back in May with this committee, there was another snafu with the elections last winter.

Both FSA & NRSC are working thru closed doors.

#15 NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service) – Steve Williamson reported that they are taking sign up for both new and renewals contracts.

#16 Committee Member Reports - nothing

#17 Bills. The following bills were presented: CK Norman Development, \$938.00; Greg Cerven, \$1,169.10; Premier Co-op, \$70.44; Richland Observer, \$44.10. Lee VanLanduyt moved to approve the bills, seconded by Bob Frank. Motion carried

Next meeting was set for May 10th, at 4:00 pm in person with masks at the County Board room and via Web Ex.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Cooper

Cathy Cooper
Secretary pro temp
County Conservationist