

**Land Conservation Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 14th, 2021**

The June 14th, 2021 Land Conservation meeting was called to order in person and via WebEx at 4:03 p.m. by Vice-Chair Melissa Luck. Present were Melissa Luck, Lee Van Landuyt, Shaun Murphy-Lopez, Bob Frank, Ken Anderson, Kent Marshall, Jason Marshall and Cathy Cooper in person. Tammy Cannoy-Bender and Juli VanCleve, DNR were via web-ex. Steve Williamson and Greg Kinney were both absent.

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

Melissa asked for any corrections or amendments to the May 10th, 2021 minutes. Hearing none motion made by Bob Frank to approve the minutes, second made by Melissa Luck. Motion carried.

#4 Ash Creek Community Forest – Ken has mowed the trails and he noticed that the trails must be getting used a lot he could see where the grass had been flattened. Brian Hillers with NRCS will be having a couple field days on the property. July 15 and 27, Ken will try to get things mowed just before it gets used. Ken will weed eat around the post at the Highway 80 parking lot. The ridge road on the back side will need to be reshaped as the water is beginning to start a ditch. The parking lot off of Hillview Rd. will get completed when the contractor has time later this fall.

#5 Mill Creek – the capitol fund projects on the Robbison, Huth and Ewers Dams cost roughly \$4,000 and there are more things that need to be done like removing the willows out of the pools below the dams for \$1,000. The balance of \$95,000. There are dry dams that need to be constructed above the current dams to assist in preserving the lands below. Ken will check in with the landowners above the current dams. This could be under cost sharing. Shaun Murphy-Lopez asked if we need to at least move the first part on to the finance committee so the dams that need replacement parts can get done. Motion made by Shaun Murphy-Lopez to approve spending up to \$6,000 on Mill Creek projects from fund 75 and refer this to the finance/personnel committee, second made by Bob Frank. Motion carried.

#6 Conservation Technician Report – Ken reported that he is working on Jason Campbell's manure storage abandonment, working with the Hub City-Rockbridge riprap for the sanitary district on the Clark property. Ed Chitwood cattle lane is starting this week. Melissa asked the number of projects this year, Ken replied 5 construction and current count of well abandonment is up to 7.

#7 Working Lands Initiative/Farmland Preservation – Kent reported first on the food plot planter is not a donation but the Pheasants Forever are looking at selling the planter with the trailer. This something that the office could rent it out to farmers that need planting food plots for wildlife. This is something that would pay for it in the long run. This is something that will be on the agenda for July for further discussion. Juli from the DNR is willing to house it for us if we buy it. (B) activity within the program, Cathy handed out a gathering of information from the annual reports. Discussion of how the program works followed. Shaun Murphy-Lopez requested to have more information on the web site. Melissa Luck also suggested to go on the radio to remind people about the program.

#8 County Conservationist report – First Shaun Murphy-Lopez reported on working with the Highway Department and have a possible demonstration on how to control the spreading of wild parsnip on the roadsides. Need to have a control plot to demonstrate mowing area along a County Highway. The mowing restricts need to be reviewed.

#9 Budget overview – Cathy handed out a spread sheet to the board members showing 2018, 2019 & 2020 for fund 10 (general fund) and fund 72 is for both Ken & Kent. The state biennium budget will be on the Governor's desk for approval by July. When looking at the budget for fund 72 it will be way over because one position was taken out and then put back and the numbers were not updated to the originals that were submitted and approved by the County Board.

#13 DNR (Department of Natural Resources) report – Juli needs to leave the meeting, she didn't have much to report but she will be more attentive for the meeting in the future.

#10 Building Lease - Landlord Cary Norman has agreed to the monthly rent to be \$948.00 a month for the next three years along with the out clause as was in the last agreement; he will submit the official lease agreement to Cathy for presentation to the County Board. Motion made by Lee VanLanduyt to have the lease agreement sent to the County Board for approval, second made by Bob Frank. Motion carried.

#11 Well Water Report – Cathy passed out what she will present to the County Board. Crawford & Veron Counties have not made any indication that they would like to continue with the sampling in the future. Question to the committee is - how important is it to continue on with the testing in the future. Carry over the balance left from the well water testing to the following year. Need to find out if this could be tied into to the stimulus money. Include this into formality the 2022 budget.

#12 Wildlife – nothing to report

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

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

Both FSA & NRCS are still working thru closed doors.

#16 Committee Member Reports - nothing

#17 Bills. The following bills were presented: CK Norman Development, \$938.00; Greg Cerven, \$1,184.78, Premier Co-op, \$148.90; CDW Government, \$811.40; Walsh’s ACE Hardware, \$75.00; UW Stevens Point, \$3,740.00; Pine River Leasing, \$105.00; Dan McCauley & Wanless Construction LLC, \$6,765.71. Shaun Murphy-Lopez moved to approve the bills, seconded by Lee VanLanduyt. Motion carried.

Melissa Luck Asked to circle back to #4 Ash Creek Community Forest- what is the status of the marking of the trails at Ash Creek? The trails are marked. We need some pictures of Daytona Birch, Eagle Scout doing the marking. Shaun Murphy-Lopez ask to draft a resolution drafted up, thanking Daytona Birch for marking the trails.

#21 Next meeting was set for July 12th at 4:00 pm in person with masks at the Conference room of the Service Center at 26136 Executive Ln.

#18 Closed Session – Motion made by Bob Frank to go into closed session for considering performance evaluation data of the County Conservationist. Second made by Lee VanLanduyt. Motion carried.

#19 Motion made by Bob Frank to return to open session, second made by Shaun Murphy-Lopez. Motion carried.

#20 – possible action on item discussed in closed session – none.

#22 Bob Frank moved to adjourn the meeting. Second made by Lee Vanlanduyt. Motion carried.

The committee adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Cooper

Cathy Cooper
Secretary pro temp
County Conservationist