

**Land Conservation Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

The November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Land Conservation meeting was called to order at 3:33 p.m. by Chair Steve Williamson. Present were Steve Williamson, Melissa Luck, Lee Van Landuyt, Shaun Murphy-Lopez, Bob Frank, Cathy Cooper, Ken Anderson, Kent Marshall, Juli VanCleve (on the phone) and Tammy Cannoy-Bender. Greg Kinney was absent.

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

Steve Williamson asked for any corrections or amendments to the October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 minutes. Motion made by Melissa Luck to approve the minutes as sent out, second made by Lee Van Landuyt. Motion carried.

Chair Williamson dropped down to DNR report as Juli was on the phone. Juli actually had more to report on the Ash Creek property.

#4 Ash Creek Community Forest – Juli VanCleve, DNR gave this report. Steve, Ken & Juli looked at a few spots, but would like to finish up the management plan this winter and have a better idea of management recommendation moving forward, over all the forest does have some commercial value however there are a few things that need to be done that are not of commercial value but will benefit the health of the forest and the commercial value in the future. Shaun Murphy-Lopez suggested that we need to incorporate this into the updated work plan in the land and water plan that we will be getting updated this winter.

Ken reported that when they were out there, they looked at the dams (Ken sent pictures to the committee's folders), they looked at 2 dams that have trees growing within the dams so if and when there is a timber sale those trees need to be removed. May need to rent a side mount mower to help mow the trails, the rent for this mower will be \$100 per hour. The donation box was broken into and there has been some vehicle travel around the fence, so Ken had put other fence post up to help deter this, Ken thinks someone got a deer and didn't to drag it out. The mowing with the side mount will be taken care of in the spring. Steve suggested a workday to help remove some of the invasive species next spring that Juli might be able to wrap into a training day.

#10 DNR report – Juli VanCleve – nothing new to report.

Chair Williamson now went back to #5

#5 Mill Creek – A. High Hazard Dams - Cathy gave a report. She has found out that we could use the fund 75 money with private landowners. We would need a contract with them similar to the contract that is used for cost sharing with the state. Melissa suggested that we talk with finance/personnel before we move forward with this. Finance/Personnel meet the first Tuesday in December. Cathy will call Clinton to have this added to the agenda for Finance/Personnel committee. In the meantime, she will put together a presentation for the committee.

Ken reported on the well abandonment in the Robson Dam was awarded to John Storer at \$1200.00 but he has since withdrawn his bid. The next low bid was Advance Dairy at \$1,401.00, this money is to come from fund 75. So do we need to go back to finance/personnel for the \$201 difference, it was suggested to speak with Clinton. Motion made by Lee Van Landuyt to accept the next low bid by Advance Dairy, second made by Shaun Murphy-Lopez. Motion carried.

#6 Conservation Technician Report – Ken gave the report. He has been working with the Hub-Rock sanitary district getting their soil testing done to help lower the phosphorus on the creek banks. He has also been working with Marilyn Houck on the fancy creek project, Marilyn is wanting to get the creek back to its natural corridor. This project may be eligible for the ARPA money. There are two cost sharing projects for this year to get completed. The well abandonment and Tom Shanahan's riprap.

#7 Working Lands Initiative/Farmland Preservation – SW Tech is providing nutrient management training again for the winter as well as virtual training. Cathy & Kent will also be providing training after the first of the year.

#8 County Conservationist report – Cathy is a member on a UW focus group working with landowners with wood land and farmers who are wanting to do more with their wood lands. It is time to begin working on the Land plus Water plan. She has shared the current plan with the committee members folder. We need to set up an citizen advisory/technical committee(s), Cathy suggested that the committee bring some names to the next meeting. The meeting will take place after the first of the year. Melissa suggest a complete review of the current plan noting the things that have been done, the things that have not been

done and the goals that have not been even close. Shaun Murphy-Lopez is asking for list to be sent to the committee that Cathy recommends. The timeline final report goes to the state in December of 2022. The next report will have more obtainable goals.

#9 Wildlife – need to set the 90% harvest date at the December meeting.

#11 FSA (Farm Service Agency) – nothing to report, the elections are happening right now.

#12 NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Services) – nothing

#13 Committee Member Reports – none

#14 Future agenda items. Need to have a resolution for Eagle Scott Daytona

#15 Review of Strategic County Plan – Melissa is asking for a summary from the department employees. Setting goals that are not necessarily financial but that of climate change or the items that are important not do not cost money. Be proactive about what will be the pros and cons of combining with other departments. Motion made by Melissa Luck to have the strategic planning committee have an additional tactic that instructs the Land Conservation Committee to evaluate the concept of merging the Land Conservation/Parks with another or other departments within Richland County. Second made by Melvin “Bob” Frank. Discussion followed, suggestion. that this be part of streamlining origination structure in chapter 2. Motion carried. Melissa would also like to have something regarding climate change in the 2022 Land & Water plans, she would like to have a statement in the strategic plan that states that we agree we need to make a conservative effort to address climate change. More discussion at this point, regarding a variety of items whether for the strategic plan or for the land & water plan for the land conservation department. Motion made by Shaun Murphy-Lopez to add a fourth category to growth called grow in a matter that mitigates climate change. Second made by Melissa Luck, discussion followed. Motion carried. Melissa also suggested a program for people to test their own water and we would coordinate the collection of the water and taking to Stevens Point. This would be for the Land & Water plan. Cathy brought up the transparency issue and how to make not so time consuming.

Ken asked about getting tires for the truck.

#16 Bills. The following bills were presented: CK Norman Development, \$938.00; Greg Cerven, \$1,132.78; Premier Co-op, \$88.18; R & K Auto & Tire LLC, \$90.21; Wayne McNamer & Advance Dairy Solutions, \$648.20; Walsh’s Ace Hardware, \$8.41; Ken Anderson, \$22.95. Melissa Luck moved to approve the bills, seconded by Bob Frank. Motion carried.

Ken has price quotes for tires on the truck, 2 tires need to be replaced for the winter and then get the other 2 after the first of the year. We have 1300.00 online item mileage, and we would like to transfer the money from mileage to maintenance & repairs. Cathy will check with Clinton about the transfer.

Next meeting was set for December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 3:30 pm.

Lee Van Landuyt moved to adjourn the meeting. second made by Bob Frank. Motion carried. The committee adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cathy Cooper*

Cathy Cooper  
Secretary pro temp  
County Conservationist