

**Land Conservation Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 13th, 2021**

The December 13th, 2021 Land Conservation meeting was called to order at 3:33 p.m. by Chair Steve Williamson. Present were Steve Williamson, Greg Kinney, Lee Van Landuyt, Shaun Murphy-Lopez, Bob Frank, Greg Cerven, Cathy Cooper, Kent Marshall, Juli VanCleve and Tammy Cannoy-Bender. Melissa Luck was absent.

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

Steve Williamson asked for any corrections or amendments to the November 8th, 2021 minutes. Motion made by Greg Kinney to approve the minutes as sent out, second made by Steve Williamson. Motion carried.

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

#4 Ash Creek Community Forest – Cathy reported that Ken has spoken with Wanless Construction and the parking lot on the upper side will be done in the early spring. Juli VanCleve, DNR gave this report. She & Steve looked at the plantation on the upper part of the property. We need to find a buyer for the trees that need to be cut out in order to save the hardwoods. Any money generated needs to go back into the Ash Creek Forest. The last time tax levy money was used on the Ash Creek Property was the initial purchase of the property, since then the property has been self-reliant. The department is working on a thinning of the pines as to give the hardwoods breathing room for a future sale.

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

Chair Williamson now went to #9 for Greg Cerven.

#9 Wildlife – A. 80% harvest date is set for anytime after November 10th. Steve Williamson had heard on the radio that as of November 15th over 80% of the crops had been harvested. Motion made by Shaun Murphy-Lopez to set the 80% harvest date for November 15th, second made by Chairman Steve Williamson. Motion carried. B. The crop prices for damage are set, corn for \$5.38 a bushel and soybeans for \$11.68 per bushel. Motion made by Bob Frank to accept the prices that Greg Cerven has presented, 2nd made by Lee VanLanduyt. Motion carried.

#5 Mill Creek – A. High Hazard Dams - Cathy gave a report. It has been approved by the Finance/Personnel Committee to move forward with cost sharing of dams on property that are above the original dams. Corporation Council Mr. Windell might assist on any contract that may be needed.

#6 Conservation Technician Report – Cathy gave the report. The state money has all been spent for the season. Ken is working with the state engineer for the 2 runoff events. 1 off state highway 60 on the Dave Storms property and the other is on the Duane Wedeenfeld property. Ken has worked with Duane with doing some replumbing in the old milk house and that waste is going to the pit. The renter on the Storms property has moved a few things around and that has helped some.

#7 Working Lands Initiative/Farmland Preservation – Kent gave this report. Tammy has all of the self-compliance forms ready to mail out on the 15th.

#8 County Conservationist report – Cathy's report is that she is working on the end of year things and working on the manure storage ordinance. The tires for the truck were approved, the billing will go through sheriff's department using their discount.

#10 Land & Water Plan – Cathy presented a list of people for the citizen advisory committee; Cathy will get these put together and mail them out at the end of the year. Cathy is looking for a group of 9 or 10 people to get the advisory group. This report will need to go to the state in December of 2022. The Plan needs to go to the County Board for approval in September of 2022. Cathy also presented to the board what has been accomplished so far for the existing plan.

#12 FSA (Farm Service Agency) – recently had an election to replace Dennis Fuller now just waiting for the winner to accept the position.

#13 NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Services) – nothing

#14 Committee Member Reports – Steve reported that the second round of funding for famers is coming up for relief monies from the federal government.

#15 Future agenda items.

#16 Bills. The following bills were presented: Greg Cerven, \$1,115.53; Premier Co-op, \$182.94; Rhyme Office Supplies, \$121.70; William Benson, \$682.50; Tom Jurgenson & Storer Pump Systems, \$1,475.25; Tom Shanahan & Wanless Construction, \$18,149.65. Shaun Murphy-Lopez moved to approve the bills, seconded by Bob Frank. Motion carried.

Cathy reported that the lease agreement has been finalized.

#17 Next meeting was set for January 10th, 2022 at 3:30 pm.

#18 Adjourn- Shaun Murphy-Lopez moved to adjourn the meeting. second made by Lee Van Landuyt. Motion carried. The committee adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Cooper

Cathy Cooper
Secretary pro temp
County Conservationist