

# APPROVED MINUTES LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, July 20, 2017 – 5:00 P.M.

HHS Building Room #1001

303 W. Chapel St.

Dodgeville, WI 53533

Iowa County Wisconsin

Meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman David Gollon at 5:00 P.M.

#### Roll Call, Approval of this Agenda and Approval of the Minutes of April 13th, 2017.

Members present: Carol Anderson, Dave Gollon, Tom McGraw, and Greg Parman. Members absent: Bob Bunker, Rodney Anding, Daniel Nankee, and Jason James. Others present: Ron Benish, Katie Abbott, Larry Bierke, and Doug Carden. Sup. Parman made a motion to approve the agenda for this July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting. Sup. Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. McGraw made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 8th, 2017 meeting. Sup. Parman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

# Report from committee members and an opportunity for members of the audience to address the committee. No action will be taken.

Sup. Anderson reported on the Blackhawk Lake Commission meeting. The Commission decided that current ordinances are still required and do not need revision. Discussion of grey water ordinance, bids on maintenance building, and need for an ordinance to increase fees for repeat offenders.

#### NRCS Update. None provided.

#### Sign-up for Southern Area Association Tour.

The Tour is hosted by Grant County this year and will take place on Wednesday, August 30. Sign-up sheet was passed around.

#### Review of Birch Lake Dam Removal Cost Analysis proposals.

Katie Abbott presented the top two proposals. Discussion of extra costs and timeline in relation to the 6-month extension to the Friends of Birch Lake proposal. The Committee recommended adding the extra cost to the 2018 budget, requesting a grant extension from the DNR, and seeing if contractor would honor their bid price in six months. Motion by Sup. Anderson to postpone Cost Analysis until after a decision about the Friends of Birch Lake proposal at the January Board meeting, and to select Inter-Fluve as the contractor if the study proceeds. Sup. Parman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### **Goals for Land Conservation Department.**

Katie Abbott presented her vision for strategic, long-term goal-setting, including increased partnerships and farmer outreach. Discussion of some strategies and potential partners.

#### **Budget Updates.**

Katie Abbott reported that the Senate GOP budget plan includes a \$900,000 increase for county conservation staffing, as well as increased cost-share funding. There may also be modest funding available for Iowa County from the Multi-Discharger Variance (MDV) in the State phosphorus rule. Discussion of possible budget increases for more outreach and communication, and the need for a full-time Conservation Planner position (rather than the current half-time level). Discussion of benefits to the farmers and increased cost-sharing opportunities in return for the increased investment in staff.

#### Policy Updates.

Katie Abbott reported that the Land Conservation Department has the opportunity to create policies for the new County Policy Manual. Recommended policies include: prioritizing cost-share and ranking projects; process for FPP non-compliance; process for complaints or non-FPP non-compliance; process for FPP status reviews and cost-share ranking if participant is a Board Supervisor or other "insider" (to avoid perceived conflict of interest). Discussion on enforcement by LCC members.

## **Land Conservation Department Update.**

Katie Abbott gave an update on Department activities, including FPP status review, CREP, cost-sharing projects, and website updates.

#### Other Business.

None.

### Motion to set the next meeting date and adjourn.

The next LCC meeting was set by consensus for August 10<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 PM at Blackhawk Lake. Motion by Sup. Parman to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. McGraw. Motion carried.