

APPROVED MINUTES LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING Monday, September 18 2017 at 5:00 PM HHS Building, Room 2001 303 W. Chapel St. Dodgeville, WI 53533

Iowa County Wisconsin

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Bunker at 5:00 P.M.

Roll Call, Approval of this Agenda and Approval of the Minutes of August 10th, 2017.

Members present: Carol Anderson, Rodney Anding, Bob Bunker, Thomas McGraw, Daniel Nankee, and Greg Parman. Excused: Dave Gollon. Absent: Jason James. Others present: Katie Abbott, Larry Bierke, and Dave Terrall. Sup. Nankee made a motion to approve the agenda for this September 18th, 2017 meeting. Sup. Parman seconded the motion. Motion carried. Sup. Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 10th, 2017 meeting. Mr. Anding 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. Nankee reported on Conservation Observance Day, which included information on cover crops, water quality, and a cricket frog pond. Mr. Anding expressed concern over the Foxconn deal and its impacts on air and water quality.

Wildlife Abatement budget amendment request. Dave Terrall, Wildlife Specialist with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) presented an amendment to increase the Wildlife Abatement 2017 budget for about 4,000 ft (10 acres) of permanent fence for an orchard. USDA and DNR determined it was more cost-effective to build fence than keep paying wildlife damage claims. Sup. Parman moved to approve the budget amendment. Sup. Nankee seconded. Motion passed.

NRCS Update. Andy Walsh had submitted a written update: Kyle Andreska has been hired as the new Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist to replace Marty Moses, and is scheduled to start October 2, 2017. The EQIP deadline for applications is October 20, 2017.

Southern Area Tour report: Sup. Bunker reported on activities of the tour, including visiting a popcorn farm, hydroponic greenhouse, agro-tourism operation, streambank restoration, and solar farm.

Blackhawk Lake updated Operational Agreement: discussion of agreement and removing the provision that the County will maintain the dams. Discussion of background on the commission and agreement. Discussion of need for County involvement in the park. Sup. Parman moved to delay and address the issue in October. Mr. McGraw seconded. Motion passed.

Blackhawk Lake Gray Water Ordinance: Discussion of new Public Health Ordinance and its wastewater segment that addresses campsites and whether or not a Blackhawk Lake-specific ordinance is needed. The applicability of the Public Health Ordinance to Blackhawk Lake will be brought up at the next Blackhawk Lake Commission meeting, second week of October.

2018 LCD Budget: Katie Abbott discussed that there were no new changes to the 2018 budget from last meeting. The budget was approved by the Public Works Committee. Ms. Abbott pointed out that the contribution to SW Badger RC&D will decrease in 2018. The LCC was supportive of the decrease since LCD provides office space a SW Badger staff member.

Land Conservation Department Update. Katie Abbott gave an update on Department activities:

- We are partnering with the Iowa Co. Uplands farmer-led watershed group, coordinated by Margaret Krome from the Michael Fields institute, to seek DNR funding for a 9 Key-element Watershed Planning grant, which will identify water quality issues and solutions and will provide opportunities for future water quality funding in those watersheds.
- We'll partner with UW-Extension on cover crop and nutrient management planning training:

- there are also two field days coming up that LCD is helping with.
- Highland School asked if Katie would be a presenter in a rotation during their soils unit lesson; she'll also be helping with the Iowa County Youth Conservation Field day which is held at the Bloomfield prairie.
- Farmland Preservation site visits found an illegal manure pit; the landowner was aware of the ordinance. The issue was referred to Scott Godfrey.
- A landowner with a 2016 extended cost-sharing contract for manure storage is backing out. We will try to make up as much of that funding with the other 2016 projects but we will likely not be able to use it all.
- Len Olson plans to retire around December 15 this year.
- Farmland Preservation self-certification forms will be mailed out mid-October, with a deadline of December 1. We'll send reminders in late November. After Dec 1 farmers will be assessed the late fee. Any who don't return their form will be brought up for Notices of Noncompliance at the December LCC meeting.

Fee schedule review: Staff would like to review the fee schedule, particularly for endangered species review (cricket frog); this can be cost-prohibitive for some landowners and we don't want our fees to be the reason a project doesn't happen. We'll revisit this issue at the next meeting.

Agenda items for future meetings: Wildlife Abatement 2018 budget, Blackhawk Lake agreement and gray water ordinance, fee schedule

Motion to set the next meeting date and adjourn.

Motion by Sup. Parman to set the next LCC meeting for Thursday, October 12 at 4pm. Seconded by Sup. Nankee. Motion carried. Motion by Sup. Parman to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. McGraw. Motion carried.