

CRAWFORD COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
SOIL & WATER CONCERNS
January 17, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Dull at 10:20 a.m. Dull verified the posting of the agenda. Members present for roll call were Wade Dull, Stephen Kvigne, David Olson & Harriet Behar. Excused was Henry Esser.

A motion was made by Olson, seconded by Behar, to approve the agenda and minutes as posted. Motion carried.

CRAWFORD STEWARDSHIP PROJECT REPORT

Ellen Brooks, Crawford Stewardship Project, indicated the Stewardship Committee is very glad the committee is looking at a moratorium concerning frac sand mining. She distributed copies of maps dealing with the sand mining in Wisconsin. A discussion of Save Copper Creek was held & it is understood that Dr. Long will be drilling a test well. She discussed information on a proposal for a high voltage power line by ATC (American Transmission Company) going north of our county & a ten year plan of a high voltage power line going through Crawford County. Vernon County has passed a resolution asking the ATC to give more information; most have been very general responses. Richland County Board is looking into this today at a meeting. This may be something Crawford County would like to start looking into shortly. Many websites are available to find further information concerning the high voltage power line. LaCrosse County seems to have insight into the high voltage power lines according to Bill Howe.

MANURE PIT ISSUE

Dave Troester indicated that Nolan farms have decided to be permitted to remove any doubt & a nutrient plan will be put in place. Currently we are waiting for additional soil samples to be taken and information from these in order to continue with the process. Discussion on the issue of complying with the 30 day county ordinance. The engineer had developed the pit according to NRCS Iowa standards. Discussion continued on this being a 1st stage of a 2 stage system for manure storage. Rick Lange suggested moving forward to close the loop holes in the ordinance and revisit the whole ordinance. Vance Haugen suggested that the committee be very cautionary when working on the ordinance. Discussion followed.

Dave will get a summary of other county Manure Storage Ordinances to bring to the next meeting.

ADAM ACHENBACH (not present)

RICK LANGE, NRCS

EQUIP sign ups for general applications are until February 3, to date he indicated they have 37 applications for about a quarter of a million dollars. These include erosion control, rip-rap, 10 for pasture work, grazing, 1 manure storage, forest land, etc. There is no allocation yet or no rule book. No WHIP allocations yet. CSP applications extended to 01/27/12; thus far they have 12 applications. Rick indicated he attended the Invasive Species conference in Milwaukee & it was a very interesting conference. Stressed early detection & rapid response. Rick stated the only ways to fight these problems are with money & manpower.

October 29, 30 & 31, 2012 is the Upper Midwest Invasive Plant Conference & he encouraged committee members to attend.

GARY HARDEN, FORESTER (not present)

VANCE HAUGEN, UWEX

Vance wanted to reiterate that dairy & beef farming is very important to our community & it is nice to see a few strips of hay left & not all corn & beans. He received a call this morning from the PdC Prison to help them investigate putting in a few bees. He had helped them with their garden & composting in the past.

John Baird , FSA

John stated Jackie is working on getting DO's & DON'ts out to CRP people; 2012 DCP sign up starts next week 01/24/2012, no software yet. No longer going to be sending out the state FSA Newsletter in hard copy, only emails. He stated they will be utilizing news media more. Tobacco Transition payments (300) going out today. 131 FSA Offices closing nationwide. Beginning next Monday Myrna Stevenson has been assigned to the Vernon County Office.

Greg Cerven, WDAP (not present)

DAVE TROESTER, LAND CONSERVATION

Dave distributed a copy of the tree order form that the department has been working on & will be getting out to the public. The Farmland Preservation Program has been very busy since we sent out letters requesting signatures & people are inquiring about the nutrient management plans, etc. The Non-Metallic Mining fees & surveys are being returned. We have had many calls regarding the snowmobile trails being open or not. Adam & Dave will be attending the WALCE meeting in Eau Claire the end of February at which time they will be voting to dissolve into one group with WALCA – supervisors & staff together in one organization.

Harriet distributed 3 sets of copies of information concerning a draft for frac sand moratorium ordinance for Crawford County, along with the Eau Claire Moratorium Ordinance & an Ordinance for Non-Metallic Mining. A discussion of taking out non-metallic mining wording and using only the "frac sand mining"& "silica sand" separately. A discussion of allowing transporting & trucking of the sand was held. Harriet & Dave will get together & meet with legal counsel on the frac sand moratorium ordinance for Crawford County for 1 year & the correct wording.

Dave indicated we have an application for Non-Metallic Mining in the process currently & published a notice of it last week in the paper & notified adjoining land owners.

LiDAR bill for Ayres Associates was presented along with all other bills.

Bills were presented. Motion by Olson to approve bills and seconded by Behar. Motion carried.

The committee set their next meeting date for Tuesday, February 14, 2012 at 10:00a.m. in room 215 at the Administration Building.

Motion by Olson to adjourn at 11:45. Seconded by Kvigne.