

**CRAWFORD COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT**  
**SOIL & WATER CONCERNS**  
**December 13, 2011**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Dull at 10:00 a.m. Dull verified the posting of the agenda. Members present for roll call were Wade Dull, Stephen Kvigne, & David Olson. Excused were Henry Esser & Harriet Behar.

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

**CRAWFORD STEWARDSHIP PROJECT REPORT**

Ellen Brooks, Crawford Stewardship Project, distributed information on an Ordinance that Eau Claire County had passed in November concerning a moratorium to allow the county adequate time to study the possible impacts that silica sand mining operations may have on the health, safety & welfare of the residents including air quality and water quality concerns. Ellen indicated the Stewardship Committee would very much like the Land Conservation Committee to consider a moratorium on frac sand mining. Members of our county board are presently discussing the issue with other counties & looking at options & legal issues involved. A discussion of Save Copper Creek was held & it has been suggested to Dr. Long that he drill a test well.

**CONSERVATION AIDS GRANT**

Dave indicated we approved at our November Committee meeting the Prairie du Chien Parks & Recreation Conservation Aids Grant for the Washington Street Park. The DNR contacted us & PdC is already receiving a grant from them for the Washington Street Park, so therefore they are requesting to use the Conservation Aids Grant money from Crawford County for the Champion Boat Landing. Motion by Olson seconded by Kvigne. Motion carried.

**BINDLE BAUER SITE – NONMETALLIC MINE PERMIT**

Bindle Bauer Site on Highway 61 has never been mined & they have been paying \$100 as in inactive mine. They are requested that they are allowed to have their financial assurance-line of credit released. Motion by Olson to allow the Bindle Bauer Mine to be released from having to have financial assurance for this inactive mine. Seconded by Kvigne. Motion carried.

**LOCK & DAM 9 HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT RESOLUTION**

Discussion on a resolution to allow for further scientific studies to provide proof that there will be no adverse impacts to the fish & wildlife populations above & below Lock & Dam 9. Motion by Kvigne to have the Land Conservation Committee sign & present this resolution to the full County Board. Seconded by Olson. Motion carried.

**SWRM GRANT FOR STAFFING RESOLUTION**

This past year DATCP's reimbursement to the Land Conservation Department was \$102,000.00 for cost of county staff. This funding source is being cut 29% & no contracts from DATCP have gone out to the counties. Motion by Olson to sign & present a resolution to the County Board to encourage the Governor & all elected representatives to reject further cuts to the county land conservation staffing grants, recognizing the invaluable service that county conservation employees provide in managing & protecting the county's natural resources. Seconded by Kvigne. Motion carried.

**MANURE PIT ISSUE**

Dave Troester indicated they had a meeting with Nolan farms, their engineer, Ralph Hemling, DATCP, Adam Achenbach & himself yesterday to discuss 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 1<sup>st</sup> stage of a 2 stage system for manure storage. A \$300 permit will be purchased along with a Nutrient Management plan to bring this issue into compliance for Nolan farms.

Rick Lange suggested moving forward to close the 30 day loop hole in the ordinance. We will be working on new amendments, etc., to the ordinance in a few months according to Dave Troester.

### **ADAM ACHENBACH**

Adam indicated he has been doing a lot of surveying & work on projects for next year, because of the good weather. He is currently waiting on a couple of L & W projects that he has not received the bills for, so cost-share payments can be reimbursed for 2011.

### **RICK LANGE, NRCS**

EQUIP sign ups for general applications are until February 3, there is no allocation yet or no rule book. We have received 2 manure pit applications for this year. Anticipating a WHIP sign up, but no allocations yet. CSP application until January 13, no rules, no enhancement list, but we are told it is similar to the last sign up. Rick indicated he will be in Milwaukee the next 2 days for an Evasive Plant conference.

### **GARY HARDEN, FORESTER**

Wrapping up the Manage Forest Law enrollment season this year, we had 34 in the program. Project we have been working on in the last couple of years in our area is the State Lands Recon – DNR Lands, new GIS System & better tracking, record keeping & mapping. He indicated he has been working in LaCrosse & Vernon Counties helping out. No new emerald ash bore finds in 2011 in our county. Undergoing Strategic Planning with lots of new changes. In July Crawford County Forestry will be going back in the Southern District (out of Dodgeville). We are going from 5 regions to 4 districts. They are talking about not filling the Lancaster Forestry position that is vacant. Crawford County will have a half time person out of Boscobel that will be helping in the forestry program.

### **VANCE HAUGEN, UWEX**

Vance stated he just returned from Nicaragua. He indicated USDA would make spot inspections on some dairy farms in Nicaragua & had plaques visible at farms. He indicated it varied from milking 5 to 55 cows by hand & they are making a 50% profit. A lot of hard work, but also fun.

### **John Baird , FSA**

They just had election in the northern end of the county & Stephen was re-elected to their committee, so he will be continuing on the Land Conservation Committee as their representative. Rick is working with him on CRP contracts & addressing failures & fields that need re-seeding, etc. One more year left in the 2008 Farm Bill. Sign up for 2012 Cyclical program not ready to start until January 23, 2011. The agency is downsizing statewide like everyone else, currently 263 county office employees statewide. Crawford County will be less one person in his agency, possibly that person can take a position in the Lancaster office. John indicated Karyl & he had been meeting with Ag Classes in the county & talk about what agencies do & agriculture job opportunities.

### **Greg Cerven, WDAP**

Distributed a sheet to help set crop commodity prices: Corn \$4.98/bu.; apples \$25/bu; Apple Trees \$9.35/tree & stems \$1.89/bundle. It has been determined that 80% of harvest has been completed by November 16<sup>th</sup>. Motion by Olson to adopt the prices as presented & the date of November 16 established as the date 80% of harvest is completed. Seconded by Kvigne. Motion carried.

### **DAVE TROESTER, LAND CONSERVATION**

The \$800-900 money has been received for the Dam Grant Application & we will be working on getting that in shape. Dave indicated Carol & himself were at the WLWCA Conference Annual Meeting. Voted to dissolve into one group with WALCA – supervisors & staff together in one organization. Getting ready with end of year information, Non-Metallic Mining letters for collecting fees will be going out, working on Farmland Preservation & getting the Snowmobile Program going. Distributed a list of purchases we would like to have pre-approved to be purchased before the end of the year; a digital camera, back pack sprayers, burning equipment, etc. Motion by Olson to approve purchases, seconded by Kvigne. Motion carried.

Motion by Olson to approve Dave Troester's 6 month evaluation & change in rate of pay. Seconded by Kvigne. Motion carried.

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

The committee set their next meeting date for Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at 10:00a.m. in room 215 at the Administration Building.

Motion by Olson to adjourn at 11:15. Seconded by Kvigne.

The meeting was following by a program on Aquatic Invasives.