

CRAWFORD COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
SOIL & WATER CONCERNS
January 20, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Chair Esser at 10:00 a.m. Members present for roll call were Wade Dull, Henry Esser, David Olson, Harriet Behar and Jerry Achenbach, the new member representing FSA.

Esser indicated since it is a new year we need to be reminded that we agree to disagree in a friendly and respectful manner and that visitor's presentations are not to exceed 5 minutes.

Motion by Behar to approve the minutes as mailed, second by Olson. Motion carried.

Crawford Stewardship Project Report

Ellen Brooks gave the report for CSP. She presented copies of the revised resolution that she originally had presented at last month's meeting regarding Groundwater Legislation and Current and Future Reviews of High-Capacity Well Applications. Discussion was held on this possible resolution, the number of high-capacity wells in Crawford County and other statistics. Ellen presented background information on present wells being used and those that are no longer used and indicated that CSP is hoping the committee will look at this resolution carefully and bring it before the county board of supervisors. She indicated she had contacted Dane County but was confused as to the current status of the resolution in that county. Behar made the suggestion to wait until Dane County has passed the resolution and look at their wording before the committee makes a decision.

She invited everyone to attend a Farmers Forum on March 10th being held at Century Hall in Wauzeka starting at 9:00 a.m.

2013-2014 CONSERVATION AIDS – GAYS MILS LANDINGS

Dave Connelly, Crawford County Economic Development Director, was present representing the Gays Mills Economic Development Association. A letter was distributed from Jerry Raha, President, requesting additional funding of \$1,224.91 from Conservation Aids, for a total of \$2,574.91 from the county in order to complete the landing project and they would match \$1,350.00 for a project total of \$3,941.91. Dave Troester indicated there are additional funds available for this amount to be paid as he had contacted the DNR on this matter.

Behar made the motion to grant an additional \$1,224.91 for a total of \$2,574.91 to complete the Gays Mills Landing Conservation Aides project, second by Jerry Achenbach. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

DAVE TROESTER, LAND CONSERVATION

Dave indicated he has been busy with end of year business, upcoming tree sales, poster and speaking contest to take place this month, Farmland Preservation certificates and Nutrient Management checklist. He requested permission to attend the following meetings;

Motion by Olson to allow LCD staff to attend the Annual Driftless Area Symposium at the Radisson Hotel in LaCrosse on Tuesday, February 3rd and Wednesday, February 4th, second by Dull. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Dull made the motion to allow LCD staff to attend the WLWCA Annual Conference in Appleton on March 9-10-11, second by Olson. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Motion by Behar to allow Dave to attend the Midwest Fire Conference in Dubuque on February 17, 18 & 19, second by Olson. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Olson made the motion to allow Dave to attend the Southwest Area Joint Field Meeting in Baraboo on January 29th, second by Behar. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Dave indicated he is scheduled to go before Finance Committee to discuss how they would like our department to handle the Deer Damage fencing expense in the future and also request that funds received from the Trout Unlimited for Travis and himself thru the EQUIP projects to be placed in the Cover Crop accounts in the future.

Bills were presented. Dull made the motion to pay bills as presented, second by Olson, motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

TRAVIS BUNTING, LAND & WATER PROJECTS

Travis indicated he is working on 2015 projects and ranking applications. He will be making several trips to Richland Center for trainings next month and is taking the new computer over to Richland Center for the NRCS to set up for his use.

KARYL FRITSCH, NRCS

Karyl indicated they will be holding a Cover Crop Follow Up meeting on Wednesday, January 28th at the Seneca Town Hall at 1:00 p.m. to discuss the results from last year's program and about species selection for the upcoming season. She discussed EQUIP not having any high priority projects in Crawford County this year; all medium and lower ranked projects. She states we will not receive as much as we have in the past due to the time frame involved in the planning of projects. Discussion on there being some unhappy farmers that were not priorities for EQUIP funding due to the new way of ranking projects; this was an unintended consequence of the new ranking changes. CSP payments have been made and gearing up for CRP and the office has received several cover crop applications.

GARY HARDEN, FORESTER (NOT PRESENT)

VANCE HAUGEN, UWEX

Vance informed the group that one Soil & Water District had purchased a manure spreader with vertical beaters and rented it out for \$275.00 a day and required that the farmer have a Nutrient Management Plan in place before renting. He also discussed how some counties are handling the recycling of farm plastic so it doesn't end up in landfills. Behar indicated there is a movement at the state level to develop a good recycling plan for farm plastic disposal. Vance will be a speaker at the Moses Conference.

JOHN BAIRD, FSA

John indicated that Jackie will be retiring on February 19th and she handled all of the CRP for many years and he anticipates losing a second staff person in the fall. Jerry Achenbach is the new Chair for Crawford County NRCS. Educational meetings are being held this month in three locations to discuss the new Farm Bill and changes.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 10th at 10:00 a.m. or immediately following the Land Use Meeting.

Dull made the motion to adjourn at 11:25 a.m., second by Olson. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harriet Behar
LCC Secretary

DT:HB:cjw