

# **CRAWFORD COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT**

## **SOIL & WATER CONCERNS**

### **April 12, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Esser at 9:50 a.m. Members present for roll call were Harriet Behar, Henry Esser, Dave Olson, Don Dudenbostel and Wade Dull.

Motion by Behar to approve the agenda as posted and the minutes as mailed, second by Olson. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Crawford Stewardship Project Report**

Edie Ehlert distributed an informational sheet on several items for discussion: the UW-Extension Manure Irrigation Workgroup concerned about raw liquid manure being sprayed; Bayfield County Large-Scale Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) Ordinance and Hog CAFO proposal near Lansing, IA. She indicated they are advertising for a part time job opening with the CSP.

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

Dave indicated the office is very busy. Trees will be delivered on April 27<sup>th</sup> with pick up at the PdC High School Ag Dept. on April 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>. Maps are still coming in from townships for the Farmland Preservation Plan. Annual Report & Survey completed to DATCP. Several MRBI meetings were attended.

#### **Stewardship Week Proclamation**

Soil and Water Stewardship Week has been set for April 24 to May 1 and the focus is on "We All Need Trees". A proclamation will be presented at county board for signature. Motion by Olson to support and recognize the Soil & Water Stewardship Week Proclamation for April 24 to May 1, 2016, second by Behar. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **SWRM Grant Application**

2017 SWRM Grant Application is completed and due by this Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. Motion by Dull to submit the 2017 SWRM Grant Application for salaries, Land & Water Projects and SEG funding, second by Behar. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Conservation Congress**

Each year we budget \$450.00 to help pay for mileage, motel and meals for individuals representing Crawford County at the Conservation Congress. Bill Howe indicated the convention is at Manitowoc the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of May. Motion by Dull to pay \$450.00 total towards the individual's expenses attending the Conservation Congress, second by Olson. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

#### **LAND AND WATER PLAN, Dave Bonifas**

The Land & Water Plan Advisory Council was held on Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Highway Department, Seneca. Dave Bonifas distributed the goals that were discussed and determined at that meeting. The Advisory Council will meet after the next Soil & Water Meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup> and at that time he plans to have a draft plan to present to the committee with all the policies and objectives that coincide with the goals. The plan will cost \$3,600 and be completed by August 1<sup>st</sup> (contract to be forwarded).

#### **SNOWMOBILE PAYMENTS AND UPDATES**

The Hillbilly and Cliffhangers Snowmobile Clubs yearly expense log sheets for trail grooming and maintenance have been received and proofed for accuracy and correct billing procedures. Motion by Dull to approve and pay the Hillbilly and Cliffhangers Snowmobile Clubs for maintaining trails, second by Dudenbostel. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

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

### **MANURE STORAGE PERMITS**

Two applications for Manure Storage Permits have been received by the department; one from Dustin Payne and one from Rockn Ridge Ranch, LCC - Joe Lathrop. Both are improving their current facility and have their Nutrient Management Plans in place. Motion by Dull to approve both permits, second by Behar. Motion carried unanimously.

### **MRBI Contribution Agreement**

Dave Troester indicated they had a meeting yesterday in Viroqua and are getting closer to finalizing the plan for the next 3 years. The agreement will really be between Crawford County Land Conservation and Trout Unlimited and needs to be in place by August 1<sup>st</sup>. At this time it looks like \$86,000 over the next 3 years with a 50/50 match, so NRCS would pay approximately \$43,000 over the next 3 years or \$15,000 a year to the Land Conservation Department for their assistance. Motion by Dull to support and sign the agreement with Trout Unlimited for funds from the MRBI Project for assistance, second by Olson. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

### **TRAVIS BUNTING, LAND & WATER PROJECTS**

Crawford County hosted a contractors workshop on Wednesday, March 6 at the Gays Mills Community Center for Richland, Vernon and Crawford County for NRCS/LCD contractors. Approximately 20 people attended. We hope to have a workshop every 2 or 3 years; the last one was held in 2009. Several sessions were held with power points and question and answer sessions. Travis and Dave put in a fire break at the dam and hope to burn it in the next few days.

### **KARYL FRITSCH, NRCS**

NRCS has been very busy laying strips. Over \$600,000 has been funded for cover crops, dams, manure storage, etc. MRBI funds in the amount of \$254,000 from the original \$847,000 have been transferred to Pierce County. CSP closed March 21. She indicated a lot of backlog. Approximately 3,000 acres for the aerial Cover Crop project with a fly date of September 1<sup>st</sup>. Bids will be going out in June. This year we will be offering 3 seeding mixes: barley, oats and radish; rye and oats; and rye and rape.

### **Kobby Antwi, DNR Forester**

Kobby indicated that he anticipates 30 new plans in the 2017 Managed Forest Land program. Cody from Boscobel was transferred so is no longer helping him with the northern end of Crawford County and Kobby will be handling the whole county; this has caused some confusion for landowners. He indicated a lot of correction of acres in the Managed Forest program in Freeman township due to the remonumentation and correction of acreages will be a time consuming process.

### **VANCE HAUGEN**

Vance indicated he had great inter-department cooperation for the planning of a meeting to be held on April 29<sup>th</sup> entitled Rural Landowners Update to be held in Gays Mills with several sessions to be held. Pasture walks will be starting shortly.

### **JOHN BAIRD, FSA**

John stated CRP acres have gone in, 2016 Crop Reporting is ongoing, and Ag Risk Insurance reporting. Looking into the Emergency Forest Restoration Program through NRCS to help with cost of rebuilding from the June tornado that hit the Wauzeka-Steuben area last year.

### **Ben Wegleitner from Southwest Badger**

Ben indicated he had met with Prairie du Chien Police to enforce Invasive Species law. Finalized the Girl Scouts will be doing outreach on the boat landings. Ben informed the committee that April 29<sup>th</sup> will be his last day of work with Southwest Badger as he has accepted a position with the University of Illinois, Champaign, ILL. Southwest is in the process of hiring someone to fill this position and complete the grant.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2016.

Dull made the motion to adjourn at 11:20 a.m., second by Behar. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harriet Behar, Secretary  
DT:HB:cjw