

CRAWFORD COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
SOIL & WATER CONCERNS
June 9, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Dull at 9:50 a.m. Members present for roll call were Wade Dull, David Olson, Harriet Behar and Jerry Achenbach. Henry Esser had an excused absence.

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

Crawford Stewardship Project Report

Ellen Brooks gave the report for the CSP. She invited everyone to a Driftless Karst Field Trip by Professor Emeritus Kelvin Rodolfo on June 20th to be held in Vernon County. She indicated AV Roth's Nutrient Management Plan needs to be revised as notice had been given to him by the DNR to have it corrected by May 10, 2015. She encouraged Dave and the committee to keep following up on KD Partners' NMP as the CSP is concerned about the situation. Ellen distributed copies of the Crawford Stewardship Project Newsletter for the Spring & Summer of 2015.

DAVE TROESTER, LAND CONSERVATION

Dave introduced Southwest Badger Aquatic Invasive Specialist Ben Wegleitner who is currently being housed at the LCD office. He also introduced Wendy Warren, the new Executive Director of Southwest Badger who just started her position last week. The Tire Clean Up is scheduled for this coming Saturday, June 13th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Highway Department in Seneca. The Japanese Hops surveying & GPS on Copper Creek was done last week with Dave, Travis, Ben Wojahn from Vernon County Land Conservation Department and 3 volunteers from the CSP; they completed approximately half of the survey. Dave will plan to spray in approximately 3 weeks when it flowers but before the seeds are set. Dave thanked the CSP for the volunteers that helped with the survey. An extension was granted by the DNR for the Conservation Aid Project (Sugar Creek & Gays Mills Landing Improvements) to June 2016 from June 2015 due to the fact that the Gays Mills Landing project is not completed; however, Dave will contact Dave Connelly to encourage them to complete the project this summer. Dave indicated KD Partners Nutrient Management Plan and check list are in. Forest, CSP, has requested a copy of the KD Partners plan. Dull suggested that a tour be set up so the committee could view the operation. Conservation Awards will be held in the Main Tent at the fairgrounds at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 26. Dave stated Prairie Sand & Gravel permit transfer application to take over the lease of the Slama Quarry (currently held by Milestone) is complete and we received the financial assurance from them; permit has been transferred.

Dave informed the committee that the County Conservationist Meeting is being held in Wisconsin Rapids on July 15 – 16 and would like permission to attend. Olson made the motion to grant Dave permission to attend the County Conservationist Meeting in Wisconsin Rapids, second by Behar. Motion carried unanimously.

Dave stated we needed to come up with approximately \$4,000 to help cover the Clean Sweep as LCD has \$2,000 and based on prediction it will cost approximately \$6,000 this year. He present monetary figures based on population or we can charge at the check-in. After much discussion it was decided to charge the towns \$200, the villages \$100 and the city of Prairie du Chien \$1,500.00. It was suggested to run news releases to let the residence know that this service is not free and tax payer dollars are helping to pay for the important environmental event.

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

TREE PLANTER OPTIONS

Vernon Co. Forester indicated he was not aware of how old and broken down the one tree planter was and stated it is in really rough shape. The second planter has been kept at Star Valley Flowers and the orchards all have been using it; however, is in much better shape. The department and committee were not aware it had been in use and no one was paying to use the planter since it had supposedly been housed and operated out of the Gays Mills Forester's office. Vernon Co. Forester indicated for us to wait and he will come up with recommendations once he looks the planters over better.

Patti Jackson suggested possibly Southwest Badger might know of some grants to help buy a new tree planter; Wendy Warren indicated she would look into the matter.

MANURE STORAGE PERMIT-HILL'N VALE ACRES

Hill'N Vale Acres, Mezera's on Irish Ridge, have the plan done for the pit but do not have their Nutrient Management Plan done yet; they are doing it themselves and hopefully will have it completed for the next meeting. Until the Nutrient Management Plan is completed we cannot issue any permit.

NACD – SOIL HEALTH CHAMPIONS

Dave stated Patti Jackson and he had thought of getting involved with Soil Health Champions because of our work with cover crops, but this is an organization looking for individual farmer led initiatives and not agencies or organizations.

LAND & WATER PLAN GOALS

Dave states the 2010 Land & Water Plan expires this year and we are on the DATCP agenda to have an extension for completion of our plan in 2016 (2016-2020 Land & Water Plan). Dave distributed the revised goals to be incorporated into this plan, updated information and added new programs that we are involved in. This will be forwarded to DATCP.

RCPP (REGIONAL Conservation Partnership Project)

Dave indicated Karyl, Patti and himself have been discussing and working on ideas to apply for additional funds to bring more money into Crawford County and use where there is a need and a desire. July 8th is the deadline and these are EQIP funds with the same rules and current cost list as with other EQIP projects. We would like to use as another cover crop emphasis and for bluff view prairie emphasis. With all the extra work it was hoped to hire another new staff person in LCD to help with these funds if awarded. Currently looking at \$75,000.00 for Bluff Prairie work with cooperating land owners participating and \$75,000.00 per year.

TRAVIS BUNTING, LAND & WATER PROJECTS

Travis requested that SWRM-03-2015 project be allowed to exceed the \$10,000.00 cap that the committee had set on Land & Water Projects. He went into detail as to the amount needed and why. Motion by Behar to allow SWRM -03-2015 Waterway System Project to exceed the \$10,000.00 cap and only on this project to raise it to \$14,550.00. Second by Olson. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

KARYL FRITSCH, NRCS

Karyl stated she is working on getting EQIP contracts done; DALCI-Targeted Watershed; Honey Bee Pollinator – same as the first HBP signup; and Cover Crops. They have 9,000 acres in CSP; only 2 of the 13 applications were not funded. Patti Jackson thanked the committee and Land Conservation staff for all the participation and partnership of working well together with the NRCS.

DNR FORESTER (Hiring put on hold)

VANCE HAUGEN, UWEX

Vance indicated it is great that all the agencies work well together for the good of the community.

JOHN BAIRD, FSA (Not Present)

John indicated they have hired two new individuals in his office. New CRP sign up December 3rd thru February 26; the average price per acre is \$110.00. We had previously been at 750 acres enrolled in CRP, but due to the economic impact now CRP is at around 300 acres. Crop reporting is due July 15th but this may be extended. The 2016 budget looks pretty much the same and looking ahead there may be a 5 – 10% reduction in staff in 2017.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 14th at 10:00 a.m. or immediately following the Land Use Meeting & hearing.

Behar indicated she will not be able to attend as she has a previous meeting scheduled on this day.

Behar made the motion to adjourn at 11:15 a.m., second by Olson. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harriet Behar, Secretary

DT:cjw