

**CRAWFORD COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT**  
**SOIL & WATER CONCERNS**  
**July 12, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Esser at 9:55 a.m. Members present for roll call were Henry Esser, Dave Olson, Wade Dull, Harriet Behar and Don Dudenbostel.

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

**Crawford Stewardship Project Report**

Ellen Brooks indicated that Clayton County, Iowa continues to investigate its options regarding the proposed 746 acre expansion proposal by Pattison Sand Company. Their study committee is proposing restrictions on the rezoning of this expansion by addressing issues of air quality, water and soil, noise, roads and traffic, land use, the environment, economics and values, emergencies and liabilities among other topics.

CSP is moving ahead with the Karst Education Campaign: Karst Landscapes and Groundwater Susceptibility: A Study of Crawford County. They will be hosting a series of local events throughout August to encourage people to participate in the study.

**DAVE TROESTER, LAND CONSERVATION**

Dave indicated it has been a very busy month in the office. Clean Sweep money is slowly coming in from municipalities. He is still working with some townships and villages trying to get Farmland Preservation Plan maps and information that is needed to complete that plan and finalizing the Land & Water 10 year Plan. Farm visits are being made for Farmland Preservation Program and COC's being completed.

Dave introduced Madeline Bode, Summer Intern. She indicated she has completed 36 Farmland Preservation farm visits, GPS'd and visited 13 rock quarries and has been going out in the field with Travis on projects and doing mapping projects for all programs.

Dave introduced Emma Antolos, Southwest Badger Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, who is sharing office space with LCD. She informed the committee of upcoming meetings she has planned and the efforts to focus on one specific watershed.

**The Land & Water Plan** is being finalized that was approved last month by this committee. A discussion was held on if a paragraph is needed to incorporate information on the MRBI Watershed; no agreement has been signed and it is only for a 3 year period. After much discussion it was decided to include a vague paragraph on additional money/grants, such as MRBI, that may be utilized over the next 10 years. A presentation will be made to the Land & Water Board on August 2 in Madison for state approval before going before the August County Board Meeting.

**Cover Crops Aerial Project** is proceeding; maps, applications and contracts are being completed. 5 contractors were sent bid request forms. Only one bid was received from Ag Tech Air of Lena, Illinois who has been awarded the bid the 2 previous years. The submitted bid is as follows; Seed Mix A \$49.19 per acre and Seed Mix B \$46.20 an acre. The bid includes two trips from Stockton, Illinois; additional trips, due to fields not being ready to apply or weather problems, will be an additional \$2,300.00 per trip.

It looks like we will have 3,100 acres this year as follows; 1,200 acres for Mix A = \$59,000 and 1,900 acres for Mix B = \$87,000 for a total of \$146,300. An administrative fee needs to be added to bids per acre. Discussion was held on amount to charge for administrative fee per acre.

Motion by Olson to accept the submitted bid from Ag-Tech Air and to approve charging producers \$55.00 per acre across the board for aerial application of cover crops, second by Dull and motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Discussion on when to hold the **Conservation Awards** program that has previously been held on Wednesday late afternoon during the fair. Dave attended the Fair Board Meeting last week and it was suggested to have the awards program on Saturday at noon to draw in a bigger crowd. After much discussion it was decided to hold the Conservation Awards Program at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 27th at the fairgrounds in the tent between the beef and dairy barns. Awards will be presented to: Farm Family of the Year- Gary & Jeanne Tainter; Leadership- Jeff Hastings; Water Quality- Norm & Sandy Werthwein; Forestry- Richard Zalewski and Wildlife- Cardinal Investments.

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

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

Travis indicated Madeline, summer intern, has been helping him on projects. He stated 12 dams are started; one rip rap project is completed as well as one lined waterway completed. Adam has been on vacation and at training so he has been covering for him while he is out of the office. It has been determined that more documentation, maps and pictures pertaining to soil loss, etc., is now needed for projects to be funded. Madeline and he sprayed willows at the dam. He indicated they will be working on the Japanese Hops in the next few weeks.

#### **KARYL FRITSCH, NRCS**

Last month the NRCS Office had their review and the state and auditors are requesting more resource concerns and needed documentation. This is resulting in longer than usual processing and approvals for the EQIP funds to be paid. There are several contractors and landowners waiting for their NRCS payments. One project has been denied payment. She indicated she has pulled back all Cover Crop and MRBI contracts as she is uncomfortable in accepting any contracts until the documentation and payment issue is settled. Doing all the documentation that is being required with the limited staff is impossible. Cover crops and grazing took the biggest hit during this review. She has a lot of interest in programs.

Patty Jackson-Kelly has accepted a position out of state and will be leaving shortly.

#### **Kobby Antwi, DNR (not present)**

#### **VANCE HAUGEN, (not present)**

#### **JOHN BAIRD, FSA**

The office is busy with spring crop reporting which is due by July 15<sup>th</sup> and waiting to hear about request for Forestry Disaster funds. 2015 wheat payment will be \$ .61 for the price loss coverage payment and the 2016 Ag Risk Program sign up is August 1<sup>st</sup>. Mike Cross is now doing some CRP farm visits. An administrative review is being done in his office today.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 9, 2016. Harriet will be unable to attend.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Harriet Behar

Secretary

DT:HB:cjw