

**CRAWFORD COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT**  
**SOIL & WATER CONCERNS**  
**September 8, 2015**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Esser at 9:50 a.m. Members present for roll call were Harriet Behar, Henry Esser, David Olson, Wade Dull and Jerry Achenbach. Wade Dull will be excused at 11:00 a.m.

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

**Crawford Stewardship Project Report**

Forest Jahnke gave the report for the CSP. Forest indicated that at last month's meeting CST had stated that Steve Oberle reviewed the KD Partners' Nutrient Management Plan for CSP and had some concerns. Dave West, the Nutrient Management Plan writer for KD Partners, addressed these issues in a written reply. However, CSP requested that Dave Troester set up a conference call between these two gentlemen and himself to discuss some of these concerns and they still hope this may happen as it would be the fastest and easiest way to address these concerns. Forest stated CSP is not bringing up these concerns to be nitpicky but only trying to help the farmer to avoid problems in the future.

Dave Troester introduced Sue Porter, DATCP. Sue indicated she has been reviewing Nutrient Management plans for many years. This is the third time she has reviewed KD Partners plan and feels Dave West did a good job on this nutrient management plan. She indicated it is great to see so many farmers in the Driftless area raising cattle, having many strips and alfalfa and this helps to reduce overall soil erosion; she felt we must be supportive of these farmers as they are taking care of soil and water conservation by being in these programs. We need to encourage animal agriculture and not make it any harder for these folks to make a living. She addressed each concern brought up by Steve Oberle for CSP and explained in detail why there were no problems. She felt that Dave West did a great job in addressing these concerns in writing. This farm has 420 fields and 1140 acres and is meeting all 590 standards as well as T. She stated soil tests are done every 4 years on every 5 acres. Updates are done to let us know what really happened. She indicted SNAP plus is a wonderful new tool and went over some of the results for the farm and discussed the checks and balances for the program.

**CONSERVATION AIDS**

Dave Troester stated we received only 1 application for the 2015-2016 Conservation Aids grant and that was from Prairie Rod & Gun Club. This is a \$1,451 grant with county match of \$1,451; however we plan to request double that amount in hopes that there is more funding available. Jerry Cummings was present to go over the Tainter Creek Trout Habitat Restoration Project application and answer any questions. Jerry thanked the department and committee for all the past support.

Motion by Dull to award the Conservation Aids grant to Prairie Rod & Gun Club, Tainter Creek Trout Habitat Restoration, second by Behar. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**DAVE BONIFIS, MRRPC**

Dave Bonifis distributed an information sheet containing what other counties have set for their Farmland Preservation Plan goals & polices to help the committee in determining our goals. Behar indicated she would like more time to look over the information & also gather information from the Crawford County Comprehensive Plan for goals & correct wording. Dave B. stated he will pull goals from the Comprehensive plan and add to the list for next months meeting.

**DAVE TROESTER, LAND CONSERVATION**

Dave indicated the aerial cover crops started on August 13 and was finished on August 16. Karyl stated the seeding has germinated and looks good. Last year we had 8 producers and 7 of them kept going this year and we had 5 new producers for a total of 12 producers this year. The Conservation Awards event was held at the Crawford County Fair and office staff manned our LCD booth all days at the fair. He attended a Cover Crop Field Day at Potosi.

Youth Conservation Day is set for Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup> for area schools and plans are moving ahead. The Clean Sweep is scheduled for Friday, October 30 at the Highway Department and monies have been coming in from the towns and villages to help pay for this event.

Dave presented the 2016 LCD Budget. Motion by Olson, second by Behar to approve the 2016 LCD Budget as presented. Motion carried.

Bills were presented. Behar 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 all but 2 projects are completed; hopefully bills will be coming in soon so checks can be cut and reimbursement requested from DATCP.

**KARYL FRITSCHÉ, NRCS**

Karyl stated they have been very busy finishing up contracts and the next EQIP deadline is October 2. She thanked Dave for taking the lead in the Prairie Tour scheduled for September 15<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:30 a.m. CRP contract re-enrolls are keeping them busy, lots of trees and new enrollments also. The FSA Committee did not raise the rental rates and they remain at \$122.00 an acre. The MRR Basin Watershed Initiative project money is on track. Cover Crop Project is complete and just waiting for funds to be distributed. She indicated she had talked with the county auditors a couple of times concerning the Cover Crop accounts.

**DNR FORESTER – Kobby Antwi (Not present)**

**VANCE HAUGEN, UWEX**

Vance indicated 65 people participate in the last Pasture Walk and many new individuals showing interest. The Crawford County Grazing Initiative is having a booth at the World Dairy Expo again this year.

**JOHN BAIRD, FSA (Not Present)**

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2015 10:00 a.m. or immediately following the Land Use Meeting.

Behar made the motion to adjourn at 11:30 a.m., second by Achenbach. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harriet Behar, Secretary

DT:HB:cjw