

CRAWFORD COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
SOIL & WATER CONCERNS
September 13, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Esser at 10:10 a.m. Members present for roll call were Henry Esser, Dave Olson, Harriet Behar (left at 11:00 a.m.) and Don Dudenbostel. Wade Dull was excused (joined the meeting at 11:00 a.m.).

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

Crawford Stewardship Project Report

Forest Jahnke stated the Karst survey meetings were held in Soldiers Grove, Viroqua and Gays Mills. This project will be ongoing for the next year or so.

WISCONSIN DNR – Cindy Koperski

Distributed informational sheets on the MRBI Watershed Map, The Phosphorus Rule, Water Quality Trading and Adaptive Management which is a voluntary compliance option for point source facilities to comply with phosphorus limits in NR 217. Discussion of the EPA enforcing phosphorus discharges from points of discharges. Villages may work with the county to meet permit objectives, funding sources and develop other options. Every 5 years point source dischargers are issued permits so it depends how far away a village is to needing a new permit. Discussion continued on someone needing to maintain the (easement with land owner) and how the county is to be involved in this process. Currently Mt. Sterling, DeSoto and Soldiers Grove are interested in working with the county.

DAVE TROESTER, LAND CONSERVATION

Dave indicated he attended a KARST workshop in Dodgeville and the Cover Crop Conference in Grant County. The Conservation Award ceremony was held during the fair and 6-7 days of spraying for Japanese Hops on Copper Creek. The aerial cover crops project was completed over a 3 day period and we received several concerned calls even though we had tried to inform the public ahead of time.

Making plans for Youth Conservation Day to be held on Thursday, September 22 at Sugar Creek Bible Camp and the Clean Sweep to be held on Friday, October 28 at the Highway Department.

The LCD Budget was presented and the budget will be the same as last year except for a couple of line items that must be increased. Motion by Behar to approve the LCD Budget as presented, second by Dudenbostel and motion approved by roll call vote.

Both lockers in Crawford County have decided not to participate in the Deer Donation Program.

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

Motion by Behar to approve payment to Ag-Tech for aerial cover crop spraying, second by Olson. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

2017 CONSERVATION AIDS ALLOCATION

The Prairie Rod and Gun Club was the only application received for Conservation Aids. This application is to continue the work on Sugar Creek Trout Habitat Restoration project to improve and restore in-stream habitat for trout, and stabilize stream banks on about 2,000 feet of stream in the upper middle portion of Sugar Creek on public fishing access property on the Sugar Creek Bible Camp property. Jerry Cummings addressed the committee and thanked them for the previous financial support. The allocation is in the amount of \$1,451 with a 50% match from the county, but if additional funds are available from the DNR we will request \$2,902 with a county match. Motion by Olson to award the Conservation Aids allocation to the Prairie Rod and Gun Club, second by Dudenbostel. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

SOUTHWEST BADGER RC & D ANNUAL REPORT – WENDY WARREN

Wendy Warren, Executive Director of Southwest Badger RC & D, distributed copies of the 2015-2016 Annual Report to Crawford County and discussed forestry assistance, invasive species assistance, grazing plan technical assistance and other items of interest in assisting Crawford County residents and agencies. They are again requesting a \$2,500 membership fee from each county they work with to help cover their cost. Last year Crawford paid \$1,200 for membership fee and they are using an incentive of providing 12 hours of grant writing to any county that agrees to pay the annual \$2,500 membership fee; or 20 hours if the annual payment is \$2,700 or more.

Motion by Olson to increase the amount of the Education Account, if funds are available elsewhere that can be transferred, to allow an increase to Southwest Badger RC & D dues, second by Dull. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

TRAVIS BUNTING, LAND & WATER PROJECTS

Travis indicated lots of phone calls for erosion problems due to all the rain and lots of repairs to previous projects. Mezera manure pit is completed and the Payne manure storage is started. Working on a project with Don Dudenbostel and Duke Welter and we have had a few well closings. Continuing to spray on Copper Creek.

KARYL FRITSCH, NRCS

Working on finishing up CSP contracts and getting pictures and documentation for the aerial Cover Crop payments. CSP payments will be going out after 10/01/2016.

Discussion of what gets included on the LCC agenda and a concern that Crawford Stewardship has no MOU or partnership agreement; all work NRCS does is to benefit and work with producers. Feelings that the CSP expects us to go above and beyond the regular expectations with limited staff; as well as hiring their own CCA to review NRCS & DATCP funded projects. Discussion on the open meeting rule and suggestion to drop CSP off the agenda and put Public Comment on each agenda for all groups or organizations to be able to comment. Dull stated agenda and minutes should still be mailed to the CSP individuals on those lists.

Kobby Antwi, DNR

Very little harvesting being done due to the weather. Receiving grants and seedling orders coming in through the nursery.

VANCE HAUGEN, (not present)

JOHN BAIRD, FSA

Sign up for the Forestry Restoration Disaster funds is going on (from the June 2015 storm). CRP is getting locked in and getting close to 24 million so may close for applications. Farmers Loan Program and Ag Risk payments for 2015 should be paid in October. November 15 is the date for some reporting to be due. Not a lot of flooding damage as far as the big picture, it could be a lot worse.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 11, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

Olson made the motion to adjourn at 11:55 a.m., second by Dull. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Wolcott, LCD Secretary

DT:cjw