

CRAWFORD COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
SOIL & WATER CONCERNS
August 13, 2019

Chairman Esser called the meeting to order at 9:55 a.m. Esser verified the posting of the agenda. Members present for roll call were Henry Esser, Dave Olson, Don Dudenbostel, Wade Dull, and Kim Moret. Also present was County Board Chairman Tom Cornford.

A motion was made by Dull to approve the minutes as mailed. Second by Olson. Motion carried.

DAVE TROESTER, LAND CONSERVATION

Troester stated due to the weather no one was able to attend the LLC Training & Tour held in Sparta last month. The office is currently getting ready for the fair. The display for the booth is done and working on the Conservation Award Winners presentations. The awards will be held on Thursday, August 22 at 6:00 at the fairgrounds. Youth Conservation Day is set for September 25, at Sugar Creek Bible Camp. LCD busy getting presenters, food donations and details set up. Troester was asked to attend the Lower WI State Riverway Board meeting last week and gave a brief update on the activities of Crawford County. Next week at County Board Troester & Cindy Riniker will be giving a brief update on the DAWS Water Study. Later in the afternoon he will be attending a DAWS meeting in Richland Center. On September 4, Troester is planning on attending the public hearing for the proposed changes to the States Livestock Facility Siting Rule in Onalaska. Clean Sweep is scheduled for October 25, donations from the municipalities are being received. A report was filed with the state regarding the chemicals that are collected at the event. Currently working on getting a non-metallic mining financial assurance letter and working with the state on a nutrient management plan audit. The LCD was contacted on a possible sinkhole issue in the Town of Bridgeport, Troester is hoping to get out and look at it sometime this week.

CAFO Discussion

Esser invited AV Roth to speak to the committee to elucidate the articles in the newspaper and phone calls coming in on the possibility CAFO in Marietta Township. Roth told the committee he is in the planning phases, he has started soil testing for a Nutrient Management Plan. He is not at the point to where he needs a permit. If he applies for a permit it would be for a 5000 sow farrow to wean hog operation. He would need to obtain a DNR permit and a livestock siting permit from the County. The Town of Marietta passed a moratorium. Roth is not sure if he will apply for a permit, there are a lot of variables to consider. If he does apply for the 243 permit with the DNR it is a yearlong process. Discussion took place on manure handling/distribution and the public hearings coming up on the proposed revisions to the State's Livestock Siting Rule. Roth stated that the Livestock Siting Rule must be revised every four years and this is the year and the revisions that could take place should not affect him because the DNR's 243 permit have more stringent rules.

Troester spoke to committee about how the Towns moratorium effects the Counties permitting process. He spoke with Mark Peterson and there is a lot of gray area. Peterson will be contacting the Counties Association to see if the moratorium has precedence over the County issuing a permit if one was received. Troester informed the committee he has been receiving calls asking for the County to do a moratorium. He mentioned in 2017 the County was asked to do a moratorium for CAFO's but instead the County passed a resolution urging the State to follow the standards and laws that were in place. Troester distributed information to the committee members on moratoriums from other Counties and on the Livestock Siting process.

DAWS Water Study

Troester stated they did not receive the \$10,000.00 grant they applied for public outreach. The next meeting will be August 20th in Richland Center and the group will be meeting with the researchers from UW-Stevens Point. Last week Troester went to the finance committee and informed them of the tentative \$150,000.00 budget for the tri-county project. Vernon County's portion would be \$75,000.00 (half) and Richland and Crawford's portion \$37,500.00 each. Finance told Troester to include it in this year's budget and they would take a look at it.

Budget

The LCPZD Budget was presented and the budget will be the same as last year. Motion by Dull to approve the LCPZD Budget as presented, second by Olson and motion approved by roll call vote.

Approve Snowmobile Payments

Motion by Olson to pay the snowmobile payments to clubs and county as presented, second by Dudenbostel. Motion carried by roll call vote

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

TRAVIS BUNTING, LAND & WATER PROJECTS, Not Present

Troester gave the report for Bunting: Busy with dam and rip-rap projects.

KARYL FRITSCHER, NRCS – Not Present

Fritsche stated the CREP sign up ends on August 23. She informed the committee of Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) to help restore wetlands. Applications are being taken but the ranking hasn't been released. With this program you need to prove there was flooding over the last ten years. The final cutoff deadline has not been released yet. CREP is a 15 year contract and ACEP is a preputial easement. CSP contracts are completed. Starting Sept 1 aerial cover crops will be applied out of the Prairie du Chien airport. Two planes will be applying in Richland, Grant and Crawford County. The mixes will be rye/radish and oats/clover and the rye was bought locally this year. Busy with construction projects, 7-8 dams & over 3,000 feet of rip rap projects. November 15 is the next application date for EQIP. Fritsche will be using the Compass system on Aug 28 to certify field borders.

DNR FORESTER, Christine Walroth, Brandon Sieck

Walroth stated Ben Ross took a new position in the eastern part of the state. Trevor Hamdorf is the new Forester as of August 5. He has been doing a lot of training. She distributed a flyer on an upcoming "Caring for Your Woodlands" workshop on September 14 hosted by Jay Carlson Tree Farm in Richland County. She also distributed a brochure on the annual field day for the WI Tree Farm Committee coming up on August 17, and being held in the north eastern part of the state. Walroth indicated she has been busy working with landowners in Crawford County. She has also had a field visit with the Wildlife Biologist for a property entered into a Deer Management Assistant Program.

UW Extension (not present)

No new Ag Agent yet and cannot advertise yet.

FSA (not present)

Eventually Crawford County will be cost sharing with Vernon County.

Public Comment

Ellen Brooks, Crawford Stewardship Project, gave a brief update on the attendance at the CAFO meeting in Marietta Township. She also stated the Town passed a citizens working group committee. She had newspapers that had published articles on the CAFO and the moratorium available.

Gina Holtz from Marietta Township expressed concern on the CAFO. She would like the County to pass a moratorium that would allow time for the new livestock siting rules to come through.

AV Roth was asked by a committee member what type of economic impact does he think his facility would have as far as jobs. Roth informed them 20 jobs would be created and he would be using local feed companies, fertilizer etc. He stated in the past he has seen a raise in property taxes on similar facilities of eighty – ninety thousand dollars.

Ken Cornish – Kickapoo Valley Rd - Marietta Township – 1100 feet down the bluff from the proposed farm. He expressed concern on the karst geology of the area.

Bill Holtz from Marietta Township expressed concerns water quality issues.

Next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, September 13, 2019.

Dull made the motion to adjourn at 11:08a.m., second by Olson. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Becky Nagel
Administrative Assistant

DT:bn