

CRAWFORD COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
SOIL & WATER CONCERNS
November 11, 2020

The Zoom/Teleconference meeting was called to order by Chairman Dave Olson at 10:00 a.m. Olson verified the posting of the agenda. Members present for roll call were Kim Moret, and Wade Dull. Bob Standorf and Edward Hayes-Hall were excused.

Motion by Moret to approve the minutes as mailed, second by Dull. Motion carried unanimously.

DAVE TROESTER, LAND CONSERVATION

Clean Sweep went smoothly, participation was similar to other years. Troester thanked everyone who helped with the event. The DAWS water samples were collected on October 26, at various sites throughout the county. Ninety-nine testing kits were distributed and eighty-nine samples were collected. Hoping to have some results by the December meeting. The December County Con meeting will be held virtual this year. The videos that were made by the presenters for Youth Conservation Day are on the website, and an email with the link was sent to the area schools. Information for the poster contest was also sent to the area schools.

DNR AIS Grant Partnership Resolution

Troester informed the committee he worked with the DNR & Upper Sugar River Watershed Association last week to complete the AIS grant, but a partnership resolution is needed to finalize the application. Troester presented the 2021 Crawford County Land Conservation Department WI DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Partnership Resolution.

Motioned by Dull to approve and sign the WI DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Partnership Resolution to be presented at County Board. Second by Moret. Motion carried unanimously.

Water Quality Trading

Troester informed the committee he was contacted by Davy Engineering Co. regarding the Village of Gays Mills exploring the use of Water Quality Trading (WQT) as a means of complying with phosphorus regulations on their wastewater treatment plant. Davy was reaching out to the LCD for help with streambank stabilization projects.

Brice Nelson from Davy Engineering spoke about the specific actions the LCD would be responsible for; identify potential projects, make contact with property owners, collect soil samples, photograph the site, assist with phosphorus calculations, participate in a 3-party agreement and obtain property owner's support (act as the "broker"), prepare plans & obtain permits, bid construction, manage construction, provide annual inspections to check maintenance.

Troester stated he supported the idea and it would be great opportunity to get some more conservation work done but has limited resources for the additional workload. He felt it was hard to commit to doing all of this additional work without having an additional engineer/technician. Bunting added he has seen more failure with the stream bank restoration projects lately due to the rain events. He doesn't have job approval authority to get large projects approved, so approval would need to come from the State engineer. He wasn't sure if they were approving stream bank projects due to the failure rate and NRCS is not doing any until the new design standards come out. When the projects fail the Villages no longer get the WQT credit and would need to put more money into it to keep it functioning. Davy will put together some information and get it to the LCD to look at and see if that would fit into the work load.

Bills

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

TRAVIS BUNTING, LAND & WATER PROJECTS

Bunting informed the committee he looked at a few rip rap and dam projects. He is not taking on any rip rap projects due to the high rate of failure. He will be signing up a water way project to get the left over grant funds used up. Hasn't started surveying yet but hoping to get started soon now that the woods are opening up.

KARYL FRITSCH, NRCS (Not Present)

No report given

DNR FORESTER, Christine Walroth, Brandon Sieck (Not Present)

Troester read an email from Walroth; working with landowners last month and with NRCS/FSA on landowners in CRP. There will be six different virtual "Learn About Your Land" workshops December 1-17. There will be two each week on Tuesday & Thursday starting at 7:00 pm and will last an hour, cost is \$30.00. Sign up for the classes at woodlandinfo.org/register

UW Extension Carolyn Ihde (Not Present)

No report given

FSA – Bob Standorf (Not Present)

Troester gave a brief report from Emily Schildgen; Office is open by appointment only. Fall crop reporting due November 15. CFAP2 sign up ends December 11th. Dairy Margin Coverage sign up ends December 11th.

Public Comment

Ellen Brooks Crawford Stewardship Project stated she was happy the DAWS water sampling took place and is looking forward to hearing the results. She also thanked Troester for the opportunity to share with the youth the KARST education video. CSP "Love the Land" event will be virtual this year on December 12th. The fall winter newsletter is available online.

Forest Jahnke stated if needed, his organization CSP could be helpful with spreading the word on WQT.

Next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 8, 2020.

Dull made the motion to adjourn at 11:03 a.m., second by Moret. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Becky Nagel
Administrative Assistant

DT:bn