

CRAWFORD COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

SOIL & WATER CONCERNS

September 10, 2019

Chairman Esser called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Esser verified the posting of the agenda. Members present for roll call were Henry Esser, Dave Olson, Don Dudenbostel and Wade Dull. Kim Moret was excused.

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

DAVE TROESTER, LAND CONSERVATION

Troester stated Conservation Awards was held at the fair and was a success, the tent was full. There was more traffic at the booth this year, answered a lot of questions on the POWTS program. Staff is busy working on Youth Conservation Days that will be held on September 25, at Sugar Creek Bible Camp. Troester spoke at the last County Board meeting and updated them on the DAWS Water Study. Representative Loren Oldenburg also attended and gave a brief update on discussions at the State Level. Troester attended the public hearing on Livestock Facility Siting Rule in Onalaska and discussed the proposed changes with the committee. He also attended a Compass System demonstration that was put on by Karyl Fritsche. Cover Crop aerial application is done. It took approximately a week for three planes to apply the seed. Clean Sweep is scheduled for Friday October 25 in Seneca. The Fall Tech Tour is scheduled for October 3 in Viroqua. Troester is working with Sue Porter, DATCP on a nutrient management plan audit.

CAFO Discussion

Mark Peterson, Corporation Counsel stated he is still waiting to hear from the Counties Association regarding the Town of Marietta's moratorium and how or if it would affect the County issuing a permit if an application was received. Peterson also looked into the County doing a moratorium. He stated in his personal opinion he felt it was premature for the County to act on it. It was set aside until next month.

DAWS Water Study

At the last meeting on August 20, the group met with the researchers from UW Stevens Point regarding how to set up the water test study. The group needs to decide if they want to do a randomized or a volunteer/ first-come, first-served study. The next meeting will be held in Gays Mills on September 23.

Award Conservation Aids Grant

We received three applications for the Conservation Aids Grant; one from Prairie Rod & Gun Club, Dennis Kirschbaum for informational kiosks in LaRiviere Park, one from the City of Prairie, Mike Ulrich, for ADA Compliant Fishing Pier on St. Feriole Island and one from the Prairie Rod & Gun Club, Jerry Cummings, for Citron Creek Trout Habitat Restoration. Jerry Cummings presented his project.

Motion by Olson to approve all three projects to be funded with 50% of the grant being awarded to the Prairie Rod & Gun Club, Jerry Cummings, for Citron Creek Trout Habitat Restoration and 25% of the grant being awarded to the City of PdC, Mike Ulrich, for ADA Compliant Fishing Pier on St. Feriole Island and the remaining 25% awarded to the Prairie Rod & Gun Club, Dennis Kirschbaum for informational kiosks in LaRiviere Park, second by Dull. Motion carried unanimously 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

Bunting stated he has had only two days in the office, otherwise he has been in the field. Had six different projects going on and going in multiple directions. He recently completed the Werthwein project that he can turn for the match from Trout Unlimited. Building a lot of DAMS, three of projects were completed last week and hoping three or four will be done by the end of the year. He recently visited the Johnstown Dam and everything looks good. Discussion took place regarding repairing the drainage system. He will be getting a hold of Mike Dreschmeir to get the drain tile plan for the dam and the cost estimate for the Grant.

KARYL FRITSCH, NRCS

Fritsche stated over a million dollars of equip projects were funded in Crawford County this year. All of the Aerial Cover Crop was funded over 9800 acres were applied at \$57.25 acre, seed was locally sourced out of Livingston. Started the year with 138 applications, 48 are surveyed and 45 were funded and starting the fiscal year with an additional 92 applications. With the back log all work is done on a first come first serve basis. Still working on 2014 Forestry applications, 2 year back log on engineering practices. 4 CSP applications were fully funded and 12 CREP contracts. Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) sign up ends September 23.

DNR FORESTER, Christine Walroth, Brandon Sieck (not present)

Troester gave a report for Walroth who was at a DNR meeting: Continuing to work with landowners in cost share programs.

UW Extension (not present)

In the process of hiring a FoodWise Nutrition Educator. Still no AG Agent, replacement will be a 50/50 position with Richland County sometime next year.

FSA (not present)

Receiving a lot of calls regarding FMP payment, no one has received it in Crawford County.

Public Comment

Ellen Brooks, Crawford Stewardship Project, thanked the LCC for the Friend of Conservation Award. She also stated CSP attended the Livestock Facility Siting Rule in Onalaska and they made suggestions at the hearing. She invited all to attend the Karst Geology Exploration on Saturday, September 14, 1pm – 4:30pm at Mother Earth Green Center in Steuben, WI.

Next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, October 8, 2019.

Dull made the motion to adjourn at 11:20 a.m., second by Dudenbostel. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Becky Nagel
Administrative Assistant

DT:bn