

CRAWFORD COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

SOIL & WATER CONCERNS

March 10, 2020

Chairman Esser called the meeting to order at 9:58 a.m. Esser verified the posting of the agenda. Members present for roll call were Henry Esser, Dave Olson, Bob Standorf, Wade Dull and Kim Moret.

Motion by Olson to approve the minutes as mailed, second by Standorf. Motion carried unanimously.

DAVE TROESTER, LAND CONSERVATION

Troester stated the snowmobile trails were opened for a couple of weeks in February. The 2020-2021 Annual Snowmobile Grant will be submitted later this week. The tree sales will be wrapping up soon. This year we sold out of a lot of varieties, the nursery wasn't able to fill the orders. Increased sales could be due to advertising on our Facebook page this year. Tree pick up will be at the PDC High School again this year in early May. Tomorrow 396 letters will be mailed out for the first round of the DAWS water sampling. Thirty-six private well owners were randomly selected from each Township. The first nine callers from each township will be participating in the water study. Samples will need to be taken & collected on May 4th. A press release is scheduled later this week in the local papers and on WPRE. The first CAFO study group meeting took place last month, the next meeting will be on Thursday, and DATCP will be speaking to the group. Troester distributed to the committee the annual report review from the DNR for the AV Roth Farm. The report was completed on January 17th and no additional action/information is needed. Troester was interviewed a few weeks ago by Paul Arentz a reporter for Driftless Now. He wrote an article on the LCD department, it can be read on their website. The two posters that advanced to the State level did not advance. Troester is busy with farmland preservation calls, sending emails to nutrient plan writers reminding them to send in nutrient management checklist, employee evaluations and the work plan/annual report.

Conservation Awards

Nominated award winners were presented for discussion. Motion by Dull to approve the conservation award winners as presented, seconded by Standorf. Motion carried unanimously. Troester will contact the award winners. The will shop class at Prairie du Chien High School will build and engrave the back of the benches.

Soil & Water Stewardship Week Proclamation

Motion by Olson to proclaim April 26 to May 3, 2020 as Soil & Water Stewardship Week and have the County Board sign and recognize this with a Proclamation, second by Dull. Motion carried unanimously.

Tire Clean Up

The committee and department discussed hosting Tire Clean up event in June at the Highway Department. The tire collection will be handled by Town and Country.

Motion by Standorf to host the Tire Clean Up on Saturday, June 13 at the Highway Department, second by Olson. Motion carried unanimously.

Work Plan & SWRM Grant

Discussion took place on the 2020 Annual Work Plan and the 2021 SWRM Grant. Motion by Dull to submit the 2021 SWRM Grant Application for salaries, Land & Water Projects and SEG funding, and the Annual Work Plan second by Olson. Motion carried unanimously.

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

TRAVIS BUNTING, LAND & WATER PROJECTS

Bunting stated he attended the Land and Water Conference last week in Green Bay and gave the committee a brief report. Continuing to survey and work on designs for the NRCS funding cycle.

KARYL FRITSCHKE, NRCS (not present)

Troester read a report Fritsche sent: Funding for EQUIP should be announced sometime in early April. Jacob Johnson, a new soil conservationist will be starting April 6. CSP signup deadline March 20, 51 CRP offers submitted should know how many are funded by mid-May. Attended the Farm Bureau water quality meetings in February. There will be a cover crop follow up meeting March 19 at the Prairie du Chien Country Club.

DNR FORESTER, Christine Walroth, Brandon Sieck

Walroth indicated the remodel is complete and she has moved back into her office. Busy submitting applications in for EQUIP and WI Forestry Land Grant Program. Walroth stated the State tree nursery started running out of trees and this may have impacted the sales in the LCD tree sale. Pocket calendars were distributed to those who wanted them.

UW Extension (not present)

Ag agent was hired and will start mid-May. This will be a 50/50 shared position with Richland County.

FSA (not present)

Standorf stated interviews were held for a new director. This will be a shared position with Vernon County, Joanne is going to Richland County.

Public Comment

Ellen Brooks, Crawford Stewardship Project made some comments on the dead bill AB894-SB808 and encouraged the LCC to reexamine the county livestock siting ordinance.

Next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2020.

Esser made the motion to adjourn at 11:02 a.m., second by Olson. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Becky Nagel
Administrative Assistant

DT:bn