

CRAWFORD COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
SOIL & WATER CONCERNS
January 12, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Esser at 10:05 a.m. Members present for roll call were Harriet Behar, Henry Esser and Dave Olson. Wade Dull was excused. Jerry Achenbach is no longer the FSA representative and a new individual will be appointed at their next FSA meeting.

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

Crawford Stewardship Project Report

Ellen Brooks discussed Assembly Bill 582 and Senate Bill 64. She invited everyone to the fund raiser CSP Benefit and Dance to be held on February 6th at 7 p.m. at Gays Mills.

CSP congratulated Harriet Behar on her appointment to the National Organic Standards Board.

DAVE TROESTER, LAND CONSERVATION

Non-metallic Mining fees are coming in and we have been doing the end of year farm visits for FPP. We will need to re-issue all certificates of completion to farmland participants as they need to be tracked by a number system. Crawford County contingency fund will be helping pay for the remaining bill from the Clean Sweep. We have set up a Vehicle Purchase account and have placed left over funds into that account as a new truck will need to be purchased in the near future; possibly one of the Highway Department trucks. Dave Bonifas and Dave Troester held a meeting with the northern Crawford County Towns representatives on the Farmland Plan and asking them to contribute the township maps that they have to go into the plan. Plan to meet with the southern Crawford County Towns within the next 2 weeks. Snowmobile trails have not been open due to the drifting and poor conditions.

The county conservation contest posters must be into our office by January 19th. The county speaking contest will be held shortly after. So far North Crawford Schools is the only participating school for the speaking contest. The regional contests will be held in Viroqua early in February for both posters and speaking.

Upcoming activities are the spring tree sale and preparing the annual report.

Dave & Travis would like to attend the Driftless Symposium in LaCrosse the first week of February. Motion by Olson, second by Behar to allow both to attend the Driftless Symposium. Motion carried.

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

TRAVIS BUNTING, LAND & WATER PROJECTS

Currently doing office work and engineering plans in the cold weather, cleaning up the storage room and going through a lot of old equipment, maps, etc. Nolan's project is completed.

KARYL FRITSCH, NRCS

The agency paid out \$375,000 in CSP payments in the last month to Crawford County residents. First round of EQIP done but received no new contracts before the deadline. MRBI project will be \$847,000 to spend for Vernon and Crawford County. No TA funds for additional help; however, would like to work on a Contribution Agreement between LCD and NRCS for additional help being paid to LCD on a 50%/50% (LCD can be in kind hours, office space, etc.) The committee indicated they felt this contribution agreement would be acceptable as long as no additional funds are needed.

John Baird commented that all this money coming into the county is great but with no funds going towards additional technical and/or support staff we need to seriously think about the workloads that are being expected, the other programs that need assistance and promotion, and the offices being closed to the public more because of additional field work out of office, etc.

Patti Jackson, NRCS, indicated that efforts are being made in getting additional technical assistance to help with all the extra programming and money coming into Vernon and Crawford but it is a long process. Patti also distributed a copy of 2015 NRCS Financial Assistance that was paid out to Crawford County programs.

A new MONARCH (butterfly) Initiative was started this year with a sign up deadline being March 4, 2016. Cover Crop deadline is in June and we anticipate another 500 plus acres more than last year in the aerial cover crop project. A follow up meeting on Cover Crops will be held on February 10 (location to be announced later). Tomorrow is a meeting to discuss the mixes to be offered this year (only 2) and the mixes will be presented at the February 10th meeting. 5 year contracts can now be written for the Cover Crop Program.

Kobby Antwi, DNR Forester, Not Present

VANCE HAUGEN, UW-Extension

Vance presented some historical information relating to Crawford County.

JOHN BAIRD, FSA

John indicated that Dean Roth was elected to Jerry Achenbach's position and a FSA representative will be appointment to the Land Conservation Committee at their next meeting. A new process of mailing out appointment cards with time and date to report acres will be implemented this year instead of setting times as individuals calls in. The goal is to get 40-50% enrolled by the end of March.

CRP general signup is going on. A big push to get enrollment and Crawford is at approximately \$110 to \$120 an acre. Programs that have been highly advertised in the media bring out everyone to the office which takes a lot of time and explaining of the programs and information to those not involvement in any other programs. It takes a great deal of coordination if no eligibility paperwork is on hand.

Ben Wegleitner, Southwest Badger, indicated he is working on holding meetings to try to bridge the gap between Law Enforcement and DNR Wardens as to what they can and can't enforce. He has not heard back from the Invasive Species Grant he applied for as Japanese Hops was found in the Citron Creek area. He indicated his current grant is good through June 2016.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 9, 2016.

Olson made the motion to adjourn at 11:05 a.m., second by Behar. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harriet Behar, Secretary

DT:HB:cjw