

**CRAWFORD COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT**  
**SOIL & WATER CONCERNS**  
**February 14, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Esser at 10:00 a.m. Esser verified the posting of the agenda. Members present for roll call were Henry Esser, Dave Olson, Don Dudenbostel, Wade Dull and Harriet Behar. Motion by Olson to approve the minutes as mailed, second by Dudenbostel. Motion carried unanimously.

**DAVE TROESTER, LAND CONSERVATION**

Troester indicated the tree sale orders are coming in. The poster and speaking contest were held. Our county winning speaker went to the area contest and won so will be going on to the state contest in March held at the WLWCA Annual Conference. The Deer Council met and voted on several items relating to CWD in the deer herd. Our county LCD hosted an evening SNARS (Snowmobile) Training in Gays Mills for a 4 county area and was attended by approximately 25 people from agencies and clubs. Clubs will now have to submit their expenses to the LCD through the SNARS Data Base System for approval. March 3<sup>rd</sup> we will be hosting a follow up meeting in Gays Mills to review the 2016 Aerial Cover Crop project. The Annual WLWCA Conference will be March 15 -17 and Travis and Dave will be attending.

MRRPC hopes to have a working draft of the Farmland Preservation Plan done to present at our next meeting. The department had to request an extension for the planning grant funds, to now coincide with the FPP plan due date (12/2017).

Annual membership dues were discussed. Motion by Behar to pay Southwest Badger \$1,200.00, WI Land & Water Conservation \$1,344.00 and the National Association of Conservation Districts \$250.00. Second by Dull. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Motion by Behar to pay \$75.00 to the winner of the Crawford County Speaking Contest (Sarah Bransky) to help with the expense of going to the State WLWCA Conference in Elkhart Lake, WI, 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.

**WILDLIFE CLAIMS, GREG CERVEN**

Cerven presented the list and amounts of wildlife claims for the year 2016. Motion by Behar to pay the claims as follows: Gaylon O'Neal \$6,619.20, David Shihata \$1,324.00, Norm Werthwein \$5,304.13 and John Zehrer \$10,000.00. Second by Dull. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**COVER CROP PROJECT**

Troester stated that due to the extensive amount of time and work involved in the cover crop project Fritsche and he thought it would be in the best interest of the department to contract parts of this project out to a third party CCA, such as helping with contacting farmers, getting mapping completed, signing contracts, etc. Corporation Counsel felt that this "Program Manager" position for the Cover Crop Project would not have to be sent out to bid. This position would not cost the county anything as we would incorporate the administrative cost into the farmer's cost share owed the LCD per acre.

Jeff Osterhaus, Crop Advisor, was introduced to the LCC and is willing to serve as the Program Manager position.

Motion by Olson to approve a contract with Jeff Osterhaus as Program Manager for the Cover Crop Project, second by Behar. Motion carried by roll call vote.

### **MANURE STORAGE & LIVESTOCK SITING ORDINANCES**

Sue Porter was here last week and spent an entire day going over SNAP Plus software and what to look for in doing new plans or reviews of nutrient management plans. She suggested no full plan but local government can require the nutrient management planner to submit documentation to substantiate any of the checklist items and annual updates to the plan. Discussion was held on what do we want to do as far as checking NMP for manure storage permits, livestock siting, cost-sharing programs, Farmland Preservation (approximately 75 plans that we get checklists yearly, as well as do a percentage of yearly farm visits, and approximately 2 to 3 new FPP plans yearly, etc. The committee stated we need to look at staff time for all activities and projects the department is involved in and how much time can be set aside for this process. Troester presented information he had gathered on how surrounding counties handle the process. No neighboring counties request the full database. We need to decide if we have the authority to request a full database for the NMP and if we want to treat everyone the same to be fair and be consistent in what we request for each program and permit. Discussion of the reports that can be requested from the SNAP Plus programming shows all the information that is needed for reviewing. Jeff Osterhaus, CCA, suggested only requesting 3, 4 or 5 reports as there are many reports and only certain ones may be needed to get the information that is required for reviewing; suggested talking with DATCP to see what reports to request. A new version of Snap Plus will be coming out shortly.

Behar felt strongly that a full data base needs to be requested and kept in the office. On new permits it was decided to require an initial plan, maps and subsequent years request only the annual check list.

For FPP a baseline report should be requested and then check list yearly. Bunting suggested getting the report the year that we do the farm inspection to ensure they are following the plan.

### **TRAVIS BUNTING, LAND & WATER PROJECTS**

Bunting stated he is doing a few surveys and lots of design work. Five to seven dams left to do. Trainings are starting and the annual NRCS Tech Update. He will be attending the annual WLWCA Conference with Dave.

### **KARYL FRITSCH, NRCS**

Fritsche thanked Travis for all the extra time he has spent helping out NRCS due to Achenbach's absence. She apologized for the delay on the cover crop payments to the county as she needed to redo several approvals. There is a lot of work to do, CSP just closed, CRP, and will be doing more strips this spring.

### **Kobby Antwi, DNR (not present)**

### **VANCE HAUGEN, UW Extension**

Haugen has been working with Ted Bay on Cover Crops and Ben Wojahn on CREP issues. There is still a July 1st implementation date for re-organization of UW-Extension.

### **JOHN BAIRD, FSA**

The 2017 Commodities Program process is started. FSA/DATCP cost share program for organic certifications is in the works. CRP, a new Pollinator Monarch Butterfly Project enrollment starts. Beth is leaving the agency and there is a hiring freeze on.

### **Public Comment**

Forest Jahnke, Crawford Stewardship, indicated they have been working with Steve Oberley and generally are going for more clarity in the NMP review process. They are hoping to get some good data for the Karst Study from the new Snap Plus software.

Next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 11, 2017.**

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Harriet Behar  
Secretary

DT:HB:cjw