

CRAWFORD COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
SOIL & WATER CONCERNS
March 8, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Esser at 10:00 a.m. Members present for roll call were Harriet Behar, Henry Esser, Dave Olson, Don Dudenbostel and Pete Flesch, Co. Board Chair. Wade Dull was excused.

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

Crawford Stewardship Project Report

Ellen Brooks reported previously about Senate Bill 464/Assembly Bill 582 which severely restricted local control in its original form. That bill was opposed by the WI Towns Association and many other groups and individuals. After a long and heated hearing last December, the legislative committee modified the bill to remove the worst of the section on vested rights. That was good, but the part of the bill that takes away the right of a local government to use moratoriums to slow down new uses of land while studying the situation remains in the bill that was passed. That means there is no grace period for the local government, including the county, to study new industries or land/water uses. Also remaining in the bill is the aspect that a comprehensive plan may not prohibit any use that is specified as a conditional use in a zoning ordinance. This ties the hands of local government.

CSP are not legal experts and would encourage the LCC to look into these charges, especially the removal of moratorium authority that may have a direct effect on this committee's ability to operate. We hope you can get clarification on the exact repercussions of the law and the CSP would like to know what the committee and department find out.

She indicated that while this new law has sections that don't work for the good of local government, CSP is pleased that due to the outcry from many Town Boards, conservation organizations, and individuals, the legislature was compelled to drop some of the worst parts of the original bill. Once again, proof showing that public and municipal input can make a difference.

JIM HACKETT, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Jim indicated that every 4 years the Hazard Mitigation Plan must be updated in order to receive emergency FEMA funding. He asked to get approval to present to Finance Committee and request a match of 25% or \$10,000 in order for Crawford County to have access to FEMA funds (\$30,000). MRRPC will be helping with the updating of this plan. He has been working with the BNSF and met with them in setting up a Mitigation Plan of their own.

Motion by Behar to approve Emergency Management to Update the Hazard Mitigation Plan and to request \$10,000 from Finance Committee to access FEMA funds (\$30,000) in case of an emergency in the future. Second by Olson. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

DAVE TROESTER, LAND CONSERVATION

Dave stated Travis and he attended the WLWCA Annual Meeting last week. They attended several informative seminars and made some great contacts. Crawford County had 3 posters that advanced to the state and also one speaker. The tree sale is ongoing, Cover Crops Aerial project is being set up for 2016, MRBI cooperative agreements with NRCS were being developed for the 5 year project. 2017 SWRM Grant application is being completed, as well as the application requesting 2017 Snowmobile funds. March 24th is the Kickapoo Valley Reserve Meeting.

The department is currently working on gathering township maps for the Farmland Preservation Plan and working with MRRPC to complete.

Copies of the 2015 Annual Report were distributed. Motion by Olson to approve the 2015 Annual Report for the Crawford County Land Conservation Department, second by Behar. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion of selling the oldest tree planter to Star Valley Flowers as they have been using and offered \$500.00. It would cost more than that to repair and it was felt not worth repairing. The newer planter needs repairs, also, and the Highway Department felt that they would be able to do the repairs.

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

LAND AND WATER PLAN

The Land & Water Plan deadline has been extended to the end of the year; however, we are scheduled to present at the August Board meeting. In order to complete the plan we must set up an Advisory Council. After discussion it was felt that the following individuals be asked to participate on this council: Harriet Behar, Don Dudenbostel, Ben Wegleitner, Vance Haugen, Karyl Fritsche, Kooby Antwi, Pete Flesch, Travis Bunting, John Rybarczyk, John Baird, a member of the CSP, LCC Members, Dave Troester and Carol Wolcott. The first meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 15th at 6:00 p.m. at the Highway Department, Seneca.

TRAVIS BUNTING, LAND & WATER PROJECTS

Travis thanked the committee for allowing him to attend the WLWCA Annual Meeting as he picked up valuable information at some of the seminars; documentation and inspections for design work was a great information session he attended. He stated trying to figure out how much Design Work for the MRBI project can be anticipated. He is hoping to have his "Job Approval Authority" approved shortly.

KARYL FRITSCH, NRCS

Karyl distributed a copy of Crawford County EQIP Application Update on priority, costs with funding codes totaling \$2,049,709.00. A lot of work ahead to and lots of planning and hard work. Projects only get approved if fully designed. Running another batching period to June 10th. RCPP (rip rap), Monarch Initiative along with CSP applications are being worked on. She had heard nothing on a Soil Conservationist position being hired in her office yet.

Kobby Antwi, DNR Forester (not present)

VANCE HAUGEN, (not present)

JOHN BAIRD, FSA

John indicated the CRP general sign up was low. Looking into the Emergency Forest Restoration Program through NRCS to help with cost from the June tornado that hit the Wauzeka-Steuben area last year.

Ben Wegleitner from Southwest Badger stated his 2016 grants were accepted, just awaiting written approval. He is trying to work with Highway Dept., townships, etc., with moving plans to finish up the 2015 grant to control invasive species and mowing dates.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Olson made the motion to adjourn at 11:15 a.m., second by Flesch. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harriet Behar, Secretary

DT:HB:cjw