

CRAWFORD COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
SOIL & WATER CONCERNS
April 16, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Esser at 10:25 a.m. Members present for roll call were Wade Dull, Henry Esser, David Olson and Harriet Behar. Jerry Achenbach was excused due to another meeting.

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

Crawford Stewardship Project Report

Edie Ehlert gave the report for the CSP. On May 5th from 7-9 p.m. at the Soldiers Grove Library will be a presentation given by a Biologist from Mexico dealing with water quality. Kathy Byrne will be holding Water Quality Trainings in May and June. They will be hiring someone to work 20 hours per week to work with Forest. CSP will be reviewing the Nutrient Management Plan from the Roth CAFO and she emphasized the need for a KARST study in our county. Edie stated the CSP will receive the Above and Beyond Award at the fifth annual Crawford County Leadership Awards Reception, hosted by the Crawford County Community Fund on Thursday, April 23, at 6:00 p.m. at Century Hall in Wauzeka.

DAVE TROESTER, LAND CONSERVATION

Dave indicted the WLWCA annual meeting at Appleton was very informative and this year members got to vote for the winning Youth Speakers and Posters; a Crawford County Wauzeka student received a 3rd in the high school division in the poster contest. Dave attended a SNAP Plus Training and he participated in Southwest Badger Interviews for the Aquatic Invasive Specialist that will be housed out of our office for the next year; Ben Wegleitner will be finishing his masters in Minnesota and will be starting in mid-May. We received our first payment for the Japanese Hopes Grant that will cover a 4 year period. Upcoming events include a Tuesday, April 21 presentation at the PdC Environmental Day for grade school students and on May 9th a Bird Walk at Sugar Creek. Dave indicated he has been helping with several DNR fire burns and helped Vernon County LCD with spraying. He presented information that was voted on at the Conservation Congress Meeting and several issues that are important to Crawford County.

Karyl Fritsche and Dave went to Arlington for a Cover Crop meeting and presentation last Tuesday. The Cover Crop project has been a great success in Crawford County and hope to have more acres with the sign up deadline being mid-June. It is hoped to get the flying done earlier in the year; mid-August, if possible.

Dave indicated he had received notification from the DNR wondering about the Conservation Aids boat landing project that is not completed and the project end date is June 30th. He will be checking with Dave Connelly to find out where the project currently stands as far as completion; we will need to ask for an extension if it cannot be completed by June 30th.

The committee discussed and decided to hold a Tire Clean Up at the Highway Department in mid-June with Town and Country. Esser and Dave will check on the dates and decide if it should still be two days in the morning or one full day. The Highway Department is currently on their summer schedule and closed on Fridays. The LCD plans on having a clean-up day again on Friday, October 30; discussion as to if a Saturday would be better for the clean up, but we would need to discuss this with Dynamic Recycling and LaCrosse County to see if they are available.

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

SOIL STEWARDSHIP WEEK PROCLAMATION

Motion by Behar to sign and present a proclamation to Crawford County Board declaring the week of April 26 to May 3, 2015 Soil & Water Stewardship Week. Second by Dull. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSERVATION CONGRESS, BILL HOWE

Motion by Olson to again pay up to \$450.00 total to those individuals attending the Conservation Congress. Second by Behar. Motion carried unanimously.

SWRM GRANT APPLICATION

The SWRM grant was submitted for a staffing grant of \$127,139.00; Land & Water Resource Management grants in the amount of \$60,000 and SEG Funds for Nutrient Management in the amount of \$14,000.00. Motion by Olson that the Land & Water Committee will agree to all and carry out all terms of the contract. Second by Dull. Motion carried unanimously.

TRAVIS BUNTING, LAND & WATER PROJECTS (Not Present)

Dave indicated Travis had emailed and he stated that all of his designs are approved except for two riprap ones that he needs to complete and a waterway. He has one training left. One of the projects we extended from last year will not be completed as the landowners will not be going through with the project; therefore, we will try to use those funds to help complete the other two extended projects from last year. If not used on extended projects the money must be returned to DATCP.

KARYL FRITSCH, NRCS (Not Present)

Dave received an email from Karyl indicating they have received 401K in EQIP funds. There are still 3 more signups going to happen yet this year. DALCI-Targeted Watershed; everything east of Highway 27 is eligible – targeting cold water stream work and has a May 15th application deadline. Honey Bee Pollinator – same as the first HBP signup – June 5th is application deadline. The Cover Crop is same as last year with a June 5th application deadline. Constructions have started and have 3 projects they are working on right now. More projects will be started once the road bans come off. They are marking a lot of strips – have requests for 600 acres and hoping the weather cooperates to get them all completed. CSP – the CMT ranking tool was released and have 11,000 acres signed up.

DNR FORESTER (Hiring put on hold)

Dave indicated DNR is currently looking at the forester being located in Prairie du Chien. Carol Wolcott stated an account has been set up to transfer funds from the forestry account. This account will be used for money received from the tree planter (LCD will be doing the billing, rental, etc.) and paying expenses incurred.

VANCE HAUGEN, UWEX (Not Present)

Vance indicated the Pasteur Walks have started and approximately 22 people attended the first one.

JOHN BAIRD, FSA (Not Present)

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 12 at 10:00 a.m. or immediately following the Land Use Meeting.

Olson made the motion to adjourn at 11:30 a.m., second by Dull. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Wolcott
LCD Secretary

DT:cjw