

CRAWFORD COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
SOIL & WATER CONCERNS
May 9, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Esser at 9:55 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 Behar to approve the minutes as mailed, second by Dudenbostel. Motion carried unanimously.

DAVE TROESTER, LAND CONSERVATION

Report

Attended the Transcendent training in Baraboo for the Farmland Preservation Program/Zoning & Septic System inventory programming. On April 18 the County Board approved our 2 ordinances as presented. Completing Farmland Preservation farm inspections as time permits. The LCD received the January 5th review back from Sue Porter that she did on site for the Crawford County Farmland Preservation Program with minor suggestions. Our annual tree sale concluded with pick up at the Prairie du Chien High School Ag Dept. on April 27 and 28; a sheet was distributed detailing income and expenses. LCD donated 100 trees to PdC 1st graders for the Arbor Day Park event on Friday, April 28th. Posters were distributed to committee members for the Tire Clean Up to be held on June 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Crawford County Highway Department. We have \$21,000 in SEG funds to spend for Nutrient Management Plans in Crawford County this year.

Troester asked for recommendations from the committee for Conservation Award Winners to be presented at the Crawford County Fair (August 23 thru 27) by the next committee meeting.

The next Cover Crop Day will be held on Saturday, May 20th at Mt. Sterling Park Shelter.

LCD Restructuring

A copy was distributed of the Sanitation/Zoning Technician position description. The ad has been placed in the paper but have not received any applications to date. Motion by Dull to approve the position description to be presented to the Personnel Committee, second by Behar. Motion carried unanimously. Personnel committee will be meeting on May 24th and will officially approve to make the clerk position full time in LCD.

Snowmobile Payments

Discussion of the new SNARS internet software system that the snowmobile clubs enter data & submit their expenses the county; in turn the county must either approve each entry, reject or edit and submit to the state for payment. It looks like the county reimbursement will not be received until November; however, we pay the clubs immediately.

Motion by Olson to pay the snowmobile clubs their payments accompanied by a letter indicating any possible rejections by the state may result in the county asking for the return of some funds if not approved by the state, second by Dudenbostel. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Farmland Preservation Plan Approval/Comprehensive Plan Amended

Troester presented a final copy of the Farmland Preservation Plan to the committee. Dave Bonifas discussed some changes that had been made on the final copy and indicated he is working on digital mapping that is being requested by DATCP instead of PDF's. Motion by Dull to approve the Farmland Preservation Plan along with the resolution to county board and the ordinance to amend the Comprehensive Plan to include the revised Farmland Preservation Plan, second by Olson. Motion carried unanimously.

A public hearing will be held before the next Soil & Water Concerns monthly meeting on June 13 to accept public comments on the proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan; this will state that any discrepancies between the two plans that occur would result in the Farmland Preservation Plan superseding the Comprehensive Plan. We also need to add the final Farmland Preservation Plan as an attachment to the Comprehensive Plan.

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

TRAVIS BUNTING, LAND & WATER PROJECTS

Bunting indicated construction season has started. Lots of calls for site visits as well as a lot of streambank calls. He stated the dam inlet needs to be cleaned of sediment and asked for guidance if we should put out for bids or ask the Highway Department to handle the cleanup. The committee suggested to ask the Highway Department first and inquire about the cost and if they do not have time or are not cost effective then put out for bids.

Bunting requested to purchase one or two Fabric Staplers for use in stapling TRM erosion control mat in place on Land & Water Projects. These are 6 inch staples (which will be purchased by the contractor) and the clip holds 100. He has been looking at two different models. Many contractors do not have these so they are needed to keep matting in place; approximate cost of \$930 apiece and we have cover crop money that can be used to purchase these. Motion by Dull to purchase staplers and allow the LCD the discretion to purchase whichever one they feel is best suited for their use, second by Behar. Motion carried by roll call vote.

KARYL FRITSCH, NRCS

Working on Cover Crop project and hope to have completed for June 22 bid; laying strips and fielding CRP calls due to a shortage of staff in Farm Services. June 2nd is the deadline for several programs. Applications being approved are from 2013-14 deadlines so many unhappy individuals on waiting list.

DNR FORESTER (not present)

VANCE HAUGEN, UW Extension

Attended the first Cover Crop Field Day and it was well attended with approximately 40 individuals. UW-Extension is hiring area Direction Directors to carry out and organize the restructuring from June 1 thru January 1. Still uncertain how the 5 county area coverage will work.

JOHN BAIRD, FSA, (not present)

Wolcott indicated Baird emailed that Sonny Purdue from GA became the Secretary of Agriculture on April 24. Still a hiring freeze. Ashley Olson, a Program Technician from Vernon County has been helping out with CRP and minor activity in the CRP Monarch Butterfly project. Fritsche stated it looks like the CRP acres are full and will be closed shortly.

Brandon Bleuer, Southwest Badger Stewardship Forester

Bleuer indicated the Burnet Saxifrage, an invasive plant, has been found on Turben Ridge Road and they have received funding to work with the Crawford County Highway Department to spray and hope to get this done in May. Busy with site visits with landowners and doing work with ash trees.

Public Comment

Ellen Brooks represented Crawford Stewardship and indicated they have submitted a second grant application to complete the Karst Landscapes and Groundwater Susceptibility Survey of Crawford County.

Next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 13, 2017.**

Behar made the motion to adjourn at 11:10 a.m., second by Olson. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harriet Behar
Secretary

DT:HB:cjw