

CRAWFORD COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
SOIL & WATER CONCERNS
May 10, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Esser at 9:50 a.m. Members present for roll call were Harriet Behar, Henry Esser, Dave Olson, Don Dudenbostel and Wade Dull.

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 informed the committee that Pattison Sand Company had applied to re-zone over 700 acres of agricultural land in Clayton County, Iowa to M2 Industrial Zoning for future potential underground mining. This would greatly increase the size of the property mined and to be mined. A committee was formed to look into potential effects and possible conditions such as required distances of vents from the mine to nearby residences and that the mine remains underground. CSP is concerned that more mining with little regulation will further affect the residentially zoned neighborhood in PdC where Pattison Sand Company loads sand and more wastewater and possible contaminants in the Mississippi River. Many individuals feel this trend cannot continue and are asking that the re-zoning request be denied at this time or put strong conditions in place as more studies need to be done.

DAVE TROESTER, LAND CONSERVATION

Dave indicated the office is very busy. Activities have included drafting the Land & Water Plan, Farmland Preservation site visits, maps and issuing Certificates of Compliance, MRBI meetings to develop agreement with NRCS and it looks like August before reimbursements can be made – approximately \$17,000 a year each year for 3 years. Work load will increase with the MRBI program. The Intern position has been published and we have 3 applications and will be interviewing for the position shortly. The topper is in for the truck that we are purchasing from the Highway Department. Water Quality Trading meeting was held with all villages in the MRBI; new EPA requirements mandate the villages greatly reduce phosphorous discharge and this tends to be very expensive for the small communities. Dave indicated he will be helping SW Badger to interview for Ben's replacement on May 19 in our building. CDAC (deer council) met and passed that those purchasing a buck tag will receive 2 additional antlerless tags. Tree pick up was held on April 28th and 29th and the project was successful. Tire Clean-up is scheduled for June 11 at the Crawford County High Department from 9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Starting to work on details for the Cover Crop Project and the bid should go out in June. Karyl indicated one Vernon County resident would like to participate and approximately 1,300 acres in Grant County would like to cost-share into the project. She suggested changing the verbiage of contract for flexibility of fly date, including assignment of payments and several had indicated to her it would be nice to have a competitive bid for seed to be bought locally.

Dave indicated the committee needed to make some decisions concerning the Clean Sweep to be held in the fall (usually last Friday in October). We will again be requesting monies from the townships, villages and city of Prairie du Chien as last year was very expensive and we anticipate the same for this year. It was decided to keep the Clean Sweep on a Friday and extend the hours if needed but keep to one day. A discussion of charging for TVs etc. if additional funds are needed.

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

LAND AND WATER PLAN, Dave Bonifas

A draft plan had been emailed to everyone before the meeting to go over with suggestions or changes. We will need to approve the draft plan, have available for public reviewing and hold a public hearing. Hopefully, the final plan will be able to be approved at our June 14th LCC meeting.

Motion by Dull to approve the Land & Water Plan with any amended changes that may be made at the 11:00 a.m. Land & Water Plan Advisory Council Meeting today, second by Behar. Motion carried unanimously.

TRAVIS BUNTING, LAND & WATER PROJECTS (not present)

KARYL FRITSCH, NRCS

NRCS has been very busy. She thanked Travis and the committee for letting him cover for Adam he will be at training. Over \$650,000 has been funded for cover crops, dams, manure storage, etc. MRBI meetings are ongoing. Only 3 general contracts were awarded in the CSP. She indicated a lot of backlog. Approximately 3,000 acres for the aerial Cover Crop project with a fly date of September 1st. Bids will be going out in June. This year we will be offering 3 seeding mixes: barley, oats and radish; rye and oats; and rye and rape. She indicated several individuals were at the office today reviewing the Quality Review that took place previously. She indicated Behar will be highlighted on the National Level for her involvement with NRCS. A 6 month office assistant has been approved to work in the office in PdC.

Kobby Antwi, DNR Forester (not present)

VANCE HAUGEN

Vance indicated he had great inter-department cooperation for a meeting held on April 29 entitled Rural Landowners Update and approximately 40 attended. Pasture walks are being held. Distributed an informational flier put out by Revolution Plastics that collects ag and silage plastic from farms and dairies and recycles that material. They will put an empty a dumpster on your farm or dairy at no cost to you.

JOHN BAIRD, FSA (not present)

Brandon Bleuer, Southwest Badger Forester

Brandon Bleuer indicated he is involved with grant work with urban forestry projects as well as a grant for oak regeneration. He is housed out of the Vernon County Land Conservation Office.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 14, 2016.

Olson made the motion to adjourn at 11:00 a.m., second by Behar. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harriet Behar, Secretary

DT:HB:cjw