

CRAWFORD COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
SOIL & WATER CONCERNS
May, 12, 2015

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

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

Crawford Stewardship Project Report

Forest Jahnke gave the report for the CSP. CSP continues to talk with other counties to partnership together to do a joint KARST study. New grants may be available through NRCS/RCPD as a potential money source to help with this study.

DAVE TROESTER, LAND CONSERVATION

Southwest Badger Aquatic Invasive Specialist Ben Wegleitner will be starting work next Monday, May 18, 2015 and will be housed out of our office. A telephone line was installed this week and we have rearranged office space for him. Dave indicated he gave a presentation at the PdC Environmental Day for grade school students and on May 9th led a Bird Walk at Sugar Creek Bluff State Natural Area. He has been helping with several DNR prescribed burns and a 3M burn. The tree sale pick up was on April 30th & May 1st at the PdC High School Ag Dept. and we distributed approximately 2,000 trees to area residents. Dave stated yesterday Sue Porter, DATCP, was in our office and did a review on Farmland Preservation files and Nutrient Management Programs. We will follow up with them to determine lists of individuals who have contacted us from Haney & Ufica Townships inquiring about Nutrient Management Plans, as they are receiving the tax credit, and then DATCP will be able to follow up with individuals receiving the credit and encourage them to contact our department or they will be losing the tax credit if a Nutrient Management Plan is not developed. The Tire Clean Up is scheduled for Saturday, June 13th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Highway Department in Seneca. The Japanese Hops Program is progressing forward with plans for surveying and spraying, etc. We requested to extend the Conservation Aid Project (Sugar Creek & Gays Mills Landing Improvements) to June 2016 from June 2015 due to the fact that the Gays Mills Landing project is not completed.

Taylor Helgerson, Wauzeka-Steuben School, poster from last year won the state poster contest and won honorable mention at the national contest in February. The Land & Water District printed thank you cards featuring Taylor's 2014/2015 poster on the front and Dave distributed one for everyone to see.

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

CONSERVATION AWARDS, FAIRGROUNDS

We will start making plans to again have the awards held on Wednesday night of the fair (August 26th). It was discussed and decided that since the fair is so late in the month we will hold our regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 11th at the county building in PdC and only have a short meeting prior to the awards ceremony at the fairgrounds.

NON-METALLIC MINING TRANSFER

Dave stated Prairie Sand & Gravel is taking over the lease of the Slama Quarry (currently held by Milestone). They are not planning to change anything on the Reclamation Plan. We will need to verify the financial assurance in their name and receive a fee for the transfer. Motion by Olson to approve the transfer of the Slama Quarry from Milestone to Prairie Sand & Gravel when all paperwork is completed. Seconded by Achenbach. Motion carried unanimously.

CLEAN SWEEP PRICING

Dave stated since we only hold one event each year a contract really isn't needed; if we held several throughout the year we would want to have a signed contract to hold pricing the same. He gave the following calculations from the past years to illustrate how much the new pricing will affect the event financially:

2013 – the event cost us \$829.00, 2014 – the event cost us \$2,800.00, in 2015 with approximately the same amount collected and without any revenue it would cost us approximately \$6,200.00.

Discussion was held on if we should start to charge individuals per item (especially for TVs) or if we ask townships, villages and municipalities for perhaps \$500.00 each to help cover the cost. The department will keep looking into the cost issue; however, the committee felt asking towns, villages and municipalities to help with the cost was the best solution.

AERIAL COVER CROP SEEDING

Dave and Karyl have decided on offering 3 options for mixes this year and hope to fly on mid-August to the end of August. We will begin the bidding process as soon as we are able to after the sign up ends June 5th. Currently we are at approximately 2,500 acres which is up 700 acres from last year.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLANNING-MRRPC CONTRACT

Dave indicated he and Dave Bonifis, MRRPC, attended the spring meeting of townships held at Seneca and discussed issues involved with the Farmland Preservation Planning. Dave presented a copy of the contract that was signed by MRRPC dated October 8, 2014 which he just received and the committee suggested to forward it to corporate counsel to look over. Motion by Dull to sign contract contingent upon corporate counsel approving or making changes. Second by Achenbach. Motion carried unanimously.

TRAVIS BUNTING, LAND & WATER PROJECTS (Not Present)

Travis discussed projects he is working on and he indicated as soon as the weather cooperates it will get very busy.

KARYL FRITSCH, NRCS (Not Present)

Karyl stated they have marked a lot of strips this spring, and working on getting EQIP contracts done.

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. 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. They have 11,000 acres signed up for CSP. CRP is slow and at a standstill. They have had a lot of outreach and walk ins due to a NRCS mailing that went out in early spring.

DNR FORESTER (Hiring put on hold)

VANCE HAUGEN, UWEX (Not Present)

Vance indicated the Great River Graziers and the Kickapoo Graziers are discussing upgrading the drill so that might be another option in the county to be used for planting cover crops.

JOHN BAIRD, FSA (Not Present)

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 9th at 10:00 a.m. or immediately following the Land Use Meeting.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Harriet Behar, Secretary

DT:cjw