

CRAWFORD COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
SOIL & WATER CONCERNS
June 14, 2016

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

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

Crawford Stewardship Project Report

Forest Jahnke indicated that Clayton County continues to investigate its options regarding the proposed 746 acre expansion proposal by Pattison Sand Company. Their study committee will be coming up with conditions to consider and there has been a lot of public input into the process this time.

A State Legislative Audit Bureau audit has confirmed that the DNR either cannot or will not regulate sufficiently to protect our water resources. This is the reason why CSP hires on experts to review the plans for area farms that will be producing, storing and spreading large volumes of manure.

CSP appreciates the willingness of the Land Conservation Department & Committee to consider climate change implications in the county Land & Water Management Plan.

The Annual Karst Field Trip is on June 25th from 1 to 4 p.m. by Viroqua (Pheasant Walk Permaculture, E8022 Bakkom Road) and all are invited to attend.

DAVE TROESTER, LAND CONSERVATION

Dave indicated Madeline Bode, Summer Intern, started work on 6/6/16; however was unable to attend today's meeting. The office is very busy. Saturday, June 11 was the Tire Clean Up day held at the Highway Department. It was very busy from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. but no one else showed up the rest of the day. A suggestion for next year may be to end at noon instead of 2 p.m. Southwest Badger's new employee Emma Antolos, that is housed in our office, will start on Thursday, June 16. Other activities have included finalizing the Land & Water Plan updates for the next 10 years, 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 if approvals are made – approximately \$17,000 a year each year for 3 years. Working on the Cover Crop project; however, currently waiting to confirm money availability from NRCS. The plug could be pulled on the entire project due to audit questioning the results not justifying the money spent on the project and getting correct documentation as needed. The department received information of all the changes that are coming with the new snowmobile contract and DNR is requesting more detailed information from the clubs for billing purposes; trails need to be GPS, auto data entry, audiometer readings, etc. The truck has arrived from the highway department and a topper was installed. Travis, Dave and Maddie attended a Manure Storage tour in Grant County.

Dave indicated the committee needed to make some decisions concerning the Clean Sweep to be held Friday, October 28, 2016. It was decided we will again be requesting monies from the townships, villages and city of Prairie du Chien (in the same amounts). Last year prices went up and the Clean Sweep was more expensive and we anticipate the same for this year so we may have to charge for televisions to help compensate for the additional funds needed. It was decided to keep the Clean Sweep on a Friday and extend the hours if needed but keep to one day and have the townships bring their loads in the day before. Discussion of charging for televisions was held. A letter from the chemical people was read indicating the changes for this year. More help will be needed to collect oil, money from televisions and documentation.

Motion by Dull to charge \$5.00 per television set at the clean sweep, second by Olson. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Land & Water Plan Hearing was held and a few minor changes were made to plan and a paragraph added on climate change in Section 2.

Motion by Dull to approve the 2016-2025 Land & Water Plan for Crawford County, second by Olson. Motion carried unanimously. Troester will have a presentation in Madison on August 2 and then at August County Board Meeting for final approval.

Discussion on when to hold the Conservation Awards program that has previously been held on Wednesdays late afternoon during the fair. It was decided Troester should attend the next fair meeting on July 7th to discuss options, dates, times and location on the fairgrounds.

Motion by Olson to allow Troester to attend the County Con Meeting in Wisconsin Rapids on July 21 & 22, 2016. Second by Esser. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

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

TRAVIS BUNTING, LAND & WATER PROJECTS

Travis indicated the summer intern has been helping him on projects. He stated the new truck is working great. Dustin Payne's manure storage is progressing and will start the end of July. Finished up 4 dams, 2 stream crossings and some rip rap projects. Hopefully, more projects will be starting this week and next week; seems to be a late start. He indicated they will be working on the Japanese Hops in the next few months.

KARYL FRITSCH, NRCS

NRCS has been very busy. Working on EQIP contracts, cover crops has shown more interest and close to 3,000 acres signed up, and lots of contracting paperwork.

Kobby Antwi, DNR Forester

Antwi indicated they had received a total of 18 MFL plans and legislative changes have taken effective but not received confirmation of implementation to date.

VANCE HAUGEN, (not present)

JOHN BAIRD, FSA

The office is busy with spring crop reporting and waiting to hear about request for Forestry Disaster funds. The Margin Protection program for milking will start in July. He anticipates that the Ag Risk Plan payments for 2015 crops should be issued.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 12, 2016.

Dull made the motion to adjourn at 10:50 a.m., second by Olson. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Wolcott, Clerk III

DT:cjw