

CRAWFORD COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
SOIL & WATER CONCERNS
August 8, 2017

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

Motion by Olson to approve the minutes as mailed, second by Dudenbostel. Motion carried unanimously.

DAVE TROESTER, LAND CONSERVATION

Details and contracts are being finalized for the Cover Crop Project. A meeting was held at Black Sand Granary, Bloomington, for cover crop participates yesterday and Karyl and Dave attended. Since we have some Vernon County residents involved Troester will need to contact Sam Skemp, NRCS in Vernon County, and work out details so the EQIP money comes directly to the LCD office or landowners will need to pay us before application. We hope to get everything worked out with Ag Tech/Black Sand Granary this week and the maps completed.

Conservation Award winners have been contacted and the ceremony will be held on the fairgrounds on Thursday evening, August 24 at 6:00 p.m. DNR contacted the LCD per the Fair Coordinator to ask if they could present a Statewide Award to Jay Greene at our ceremony and will be doing so at the end of our awards presentation. The LCD will again have an informational booth at the fair.

Clean Sweep is scheduled for Friday, October 27 and donations from townships and villages are being received. The City of PdC is again donating, but had some concerns on dates, times, etc.; discussion followed.

Youth Conservation Day is scheduled for September 21 (with a rain date of September 28) and the LCD is very busy getting presenters, food donations and details set up for the day. Information on the upcoming Conservation Poster and Speaking Contest has been received and this year the contest theme is "Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home".

The DATCP budget for staffing for the next 2 years has not been passed yet by Joint Finance so counties may have a harder time determining their budgets for 2018-2019; we currently receive approximately \$105,000 for salary reimbursement. LCD is currently working on the county budget and merging parts of the Zoning budget into the LCD budget. There have been many additional expenses for the Zoning Department due to retirement and rehiring this year. Next year we are anticipating large mailings to rural septic system owners describing the maintenance program and costs to start; more mileage reimbursement will be needed to do septic inspections and trainings. Cornford suggested presenting this information to Finance.

Friday, August 11 will be the third and final Cover Crop Field Day held at the Jay Aspenson farm.

Troester indicated he pulled soil samples from Baker Creek in Soldiers Grove to determine the phosphorus levels in eroding soil; the results will help Soldiers Grove determine if they want to work with the LCD in the Water Quality Trading project.

Troester distributed information sheets on the CAFO Moratorium and fact sheet distributed through the Sustain Rural Wisconsin Network and its concerns of how the state is dealing with these problems; allowing violations or notice of noncompliance for high nitrate levels not being issued, little oversight, etc. Forest Jahnke, Crawford Stewardship, discussed the concerns. Esser stated the committee needs time to look over information in order to make an informed decision on this matter. Questions of DNR staffing shortages, stopping production on expansions and current projects that are not permitted yet but approved for funding, etc. and time frames of length of moratorium were other concerns to be addressed. Esser suggested that this be looked over by Corporation Counsel also.

Motion by Dull to approve and sign the Resolution for Adoption of the Farmland Preservation Plan, The Resolution Recommending Amendment, Repeal and Recreation of the County Comprehensive Plan to include the Farmland Preservation Plan and an Ordinance Amending, Repealing and Recreating Section 26.01 of the Crawford County Code of Ordinances to Adopt the Farmland Preservation Plan as part of the County Comprehensive Plan and take to County Board for approval, second by Olson. Motion carried unanimously.

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

TRAVIS BUNTING, LAND & WATER PROJECTS (not present)

KARYL FRITSCH, NRCS

Fritsche indicated part of the office roof was damaged during the storms and still waiting for repairs to be made. Phones were upgraded and are not working properly. Joann Cooley, Richland County, is covering John Baird's position and looks like this will be a permanent shared position. October 20 is the next EQIP sign up. This year they finished the 2014 projects and will be starting the 2015 contracts/applications.

DNR FORESTER, Joe Schmaedick and Christine Walroth

Joe Schmaedick will be covering Crawford County for MFL lands. He is currently out of Richland Center but will be moving to Boscobel. Christine Walroth, Viroqua Office, will be handling non-MFL private lands, fire control, etc. (everything not MFL). A third forester will be hired for part of the county and be housed out of Boscobel.

VANCE HAUGEN, UW Extension (not present)

FSA (not present)

Public Comment

Forest Jahnke distributed posters inviting everyone to a float down the Wisconsin River Day and picnic at noon at Lawler Park on St. Feriole Island on Saturday, August 19 starting at 9:00 a.m.

Next regular meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 12 (Thursday, August 24 Conservation Awards at fairgrounds)**.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Wolcott
Administrative Assistant

DT:cjw