

CRAWFORD COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
SOIL & WATER CONCERNS
August 9, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Esser at 9:45 a.m. Members present for roll call were Henry Esser, Dave Olson, Wade Dull and Don Dudenbostel. Harriet Behar was excused.

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

Crawford Stewardship Project Report

Ellen Brooks indicated on Wednesday, August 10th at 6:30 p.m. CSP is co-sponsoring the Healthy Climate Solutions Tour which will bring a DOGS Puppet Show to the PdC Library spreading messages of hopeful solutions for climate instability.

Hearings are being held in Clayton County, IA., on the proposed rezoning of land for new mining by Pattison Sand Company and these are leading up to the Clayton County Board of Supervisors making a decision about rezoning land for possible future mining expansion.

DNR made the decision to reissue the WPDES Permit to Roth Feeder Pigs, Inc.; the permit will be effective on August 15, 2016. The CSP review of the 2016 Nutrient Management Plan for Roth Feeder Pig, Inc. is completed and CSP is very concerned about outdated and insufficient soil sampling and testing as well as severe Phosphorous build-up. They are submitting their concerns to the relevant agencies and departments, but would also request that this committee make an effort to help resolve these issues.

CSP is moving along with the Crawford County karst study, officially titled: Karst Landscapes and groundwater Susceptibility, A Survey of Crawford County. On August 25th in Dodgeville there will be a karst workshop: "Conservation in Karst Landscapes" put on by the UW-Extension and the WI Geological and Natural History Survey on local topography and hydrology.

DAVE TROESTER, LAND CONSERVATION

This month entailed spraying Japanese Hops in Copper Creek, attending the Prairie Tour in Buffalo County, presenting a power point presentation to the Land & Water Board in Madison at which time our 10 year plan was approved, attending the yearly Local Work Group planning with NRCS in Richland Center, MRBI meeting in Viroqua at which time our Contribution Agreement was signed. The department is making plans to set up meetings with townships for the Farmland Preservation Plan and attending Eastman town meeting tomorrow night to explain the donation request for the Clean Sweep. Currently we are working on the Conservation Award Winners presentations, benches and arrangements for the awards that will be held on Saturday, July 27th at 11:00 a.m. at the fairgrounds and our department will also have a booth at the fair.

We will be looking at keeping the budget the same except for a couple of line items that must be increased. Complete figures will be brought back to the September meeting for approval.

Motion by Olson to allow Dave Troester to attend the 2016 Cover Crop Conference on 8/30/16 in Lancaster and the Karst Workshop in Dodgeville on 08/25/16, second by Dull. Motion carried unanimously.

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

SEG Funding Allocations – Distributed sheet on 2016 Farmland Preservation Cost Share application request for SEG funding to help pay for Nutrient Management Planning for four individuals. If averaged equally they would receive \$22.47 per acre (One acreage in question that must be verified).

Motion by Dull to divide acres/monies equally per acre among the four applications, contingent upon confirmation of approved acres, second by Dudenbostel. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Resolution for Land Water Plan 2016- 2025

Motion by Olson to adopt the resolution adopting the amended Crawford County Land and Water Resources Management Plan 2016-2025 and present to Crawford County Board, second by Dull. Motion carried unanimously.

MRBI Contribution Agreement

Agreement was signed at the last MRBI meeting so will be able to start billing for any time the department spends on projects in the MRBI.

TRAVIS BUNTING, LAND & WATER PROJECTS

Travis indicated Mezera manure pit will be completed this week and the Payne manure storage will be starting soon. We have had a few well closings and a waterway that was extended from last year will need to be done in August. He has been doing farm visits for the CREP re-enrollments.

KARYL FRITSCH, NRCS (not present)

Kobby Antwi, DNR

Discussed the Manage Forest Law changes, grants awarded to landowners in the Kickapoo Wildlife Refuge, timber sales and EAB (emerald ash borer).

VANCE HAUGEN, (not present)

JOHN BAIRD, FSA

The Forestry Restoration Disaster funds have been approved for our county and Kobby will be helping with this new program. 2015 wheat price lost payment will be \$.61. Spot checks for the CRP program have presented some problems with compliance. CREP re-enrollments are going on, as well as the Farmers Loan Program and Ag Risk payments for 2015 should be paid in October.

Duke Welter with Trout Unlimited attended the meeting and informed the committee, as well as distributed informal brochures, etc., on Driftless Area Restoration with USDA/NRCS funding and other funding sources to complete projects. They hope to do projects with no cost to landowners and then ask that landowners provide public fishing easements along the creek and walk-in access. Their goal is to have healthy creeks and healthy crops. He works with many Rod and Gun Clubs and other agencies to accomplish this. The MRBI will be a great asset to utilize over the next 5 years. DNR currently has some perpetual easements in Crawford County. Dave Troester stated the only concern he has is how much maintenance these projects will need in the future and the extra workload and possible need for equipment in the future. Welter addressed these issues and stated they have many volunteer groups that come out to the rural area to help with the maintenance and they have their own equipment.

Next meeting will be held on Saturday, August 27th at 11:00 at the fairgrounds for the Conservation Awards. Next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, September 13, 2016.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Wolcott, LCD Secretary

DT:cjw