

# **CRAWFORD COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT**

## **SOIL & WATER CONCERNS**

### **August 11, 2015**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Esser at 10:00 a.m. Members present for roll call were Harriet Behar, Henry Esser, David Olson and Jerry Achenbach. Wade Dull had an excused absence.

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

#### **Crawford Stewardship Project Report**

Ellen Brooks gave the report for the CSP. The public hearing was held on 7/24/15 for Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit WI-0063878-02 for Roth Feeder Pig, Inc. Ellen felt it was well attended. She stated that after the meeting some issues were clarified that had been reported incorrectly during the meeting and had caused some miscommunication among those present; to date the permit has not been approved. She indicated Forest Jahnke, CSP coordinator, had been on the Kickapoo River and reported his find of Japanese Hops to Ben Wegleitner, who is working on aquatic invasive species in Crawford County. Ellen indicated that Steven Oberle reviewed the KD Partners' Nutrient Management Plan for CSP and had some concerns. Dave West, the Nutrient Management Plan writer for KD Partners, addressed these issues. However, CSP requested that Dave Troester set up a conference call between these two gentlemen and himself to discuss some of these concerns.

Dave Troester asked the committee how in depth they would like to go on these issues as the Nutrient Management Plan has been approved by a certified plan writer (CCA). If we had to hire a consultant, it would become very expensive. Karyl Fritsche, (NRCS), indicated the SNAP program is exceedingly complex and very difficult to use in Crawford County due to contour strips, etc. There can be many exemptions that would not show up on the mapping and plan. Vance indicated the topography in the Drifless area causes many issues. Harriet Behar questioned who has liability if there is an occurrence and run off. Dave Olson stated as long as we are sure the plan is substantially correct and the certified writer has approved it and it has a yearly check list, he felt there was no reason to question the NMP. It was suggested Dave T. check with Mark Peterson on the risk and liability issue. The committee agreed to let Dave T. move forward with contacting Dave West and Dave T. will decide how to precede after that.

#### **DAVE BONIFIS, MRRPC**

Dave Bonifis has collected approximately 90% of background data for the plan. He is requesting that this committee or another appointed committee set up goals, policies and approve plan (approximately 3 meetings). It was decided the LCC would set up the goals, policies and approve plan and would do this during their regular meetings throughout the rest of the year. Dave Bonifis stated they will be meeting with each town in small groups or individual for mapping and would be using the towns Future Land Use Maps that they should already have developed. He indicated they hope to have the plan completed by the end of the year. Dave Bonifis asked Harriet if she could please gather organic farming statistics for Crawford County.

#### **DAVE TROESTER, LAND CONSERVATION**

Dave indicated during the last few weeks he attended the County Con Meeting in Wisconsin Rapid and the Continuous Living Cover Training at Platteville. He received Conservation Aids grant approval and plans to request double again this year (the county needs to match). He has been working on the 2016 budget projections and working on the Cover Crops Project. Friday he will be attending the state Conservation Observance Day at the Ralph & Sheila Petersheim farm in Vernon County & Karyl and he will be having a display on the cover crop project we did here in Crawford County.

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

#### **SEG FUNDING ALLOCATIONS (Nutrient Management)**

In the past we were able to pay 500 acres at \$28.00 an acre to help cover the plan writing. This year we have received applications that total 905 acres. We could pay \$15.45 an acre across the board or pay the largest acreage \$14.00 and the smaller farms \$16.83 an acre. Motion by Behar to pay the largest acreage farm at

\$14.00 per acre (total of over \$6,000) and the smaller farm acreages at \$16.83 per acre (total of over \$7,800), second by Olson. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**TRAVIS BUNTING, LAND & WATER PROJECTS**

Travis indicated he has been helping with the hops project, checking on projects currently going on and working on new designs. Construction has been very busy the last few weeks.

**KARYL FRITSCH, NRCS**

Karyl stated they have \$850,000 in cost share money; CRP has re-enrollments due and ongoing sign up; construction has been very busy and the MRR Basin Watershed Initiative project looks like it has been approved on top of everything else. Cover Crop Project is well underway, all contracts are not signed but hope to start seeding by the end of the week.

**DNR FORESTER – no one hired**

**VANCE HAUGEN, UWEX**

Vance indicated he has been hearing very good things about the cover crop project. Friday is the Conservation Observance Day at the Petersheim farm in Vernon County. He is working with the Kickapoo Grazing Initiative in trying to get a grant to upgrade the no-till drill. He stated the private applicator training is being looked at and some good changes are coming.

**JOHN BAIRD, FSA (Not Present)**

A meeting will be held at the fairgrounds on Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. for the Conservation Awards presentation.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2015 10:00 a.m. or immediately following the Land Use Meeting.

Olson made the motion to adjourn at 11:05 a.m., second by Achenbach. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harriet Behar, Secretary

DT:HB:cjw