

**WAUPACA COUNTY
LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

April 2nd, 2015
Courthouse, Waupaca

Chair Federwitz called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Present: Patricia Craig, Bob Ellis, DuWayne Federwitz, Lee Much, Don Peterson and Walter Strebe.
(Dick Rohan was excused)

Also Present: Brian Haase, Lisa Neuenfeldt & Dave Heideman.

Federwitz gave the open meeting statement.

Motion by Craig, seconded by Peterson to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Much to approve the March 5th, 2015 minutes. Motion carried.

Federwitz opened the meeting for public comment. Pat Craig stated that she attended the Millstream Dairy (Dan Peterson) open house, as a member of the public, this past Saturday and found it very worthwhile. She stated that over 1000 people attended to see the robotic milking barn.

Heidemann reported the ARC/PLC base re-allocation, yield update deadline and program election has been extended, once again, to April 7th. Crop reporting will begin soon. The deadline for reporting perennial and fall seeded crops remains November 15th. No new announcements on the CRP program.

Neuenfeldt handed out the 2015 EQIP ranking sheet for the Waupaca/Winnebago Local Work Group (LWG). In the Cropland category there were 13 applications of which 5 were funded totaling \$131,128 and one was moved and funded in the Beginning Farmer category. All six funded applications were from Winnebago County. In the Pasture category there were 13 applications of which 4 were funded totaling \$70,076 and 2 were moved and funded in the Beginning Farmer category. Three funded applications were from Waupaca and one from Winnebago. In the Farmstead category 10 applications were received of which 2 were funded totaling \$342,224. Both of those were from Waupaca County. No applications were received in the Forest category. In the Beginning Farmer category there were 10 applications received of which 3 were funded totaling \$23,662 and 4 others were moved to other categories and funded. The 3 funded were from Winnebago and the 4 moved were from Waupaca. In the Conservation Plan category all 6 applications were funded for \$60,125. One was from Winnebago and 5 from Waupaca. In the Seasonal High Tunnel category 2 of 5 applications were funded for \$16,000. Both were from Winnebago. In the On Farm Energy category 1 of 2 applications were funded for \$1975. The funded application was from Waupaca. All total Waupaca had 11 applications funded totaling \$462,045 and Winnebago had 12 applications funded totaling \$183,105. Neuenfeldt also reported having 10 applications and 4 renewals for the CSP sign up. Cover crop and pollinator (honey bee) signups will be June 5th. Three honey bee applications were funded in the last sign up.

Haase reported that he attended Golden Sands RC&D, Pope Lake Project, as a county representative to the Citizen's Deer Advisory Council (CDAC), Congressman Ribble's phosphorus summit, and a Stratton Lake District meeting in the past month. Pope Lake is a grass roots group trying put the Upper Chain at the fore front of their planning activity. Haase recommended they work with the Chain District on similar efforts. The CDAC set preliminary deer hunting quotas for Waupaca County. The phosphorus summit shed light on the growing problem of hypoxia in Green Bay and what solutions were available. County LWCD's are expected to

carry a large load in that effort and were called out specifically by DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp as the entities with the best tools and relationships to do such. Stratton Lake District is still just getting established as a governmental entity and will spend the summer developing goals.

Haase noted that there is enough money in contracting and non-lapsing to cover moving McFarlane from 50% FTE to 75% FTE from May through December of 2015. Federwitz stated that the position would then be budgeted as 100% FTE in the normal budgeting process later in the year. Haase said McFarlane would begin working approximately 75% in May to get started with new mitigations and catch up on the process. McFarlane will also have the use of the summer intern to assist with getting a database built.

Haase provided information on a request by the Chalet Lake Association to administer a DNR Rapid Response Grant to combat aquatic invasive plants that were recently discovered. The Chalet Assn. is considered too small by DNR to administer such a grant and DNR suggested that the county could do it. The grant is for approximately \$18,000 and can include costs for Haase's time if necessary. A county resolution is needed to make Waupaca the administrator.

Motion by Craig, seconded by Peterson to approve the Chalet Lake Rapid Response Grant Resolution. Motion carried

Haase presented the 2016 DNR/DATCP Combined Soil & Water Resource Management (SWRM) Grant application for approval. The grant contains \$118,904 in staff reimbursement and \$107,296 in DATCP landowner cost share as well as any DNR Targeted Runoff Management Grants that will be awarded. DATCP staffing grant funds are proposed to be cut 9.2% in the Governor's proposed budget but JFC could restore that cut prior to approval.

Motion by Craig, seconded by Ellis to approve the 2016 SWRM Grant application. Motion carried.

Haase explained that he and Planning/Zoning Director Ryan Brown had recently discussed moving mitigation work for shoreland zoning to from Planning & Zoning to Land & Water. Brown explained that his Department doesn't have the time or expertise to design, monitor or provide construction oversight of the mitigation projects. Brown stated that after meeting with LWC staff, the recommendation is to use Dan McFarlane who is well versed in riparian issues, GIS and technical design. Haase stated that McFarlane's position would have to go to full time, but the increase in hours may be partially covered by permit fees charged by Planning and Zoning. Brown explained the current and proposed the fee structure. Discussion followed with the Committee agreeing this is a good idea and asking Brown and Haase to put together a proposal for review by the Planning & Zoning Committee and LWCC at a future joint meeting. The Committee also requested a fee proposal that would involve a percentage fee or sliding scale fee based on a project size or dollar amount.

Haase reported that the Farmland Preservation (FP) Zoning Ordinance is almost done. The Town of Matteson has to approve their changes yet. Haase will be doing a mailing to eligible owners soon to explain the new FP rules and help develop the workload.

Haase reviewed LWRM nutrient management contracts for Greg/Kristy Hansen, Warren/Shirley Hansen and Brad Hansen totaling 395 acres.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Strebe to approve contracts. Motion carried.

Haase reported on two upcoming DNR enforcement visits. The first will be to TRM grant recipient Lashua Farms in the Town of Harrison to review possible Shoreland Zone permits and past violations, discovered on the farmstead, with DNR and Planning & Zoning. The second will be to the Fitzgerald Farm in the Town of Lebanon to review an illegal manure pile in a wetland. The Fitzgeralds operate a dairy with no apparent land base to spread on. TRM Grants are due April 15th and Haase will be re-submitting Fietzer and Auer from 2014

and may look at submitting one for Clinton Farms or the Dave Mork Farm as well. Haase mentioned that these grant applications are time consuming and could be a potential source of revenue for the LWCD in the future but that the timeframe for charging a fee is potentially too late for 2015. Federwitz requested a fee proposal for a future meeting. The county tree sale distribution is April 24th and 25th.

There were no Management Team updates, however Haase and Craig mentioned that six proposals had been made to the county regarding new website contractors.

The next meeting was set for May 4th at 9:00 A.M.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Much to adjourn. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Submitted by,

Brian Haase.