

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

August 10, 2015  
Courthouse, Waupaca

Chair Federwitz called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Present: Patricia Craig, Bob Ellis, Dick Rohan, Walter Strebe, DuWayne Federwitz and Lee Much.

Also Present: Brian Haase, Roger Holman, Dave Heideman, Lisa Neuenfeldt, and Derrick Raspor.

Federwitz gave the open meeting statement.

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

Motion by Ellis, seconded by Strebe to approve the July 13, 2015 minutes. Motion carried.

Federwitz opened the meeting for public comment. There was none.

Neuenfeldt reported the Local Work Group meeting was held last week and was well attended by Waupaca Co. people. Adjustments were made to local ranking questions and funding for forestry application will increase 1%. The State office had EQIP farmstead funding left over and because the Waupaca Land & Water Conservation Dept. (LWCD) had a shovel-ready project ready, we will be funding another \$200,000 waste storage system next year. Neuenfeldt stated she has been finishing up contracting for CIP, EQIP, Honey Bee Initiative, Cover Crop program, practice certification, payments, and contract management. Waupaca currently has 108 active contracts totaling \$4.2 million in obligation. There has been no word on receiving additional NWQI (Pigeon River) funding.

Raspor reviewed the work he is doing for the Conservation Reserve Program and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). NRCS, Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the LWCD will be working together on several new CREP applications in the next 60 days.

Heideman reported CRP weed control by spot mowing or spot spraying can be done at any time. During the nesting season, 5/15 to 8/1, weed control needs to be approved by the FSA County Committee. Haying of CRP land can be done every third year after 8/1 with FSA County Committee approval. We have 18 CRP contracts that requested one year extensions. The new soil rental rates for CRP have been released. They are based on land rental rates within a county and soil type, with more productive soils having a higher rate. Waupaca County rates range from \$71 to \$141 with an average rental rate of \$102. CRP cost share payments for practice establishment are being issued. The County Committee annually sets the maximum cost share rate for personal labor and equipment. There will be a Margin Protection Program meeting in New London on 8/13 with Mark Stephenson, Extension Dairy Policy Specialist providing milk price forecasts for 2016. Farmers are currently enrolling in ARCPLC with a deadline of 9/30.

Haase reported on the Local Work Group meeting, County Risk Assessment meeting, Golden Sands RC&D meeting, and County Conservationist meeting. The county conservationist meeting again had good discussions about future funding possibilities from the point source side and also had an interesting session about insurance underwriting with respect to nutrient and pollution liability. Haase noted that Stefan Stults and Dan McFarlane are attending a two day training at Platteville called Farming 101.

Haase handed out and reviewed a proposed resolution for establishing LWCD Fee Schedule.

Motion by Much, seconded by Ellis to recommend the adoption of the LWCD Fee Schedule. Motion carried.

Haase handed out a letter from Golden Sands RC&D requesting an increase in County dues from \$350 to \$1,900. The letter explained the reasons for the increase and what programs Waupaca County benefits from. Discussion followed with the increase request to be addressed during the budget process.

Haase and Holman reviewed the proposed 2016 LWCD budget. Haase explained the new revenue estimates, the funding of the Dan McFarlane technician position going from part-time to full-time, and increase in revenues from other programs. The revenue increases will cover the increase cost of McFarlane's position. Holman noted that the Finance Committee requested a zero budget increase and the LWCD budget meets this request.

The Committee discussed the increase in County dues from Golden Sands RC&D. Craig noted this is a big jump from last year and wished RC&D had raised the dues over a period of time. Ellis stated the reorganizing of RC&D has been going on for some time, adjusting to loss of Federal funds and the increase request is only being made after a number of adjustments. It was recognized that some increases should have probably come in recent years instead of all at once.

Motion by Ellis, seconded by Much to increase the Golden Sands RC&D dues from \$350 to \$1,900, with adjustments made in revenue to address the increase. Motion carried.

Motion by Craig, seconded by Rohan to recommend a 2016 LWCD budget of \$774,370 expenditures and \$542,044 revenue, a projected zero budget increase. Motion carried.

There were no LWRM/TRM contracts for Committee action.

Haase reported that construction on large projects has been early and very busy in 2015. Haase also reported working with the town of Union on several AIS issues on two lakes. Haase reviewed the funding for counties from DATCP noting that Waupaca's was one of 26 counties that went up while 45 others saw a decrease. This can probably be attributed to somewhat to DATCP's focus on removing non-conservation positions from grant applications as well as normal position changes in other counties.

Holman reported the Little Hope Dam has been removed and thanked Corey Shuelke and Greg Peterson for their plan and onsite work and the Highway crew for an excellent job of removing the dam and restoring the site.

Holman reported the Management Team is working on 2016 budgets, training, and safety audit. Holman noted the Revenue Generating Committee is working on the proposed wheel tax. Dean Steingraber, Brad Hardel, Holman, Bob Flease and Bill Jonely met to discuss options for deer removal from County and Town roads due to loss of funding from the state. Steingraber will present a proposal to the Finance Committee.

The next meeting was set for Sept. 8 at 10:30 a.m.

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Submitted by,

Roger G. Holman  
Recording Secretary