

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

March 7, 2016
Courthouse, Waupaca

Chair Federwitz called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

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

Also Present: Brian Haase, Roger Holman, Lisa Neuenfeldt, Dave Heideman, and Shannon Rhode.

Federwitz gave the open meeting statement.

Motion by Ellis, seconded by Craig to approve the agenda with the moving of item 9 to after 6. Motion carried.

Motion by Much, seconded by Strebe to approve the Jan. 4, 2016 minutes. Motion carried.

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

Rhode updated and explained the Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership. Rhode stated their goal is to plant and maintain 15 miles of new planting each year. In 2015 they planted 21.9 miles, with the increase of more State highway projects including west of Stevens Point on Hwy. 10. Rhode explained the living snow fence projects they have been working on and noted those projects will lower highway expenses of putting up snow fences. Rhode explained how fabric is used, the plants that are planted, and the cost. The higher number of miles planted in 2015 will lead to additional future work due to the 3 year maintenance agreement.

Federwitz thanked Rhode for his presentation.

Heideman reported that the CRP general sign-up generated 59 offers on 719 acres of land. Offers are ranked using an Environmental Benefit Index. The offers that are accepted will begin on October 1 and the practices will be established in the spring of 2017. Farmers are currently signing up for 2016 ARCPLC. Waupaca and Winnebago County FSA has been made permanent shared management. Winnebago County currently has an opening for a full time Program Technician.

Neuenfeldt reported that the results of the first round of EQIP FY 16 funding were out. Nine applications were funded for a total of \$392,394.00. Projects include waste storage/barnyard/silage leachate practices, large scale farm energy improvement, grazing and associated practices, an organic transition plan, an energy audit, one water & sediment control basin and a comprehensive nutrient management plan. The signup for round two of EQIP FY 16 funding ended March 4th. There are 47 active applications. Eighteen qualified as "high priority" (ie: "shovel ready"). Credit goes to LWCD staff for getting construction plans done by the deadline. Some applications are for special initiative projects, where funding is uncertain. We should have enough local funding to approve high priority applications in the cropland, pasture and forestry categories. Funding for the farmstead category remains to be seen. The next EQIP signup is Sept. 2nd.

Neuenfeldt reported that the sign-up for renewal and new applications for the Conservation Stewardship program ends March 31st. Waupaca has 7 contracts that are eligible for renewal. This year, we are required to have all CSP activities certified prior to Sept. 30, which is 3-4 months earlier than previously required. This

will be a big change for program participants and staff. Also, based on the signup volume for the Conservation Reserve Program, we may be busy this year writing CRP plans.

Haase and Ellis reported on the January RC&D meeting. The Wood County supervisors were again pushing the groundwater issue. It was decided to forward Wood County's resolution to WI Land & Water via the Lake Winnebago and North Central Area Associations that the RC&D counties are members of. WI Land & Water has the ability to lobby and would be a better fit to represent groundwater interests statewide.

Haase reported on the past week's WI Land & Water Conservation Association conference that some staff and supervisors attended. The Waupaca representatives to the state speaking contest placed 1st in Elementary and 2nd in the Junior division. Nine Key Element Plans were a hot topic at the conference. These are small watershed based plans that will be used to secure Federal 319 funding as well as used in Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation in the future. Manure irrigation was also discussed. A panel of professors and DNR personnel presented research findings. Pathogen levels were relatively low beyond 100' but odor was still an issue. Haase also attended a session on county manure storage ordinances. Waupaca's ordinance is in need of an update. DATCP will be distributing a model ordinance later this Spring that Waupaca can use as a starting point.

Haase reviewed a WDACP deer damage claim for John Hoffman for \$3,120.00 for the 2015 soy bean crop. Haase explained the deer damage claim process and how staff determines the damage amount. Discussion followed on whether or not crop insurance would cover these damages. Haase also stated that the LWCD was aware of claims made by Hoffman in Marathon County and that Hoffman likely already hit the maximum state damage award of \$10,000.

Motion by Much, seconded by Strebe to approve John Hoffman's deer damage claim subject to determining if Hoffman carries crop damage insurance and the WDACP policy on coincidental insurance claims. Motion carried.

Haase discussed establishing a County cost-share fund using tree program revenues to leverage grant dollars and provide incentives for landowners.

Holman and Haase presented information on 2015 non-lapsing funds and the no-till seeder and county tree program funds, which are being reclassified at the end of 2016. Haase discussed replacing the 12 year old seeder through the current seeder fund and upgrading a survey unit in 2016 from the tree fund. Holman and Haase were requested to work with Heidi Dombrowski to address the funds and purchases or projects to carry out environmental practices. Dombrowski had stated earlier to Holman and Haase that both those funds will be added to the departmental budget for 2017. Discussion followed on the purpose of the programs, where the funds would come from, and how it would promote various programs. No action was taken.

Haase reviewed a LWRM cost share grant for Charlie Johnson for approximately \$1500 to repair an underground outlet damaged during previous construction. Discussion followed on the project and location.

Motion by Much, seconded by Rohan to approve the LWRM cost share grant for Charlie Johnson for \$1500. Motion carried.

Haase reviewed a TRM cost share agreement for Fietzers Farms Inc. for \$104,907.00 for manure transfer and barnyard runoff practices.

Motion by Craig, seconded by Much to approve the TRM cost share grant for Fietzers Farms for \$104,907.00. Motion carried.

Haase reported on the Zills and Van Asten manure storage overflow complaints. Zills has been partially emptied and Van Asten's is reportedly in foreclosure. Haase will continue to follow up on the problems. nutrient management plan request letters went out in February. Plans are due to the department by March 31st. Additional follow up will be needed. Haase has filed multiple grant reimbursements for various programs. The new Farmland Preservation program has seen 68 Compliance Certificates issued to date and revenue from FP has topped \$14,400. Participation is still under 20% to date. Transcendant Technologies will be presenting a software demonstration to staff of FP tracking software on the 14th. Haase will be attending the County Deer Advisory Council meeting, as a member, on March 19th.

Holman reported on the Hwy. 10 corridor planning meeting, the Supervisor Leadership Class, and upcoming presentations to the County Board.

The next meeting was set for April 4, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Submitted by,

Roger G. Holman
Recording Secretary