

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

April 4, 2016
Courthouse, Waupaca

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

Present: Bob Ellis, Walter Strebe, DuWayne Federwitz, Pat Craig and Don Peterson.

Also Present: Brian Haase, Roger Holman, Lisa Neuenfeldt.

Federwitz gave the open meeting statement.

Motion by Ellis, seconded by Craig to approve the agenda. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Motion by Craig, seconded by Ellis to approve the March 7, 2016 minutes. Motion carried without a negative vote.

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

Neuenfeldt reported for FSA (Heideman). The ARC PLC study is on-going with a July deadline. Crop reporting is going on and the CRP results are not known at this time.

Neuenfeldt reported news was received last Friday regarding funding for the 2nd EQIP signup for Local Work Group funds. All "high priority" cropland, pasture and forestry applications will be funded. At this time, our single high priority farmstead application will not be funded. NRCS staff have until April 22nd to develop the contracts and have landowners sign them. Applications funded were Cropland: 6 applications totaling \$52,080, Pasture: 5 applications totaling \$115,507, and Forestry: 3 applications totaling \$13,866. Last week, news was received about the second round of EQIP funding for special initiatives (state-wide signup for organic, high tunnels, forest plans, etc.). Out of 6 applications, only one was funded in the organic transition category for grazing-related practices (\$20,409). Non-funded applications included 3 forest management plans and 2 high tunnels. Note: statewide only 17 out of 73 high tunnel applications were funded. Thirteen Conservation Stewardship Program applications have been received. We have been preparing these for the lengthy evaluation and contracting process. Nutrient management plans continue to come in. Staff are completing the reviews for the plans that are being cost-shared through EQIP. Staff began preparing for the annual compliance reviews, which check random participants for compliance with wetland and high erodible land rules. This year, 19 tracts will be spot-checked.

Haase and Ellis reported attending the Golden Sands RC&D meeting March 17th. GS RC&D continues to suffer staff turnover due to grant funding and staff pursuing more education. There was discussion at the meeting regarding how the DNR ranked Lake Grant applications. There were several mistakes made on ranking due to DNR using ranking teams that did not include local biologists. It is too late for DNR to correct these issues for 2016.

Haase reported on the March 22nd County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC) meeting. The CDAC voted unanimously for preliminary recommendations of a Holiday Hunt, 3 free antlerless tags and an antlerless only season for Waupaca County. Recommendations were based on data presented by DNR and concerns from the private/public foresters about timber regeneration in Waupaca County. Foresters report that some regeneration is so poor that landowners will no longer qualify for the Managed Forest Law program. Final recommendations will occur on April 19th. A large crowd is expected.

Haase stated that Finance Director Dombrowski has worked with the department to moved some of its funds like the Tree Sale Fund and Seeder Fund into the yearly budget to comply with statutes. Haase discussed the purchase of a no-till drill to replace the current one. This would help eliminate maintenance costs into the future. The estimated cost with a trade-in of the current seeder is \$10,650. The seeder would be purchased from the funds that come from the seeder program. The current fund balance is just under \$14,000.

Motion by Craig, seconded by Peterson to pursue purchasing a new no-till seeder for \$10,650. Motion carried with no negative votes.

Haase reviewed a proposal to purchase a R-10 Trimble GPS survey unit from Seiler Instruments for \$18,190.40. This would include a full price trade in of the current Geo 7X unit purchased in 2015. The 7X has had software issues that Trimble has been unable to fix and they are ready to replace the unit under warranty. The additional funds would come from the Tree Sale Fund.

Motion by Craig, seconded by Ellis to purchase the R-10 Trimble GPS survey unit from Seiler Instruments for \$18,190.40. Motion carried with no negative votes.

Haase reviewed a proposal from Transcendent Technologies for Farmland Preservation tracking software for \$14,000. The program includes a yearly \$3,000 maintenance and upgrade fee. Haase explained the need for the software and how it will be used. Haase would continue to see if a better price was possible.

Motion by Craig, seconded by Peterson to purchase the Farmland Preservation tracking software from Transcendent Technologies for \$14,000. Motion carried.

Haase reported that the presence of crop insurance was not a statutory reason for the LWCC to consider when approving a WDACP crop damage claim. No further action is needed at this time on John Hoffman, Sr's WDATCP Deer Damage claim. He has apparently reached his \$10,000 maximum claim in another county.

Haase presented the Joint DNR/DATCP Soil & Water Resource Management (SWRM) Grant Application for 2017. Motion by Ellis, seconded by Peterson to submit the Joint DNR/DATCP Soil & Water Resource Management (SWRM) Grant Application. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Haase reported there are no cost share agreements to approve at this time. The LWCD will be submitting TRM grants for Larry Lang (relocation of animal lot within city wellhead protection area), Jeff Henschel (manure storage) and Al Tank (manure storage) by April 15th. LWCD will also resubmit the NOI/NOD grant for Russ Ferg (feed leachate) by April 15th.

Haase reported that there are many large projects that will be starting as soon as road limits are removed. The Van Asten manure complaint has been resolved for now by Heideman and the bank. Staff are working on solutions to resolve the Manske DNR action. The LWCD received their new truck this past week. The 2005 will be put on the government auction site soon.

Holman reported a LWCD report will be presented to the County Board in May, an ATC funding meeting is being set up to review the program and re-allocate funds, training on agendas and minutes is being held for staff involved in those areas, and Holman is retiring on June 20th.

The next meeting was set for May 2, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Strebe to adjourn. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Submitted by,

Roger G. Holman
Recording Secretary