

WAUPACA COUNTY LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes – July 11th, 2016

Chair Federwitz called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and gave the open meeting statement.

Roll Call: Chair DuWayne Federwitz; Supervisors Bob Ellis, Lee Much, David Johnson, James Nygaard, Michael Whitman and FSA Rep. Walter Strebe present. Others present: Brian Haase, Diane Meulemans, Lisa Neuenfeldt (NRCS), Dave Heideman (FSA), Brad Koele (DNR), Mike Schertz and Rhonda Schertz (landowners).

Review and Approve Agenda: Motion by Much, seconded by Johnson to approve the agenda. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting – May 2nd, 2016: Motion by Ellis, seconded by Nygaard to approve the June 6th, 2016 minutes. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Supervisor Whitman requested a copy of the Willis Report for county safety. Haase stated he would notify Human Resources of the request.

Public Comment: None

Agency Reports:

NRCS Report - Lisa Neuenfeldt:

June was a busy month for construction, inspection and processing payments for completed conservation practices in various programs. In the Conservation Stewardship Program, Waupaca received funding for another C.S.P. application. That brings the total up to two applications approved for funding. We have started working on the 6 C.S.P. contracts that are renewing for another 5 years. NRCS received word on Friday that two of our three cover crop applications will be funded.

Waupaca was given the opportunity to once again participate in the National Water Quality Initiative in the Pigeon Lake watershed. NRCS/LWCD previously participated in this program in 2013 & 2014. This would provide an additional source of funding conservation projects in that watershed. After discussions with producers in that watershed, we've decided to participate once again. The signup would run concurrently with the general EQIP program, with a signup deadline of Sept. 2nd. The program could last for at least 3 more years.

Reminders on upcoming events: This year's Local Work Group meeting will be held at the Fremont Town hall on July 27th, from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. NRCS will host a soil health field day on August 10th, 9 – noon in Omro.

FSA Report - Dave Heideman:

Staff is busy with crop reporting. The deadline is July 15th. ARC deadline is August 1st. County committee elections for the Eastern area are this year. Nominations are open until August 1st. Heideman passed out the FSA Impacts brochure. It summarizes the programs implemented and funding spent in 2015.

WDACP Deer Damage Claim – Mike Schertz:

Mike Schertz handed out folders with copied documents and e-mails regarding his participation in the WI Deer Damage and Claims Program. Brad Koele, DNR, also reviewed the Schertz's participation history in the WDACP and stated that there is a \$10,000 maximum damage claim limit. To receive a 2015 damage payment the DNR would have needed to receive a claim from the county by March 31, 2016. Since no damage claim was received DNR cannot issue a damage payment. Koele stated that he was aware there is a 2016 claim pending that may meet the criteria for a maximum \$10,000 payment. The DNR stance on the Schertz property is that after a 2nd damage payment it will now be more cost effective to cost share on fencing the property. Koele has requested the county submit a fence proposal by July 31st. Meulemans informed Mr. Schertz that there is a statutory process and timeline (120 days) to file an insurance claim against the county and that they should seek legal counsel if they wish to do so.

Meeting Reports:

County Safety: The county safety committee continues to meet monthly at this time and is chaired by Brian Margan who developed the Willis Report. The committee is mostly department heads and various supervisory personnel. Haase hopes that will include more employees in the future. Whitman stated a good safety program should be developed bottom up not top down. The LWCD received their purchase of safety clothing (PPE) and staff has begun wearing them on appropriate jobs. The committee has started to discuss what trainings each department or the county as a whole needs.

DNR TMDL:

Haase attended the Total Maximum Daily Loading plan meeting in Winnebago County. The TMDL modeling data was unveiled. The project is still on track to be finished in 2017 at which time implementation will begin. DNR grants are likely to be shifted to focus on TMDL goals.

Chain O'Lakes Association:

Dan McFarlane presented a shoreline/lake health power point to the Association's annual meeting at the King Veteran's home. Ellis said the presentation was well received.

Waupaca County Manure Storage Ordinance:

Haase attended a meeting at DATCP to review the state's model manure storage ordinance. Storage ordinances can't be more stringent than state standards. Our current ordinance is part of the county's health ordinance. If kept there that may allow for some well testing options that Federwitz had previously suggested be used to create a groundwater baseline. Important options that Waupaca should include are the NR 151 performance standards by reference and preferably not writing them out. Planning/Zoning also requested we include structural setbacks in the ordinance. Fee structures will also be addressed in an independent referenced schedule. DATCP is also promoting counties use a Certificate of Use in their ordinances that will help address nutrient management plan implementation, tracking and compliance. DATCP was also of the opinion that use certificates could be retroactive to the 2005 ordinance. Many of these options are dependent on corporation counsel's willingness to agree with DATCP's position and enforce those options. Timetable for a new ordinance would be the end of 2016. Whitman inquired as to whether fee structures would meet needs or be reasonable and what type of follow up occurs. Haase said the fee schedule would reflect size of structure and operation but may not address staff time completely. Currently there is little staff time available to spend on follow up.

Department Transition & Clerk/Program Asst. Position:

Haase stated that the department transition will be addressed at Human Resources committee at 11:30 today. The Clerk/Program Assistant position was intended to be filled immediately however Penny Tank from UWEX suggested temporarily sharing one of their secretarial staff maybe leading to a longer term partnership. This will provide for an immediate solution to office management. Sherry Weise started last week working part time in the LWCD. There is a computer need for her LWCD desk. Nygaard expressed concern for staff levels as UWEX has to meet its mandated budget cuts and suggested this would be a good long term solution. Federwitz suggested Haase try to work out a longer term use schedule with Tank so we can move into a higher level of work. Whitman suggested maybe we need to analyze our office schedule in the future.

2017 Budget:

Haase stated that the budget material will not be out from Finance until July 15th and will be due back to Finance on August 15th. Our next meeting should reflect that time table.

Cost Share Agreements:

Haase presented seven Land & Water Resource Management cost share agreements for Townline Farms for nutrient management totaling approximately \$12,720.

Motion by Ellis seconded by Nygaard to approve the cost share agreement. Motion carried without a negative vote.

County Conservationist Report - Brian Haase:

Haase reported that construction has been busy with the 3 largest jobs. There was a call from Ivan Burmeister regarding a failure of his manure storage structure. Staff will work to correct this within the framework of our county ordinance. Burmeister may also be interested in signing up for cost share if time allows. Haase mentioned that a Clintonville resident had been in the office to discuss flooding in the industrial district. The city will address this issue. Haase brought forth a request from Fietzer Farms general contractor to sponsor their open house in August. Fietzers are also hosting Waupaca County for 2 tours in July. Whitman stated he believed this was a reasonable request to maintain relationships and that the county should keep a fund for this. Federwitz and Ellis stated we should be mindful of tax payer funds. The committee agreed that this could be done now but should be budgeted specifically in the future and used on a first come basis. Haase updated the committee on the fee schedule implementation. Haase reported that NRCS has offered us a 5 year Contribution Agreement for approximately \$80,000. The agreement is awaiting approval in Washington. Management team is discussing 5 year plans and space needs.

The LWCD will be giving the 2005 Ford truck that was slated to be sold, to the Parks Department. Parks will use it for their new position.

Upcoming Meetings:

Haase announced that the WI L+W County conservationist meetings would be July 21 & 22nd. The next LWCC meeting was set for August 8th at 7:00 a.m.

Adjourn: Motion by Much, seconded by Whitman to adjourn. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Submitted by,

Brian Haase
Recording Secretary

These minutes will be posted to the website prior to approval from the Committee and are considered to be in draft form until approved at the next scheduled meeting.