

**WAUPACA COUNTY LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes – September 12th, 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 and FSA Rep. Walter Strebe present. Others present: Brian Haase, Lisa Neuenfeldt (NRCS), Dave Heideman (FSA). Supv. Michael Whitman excused.

**Review and Approve Agenda:** Motion by Ellis, seconded by Nygaard to approve the agenda. Motion carried without a negative vote.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting – August 8th, 2016:** Motion by Much, seconded by Whitman to approve the August 8th, 2016 minutes. Motion carried without a negative vote.

**Public Comment:** None

**Agency Reports:**

**NRCS Report - Lisa Neuenfeldt:**

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (E.Q.I.P.) signup deadline was Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>. There were 37 eligible applications for varying projects, ranging from tree planting to large waste storage projects. 13 of these applications will require engineering assistance from the LWCD. Priority for funding will be given to applications that have conservation plans and engineering designs fully completed and signed by all parties (including the applicant) by Dec. 2nd. To meet this deadline, engineering designs will need to be done by the end of October. NRCS will be meeting with landowners this week to sign all Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (C.R.E.P.) contracts. Deadline is Friday. Waupaca County Forage Council will host a soil health field day on October 6th, 10:45 a.m. – 2:00 at the Bear Lake Resort in Manawa. We will be demonstrating NRCS's newly acquired rainfall simulator after lunch. A request was submitted to the National NRCS office to reactivate the Pigeon Lake watershed for special funding through the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI). If approved, we'd be able to fund the same conservation projects that are offered through EQIP. Neuenfeldt and Haase will be meeting with Matt Otto from the state office on Thursday to discuss applying for a NWQI pilot project for a portion of the Lower Little Wolf River. Wisconsin Land & Water has coordinated with Revolution Plastics to make free dumpster and pickup available to farmers for silage bag recycling. From Sept. 12-14, there will be 75 dumpsters available for farmers to pick up at the recycling center in Manawa. The Conservation Stewardship Program has been revamped in order to be more understandable and transparent. A signup is scheduled for November.

**FSA Report - Dave Heideman:**

CRP deadline was Sept 16<sup>th</sup>. There is a 29 million acre limit. Some parts of the country have computer tracking of CRP and others do not. FSA has a new employee named Hannah Butkiewicz. The MILC program had a payment for the month of August. The deadline has been extended to December 16<sup>th</sup> for 2017 applications. FSA is busy with fall reporting which has a November 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. FSA has a new average land rental rate sheet out.

**Golden Sands RC&D – Joel Kuehnhold:** Kuehnhold presented an annual update of RC&D activities to the LWCC. RC&D works across 9 counties in central Wisconsin on activities such as Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasives, Grazing, Forestry and Environmental Education. Kuehnhold highlighted some of the county specific projects including the upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Day for Waupaca County at Hartman's Creek State Park. Kuehnhold also explained how RC&D survives financially on grant funds and county dues. Kuehnhold thanked the LWCC for their participation.

**Meeting Reports:**

**WI L+W Food, Land & Water Meeting:** Haase is part of the Farmland Preservation Committee of Food Land & Water. All committees met on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. They will meet 3 more times and present a final report to the steering committee in about 16 months.

**Farmland Preservation Tracking Software – Stefan Stults:** Stults presented the tracking program that he created based on DATCP's free version and some additional Access programming that he has integrated. The program now performs all of the needed tracking functions and is integrated with the Nutrient Management lists. The LWCD will forego the purchase of the \$10,000 - \$14,000 Transcendent Software that was planned for 2016. This will also save the department the \$3,000 annual maintenance fee.

**2017 Budget:**

Haase presented the most current version of the LWCD 2017 Budget. It had changed significantly from August 8th after Haase worked with Finance Director Dombrowski on the Personnel Services portion of the budget related to the DERM

changes and the Secretarial Position. Haase also had made minor changes to the WDACP program budget lines and added more grant revenue.

Motion by Much, seconded by Ellis to approve the 2017 Budget as presented. Motion carried without a negative vote.

**Cost Share Agreements:**

Haase presented Land & Water Resource Management cost share agreements for Matt Manske for barnyard/manure storage totaling approximately \$13,000.

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

**County Conservationist Report - Brian Haase:**

Haase passed out the DNR letter in reference to the Gierach manure runoff complaint. Haase also will be following up on a complaint about horse manure in a wetland near Weyauwega on the Shana Ray Performance Horse property. DNR and DATCP have funded the Charlind Farms and Russ Ferg NOD grant applications. The funding cutoff has now been announced by DNR for TRM. Waupaca will be awarded all three of its grant applications. The 2017 tree sale will begin this week. Haase and Peterson met with an attorney assigned by the county insurance to review a claim. There is a statewide committee reviewing how AIS grants will be distributed in the future. Counties may receive a direct grant similar to the DATCP model by 2018. Haase presented a price quote for a gas detector that would notify employees of Hydrogen Sulfide and other gases when working near manure storage. This was prompted by the recent death of a Portage County farmer near an open lagoon. Haase will research the best options.

Motion by Nygaard seconded by Johnson to approve the purchase of up to 3 gas detectors for staff. Motion carried without a negative vote.

**County Farmer/Landowner Steering Committee:** Haase discussed the concept with Greg Blonde (UWEX) and Blonde stated that the most important thing for such a committee was to have a defined goal(s). Federwitz and Haase will meet with Blonde to discuss it further.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

LWLWCA meets Sept 30<sup>th</sup> in Wautoma. October 6<sup>th</sup> is the Forage Council Field Day at Bear Lake. October 7<sup>th</sup> is the Waupaca 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Day.

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 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.