

**WAUPACA COUNTY LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes – March 6th, 2017**

Chair Federwitz called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and gave the open meeting statement.

**Roll Call:** Chair DuWayne Federwitz, Vice-Chair Bob Ellis, Supervisors Lee Much, David Johnson, Michael Whitman, James Nygaard and FSA Rep. Walter Strebe present. Others present: Brian Haase, Lisa Neuenfeldt, Derrick Raspor, Rhonda VandeHey.

**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 February 6th, 2017:** Motion by Ellis, seconded by Johnson to approve the February 6th, 2016 minutes pending a correction regarding who called the meeting to order. Motion carried without a negative vote.

**Agency Reports:**

**NRCS Report – Lisa Neuenfeldt:**

The second sign up for EQIP ended last Friday. We processed a total of 25 applications. Of those, we got 19 to the High Priority category (all planning completed/shovel ready). The 19 high ranking applications total \$873,155.00 in estimated payments. The practices that were applied for included 9 different practices. These applications are now in Appleton, going through the quality assurance process. Funding chances for applications is unknown at this point in time. Another signup deadline for the Monarch Initiative Program and the National Water Quality Initiative (Pigeon Lake) will be June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Staff will begin working on applications for the Conservation Stewardship Program. Farms evaluations for that program will begin in the spring. Neuenfeldt asked the LWCC to remind any USDA program participants that they might come into contact with to check with NRCS prior to starting any drainage, tiling, ditching or clearing projects. Since 1985, wetlands may not be brought into production due to artificial drainage.

**FSA Report – Rhonda VandeHey**

VandeHey introduced herself to the committee. She started in mid January and previously held the same position in Shawano County. There is an ARC/PLC sign up in progress and the CRP program has been busy. A new staff person (Brooke) started February 6<sup>th</sup> to replace a vacant position. Federwitz inquired as to whether there is sufficient funding for loans. VandeHey noted that loans are processed through the Shawano office and she will get some information for a future report.

**Meeting Reports – WI Land + Water, Food, Land & Water Policy Meeting:** Haase attended the Farmland Preservation (FP) Sub-committee meeting on February 21<sup>st</sup>. Many members of that sub-committee are struggling with an understanding of the current state FP program and what its goals are. Many members would like a more permanent FP solution. Haase said that the Groundwater Quantity sub-committee has reported progress and some compromise on relevant issues.

**Healthy Lakes Grant Resolution** – Haase presented the administrative resolution to allow Waupaca County to facilitate the various aspects of the grant program. This is typical for all DNR programs. Motion by Ellis, seconded by Nygaard to approve the resolution. Motion carried without a negative vote.

**Multi Discharger Variance (MDV) program** - Haase presented the DNR powerpoint from a recent webinar on MDV. The presentation covered the timing and application process that DNR expects. MDV will be available for counties to apply for in January, 2018. However funding levels will be unknown the first year due to unknown participation levels. Counties that wish to participate will need to consider this during the 2018 budget process later this year.

**County Baseline Well Testing Program** – The ATC funding resolution for the well program will be before county board on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Haase and McFarlane have met with groundwater specialist Kevin Masarik from UWSP/UWEX and created a timeline for the testing. It will be about 400 samples per summer over two years. Haase will be meeting with East Central WI Regional Planning commission (ECWRPC) to discuss their role in the program in the upcoming week. There have been some special requests to include specific areas of the

county based on current county events related to other departments. LWCD will accommodate those when possible.

**Cost Share Agreements:** None

**County Conservationist Report - Brian Haase:** Haase reported no new manure or runoff complaints this month. Our regional DNR contact, Erin Hanson, for small/medium farms left her position on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Duties will be spread to other DNR staff but that may impact response to runoff issues. Staff (Stults) completed several FP inspections, one of which identified an NR 151 violation on the R Steingraber farm. Haase reported that Corey Schuelke is on the NRCS standard 313 (Manure Storage) revision team. There is much disagreement and revisions are expected to greatly increase the cost of those structures which may impact cost sharing. Haase is expecting the NRCS NWQI contribution agreement for signature within the next 2 weeks. The city wellhead protection project is continuing along. The city will be hiring a new agronomist for 2017 to work with landowners in the wellhead area. LWCD continues to pursue funding for projects in the wellhead. Haase said staff is beginning work on a 2016 report/newsletter and expects to have it completed in mid April, after state reporting deadlines, possibly in time for county board distribution.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

The next LWCC will be April 3rd at 9:00 AM. Staff will meet LWCC members at 6:30 Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup> for travel to the WI L+W annual conference.

**Adjourn:** Motion by Much, seconded by Nygaard to adjourn. Motion carried without a negative vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:50 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.