

WAUPACA COUNTY LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes – April 3rd, 2017

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

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

Minutes of the Previous Meeting March 6th, 2017: Motion by Ellis, seconded by Nygaard to approve the March 6th, 2016 minute. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Agency Reports:

NRCS Report – Lisa Neuenfeldt:

The 25 EQIP applications from the last EQIP signup were reviewed by the NRCS area office a few weeks ago. We expect to hear about possible funding of those this week. If applications are funded, staff will need to develop contracts for those. FSA's CRP/SAFE signup: Waupaca is an eligible county for FSA's program State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement - Monarch (SAFE), which is a special initiative through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The initiative offers a continuous signup to help landowners establish Monarch butterfly habitat on active cropland. They offer cost sharing and annual rental payments. Participants can elect to establish either cool season/introduced grasses and flowers or native grasses and flowers; both mixes include 2% milkweed. Waupaca has had a great response to this program, with 32 applications submitted. Wisconsin is capped at 50,000 acres for this program, so NRCS staff has been trying to develop plans and contracts quickly, during the month of March.

Other CRP work done for FSA: 2 CREP plans written, 15 applications for reenrollment, 24 additional contracts eligible for re-enrollment, 3 CCRP plans written, 7 additional applications to be worked on. Staff has finished up training for the Conservation Stewardship Program, and will begin working on applications this month.

FSA Report – Rhonda VandeHey

Currently, the FSA office is still busy with the Acreage Risk/Price Loss program (ARC/PLC) sign up and we will be gearing up for Spring Crop reporting. A brief follow up to Federwitz's question about FSA Farm Loan funding - FSA is currently operating under a continuing resolution until 4/28/2017 with hopes of a budget or a continuation to be announced. Farm Loan is expecting to be running out of both direct & guaranteed loan funds for Non-Beginning Farm applicants soon (Non-beginning are farmers who do not meet the beginning farmer status, generally more than 10 years farming experience). There is some concern that there could be a lack of funding for Beginning Farmer applicants as well. This could be a problem heading into funding for spring operating expenses.

Meeting Reports – WI Land + Water, Food, Land & Water Policy Meeting: Supervisors discussed their experiences at the various conference sessions from March 16th. Nygaard questioned whether or not zoning could be used as a method to properly disperse cattle over the landscape or limit dairies from getting too big for their land base. Haase said this would likely fall under the state's livestock siting rules and we could have that as a topic at a future meeting.

Land Conservation Funding Resolution – Haase presented the resolution meant to encourage the Joint Finance Committee to restore funding for the DATCP staffing grant. Waupaca County will lose about \$20,000 in staffing grant at the proposed level of funding. Motion by Ellis, seconded by Much to approve the resolution. Motion carried without a negative vote.

NWQI Watershed Planner Private Contract - Haase explained that he had reached a verbal agreement with Sarah Francart of Outagamie County LCD to privately contract for the planning portion of the NWQI Bear Lake-Little Wolf River plan that Waupaca County had received an NRCA contribution agreement to complete. He is currently exploring whether to contract Sarah directly with the county or through Golden Sands RC&D. At

issue is finding the proper liability insurance, workman's comp, etc. Corporation counsel will assist Haase if the county contracts directly. Haase asked for a motion to approve hiring Ms. Francart via one of those two methods since time is of the essence in getting the project underway. Motion by Much, seconded by Nygaard to approve the resolution. Motion carried without a negative vote.

County Baseline Well Testing Program – McFarlane presented a powerpoint of the proposed strategy for the county baseline well testing program. Staff will be following a protocol that will target one sample per square mile with emphasis on re-sampling wells that participated in the late 1990's UWEX Waterwise program and those located in agricultural areas. McFarlane also showed existing well data and how some statistics are available by township with the University's current test program. Testing will begin in mid June.

Cost Share Agreements/Grants: Haase presented the 2018 Joint DNR/DATCP staffing grant application that is due April 17th. Motion by Whitman, seconded by Much to approve the resolution. Motion carried without a negative vote.

County Conservationist Report - Brian Haase: Haase reported that he is still trying to contact Ivan Burmeister regarding the failing manure storage. Staff is working with Jim Peglow and Lee Newsome regarding a February manure complaint and letter issued by DNR. DNR contacted Haase regarding runoff conditions at Randy Steingraber's farm. DNR staff may be sampling there at the next runoff event. Haase stated that about \$433,244 of grant revenue had been received in the past month from the 2016 grant programs. WDACP reimbursement was still being processed. Haase stated that the DATCP annual work plan for the department was also due April 17th.

Upcoming Meetings:

The next LWCC will be May 1st at 8:00 AM.

Closed Session: Motion by Nygaard, second by Ellis to go into Closed Session Pursuant to WI State Statutes 19.85(1)(c) for the purpose of consideration of annual department head performance evaluation. Roll Call vote indicated unanimous approval of the motion.

Adjourn: Motion by Much, seconded by Whitman to adjourn from Closed Session. Roll Call vote indicated unanimous approval of the motion. 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.