

WAUPACA COUNTY LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes — May 1st, 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, Rhonda VandeHey.

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

Minutes of the Previous Meeting April 3rd, 2017: Motion by Nygaard, seconded by Much to approve the April 3rd, 2017 minutes. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Agency Reports:

NRCS Report — Lisa Neuenfeldt:

Of the 25 EQIP applications from the last EQIP signup, 12 have been funded, for a total of \$449,748.00. Staff has been developing contracts and meeting with participants. Contracts include practices for grazing, cover crops, erosion control practices and manure storage. The Waupaca office received help with the Conservation Reserve Program during the week of 5/17 from 6 Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologists to help tackle the large CRP workload. They performed site visits and developed about 40 plans and contracts. NRCS will now work with FSA to finalize the contracts with landowners in the hopes of getting them approved before we reach the national CRP acreage cap. There are still a large number of CRP offers that need work. NRCS will host a field day on 5/4 at Justin Seeger's farm — see flyer. This will focus on using cover crops and integrating them with rotational grazing. The NRCS annual Local Work Group meeting will be held on June 21st at the Fremont Town Hall.

FSA Report — Rhonda VandeHey

Currently, the FSA office received 41 offers totaling about 500 acres for CRP. Staff is currently working on spring crop reporting and preventative planting.

Meeting Reports -

Bear Lake-LLW Watershed Stakeholder Meeting: Haase and Neuenfeldt reported that the stakeholder/landowner meeting for the Bear Lake-LLW Watershed planning project was held on April 17th at the Little Wolf Town Hall. About 12 farms were represented out of 20 that were invited. Staff presented the project plan and expected outcomes as well as future opportunities. Several good discussions took place.

Joint Finance Committee Hearing-Berlin: — Federwitz and Haase attended the April 7th hearing and Federwitz testified in support of increased DATCP funding for LWCD's. It was a slow process and good learning experience in civics.

Waupaca County Executive Committee- Haase and Federwitz explained that budget season has kicked off earlier than usual with an Executive Committee meeting held April 24th. The expectation was to bring any budget needs to light as early as possible for county financial planning purposes.

DATCP Livestock Siting Rule and Agricultural Zoning - Haase and Planning/Zoning Director Ryan Brown presented the options available to include livestock siting type regulations in county zoning laws. The state minimizes a county's right to create zoning districts by animal unit number through ATCP 51. Counties can adopt Livestock Siting but do not have the ability to create zoning rules that are more restrictive than ATCP 51 provides for without maintaining at least one unrestricted general agriculture district. The LWCD would have minimal control over the process other than to approve the completeness of applications. There may be some exceptions to regulating livestock and manure using public health provisions such as those seen in Kewaunee County or the Town of Saratoga. The new well testing program may show if there are groundwater problems in Waupaca County.

County Baseline Well Testing Program — Mailings started this week for the program. The Towns of Lind, Dayton and Farmington are the first group scheduled for bottle pickup/delivery on June 13th and 14th. Samples are by invitations created by a GIS process to target one sample per square mile with some emphasis on the 1990's Waterwise participants.

Cost Share Agreements/Grants: Haase presented the information about DATCP moving to a new Master Grant Process that will further simplify paperwork between DATCP and the counties.

County Conservationist Report - Brian Haase: Haase reported that construction has begun on several spring erosion control projects and agricultural runoff projects prior to planting. Sediment basins at Kempfs and Charlind Farms, roof runoff at Brooks and a feed leachate system at Egans are among them. Haase gave a report of what the current Farmland Preservation Fee incomes are. 2017 is almost 300% over the budgeted prediction and 2016 ended at almost 400% over budget. This was due to a higher initial participation rate than was expected. Haase also reported that staff have committed a significant amount of time to the Chain O'Lakes Management Plan work this Spring. The time commitment was necessary to aid the Chain in acquiring the rather large grant. There were no complaints or DNR compliance issues this month.

Upcoming Meetings-The next LWCC will be June 13th at 8:00 AM.

Adjourn: Motion by Much, seconded by Nygaard to adjourn. Motion carried without a negative vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 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.