

**WAUPACA COUNTY LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes — August 7th, 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 David Johnson, Michael Whitman, James Nygaard and FSA Rep. Walter Strebe present. Others present: Brian Haase, Lisa Neuenfeldt. Supv. Lee Much Excused.

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

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

**Public Comment:** None.

**Agency Reports:**

**NRCS Report — Lisa Neuenfeldt:**

NRCS continues to measure completed practices and make payments for EQIP. Again this month, there have also been many new requests for site visits to gather conservation planning data and document what the resource concerns are. Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP): Staff is required to gather and check all practice documentation for the 47 CSP contracts and certify practices by Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>.

One additional farmstead project was just funded through EQIP. It is a large feed leachate collection project. Brian, Sarah (contracted Watershed Planner) and I will be meeting with NRCS state office staff on 8/15 to discuss the status of the Bear Lake watershed plan. Staff is working on developing and signing 4 new CSP contracts with participants.

**FSA Report — Read by Haase from VandeHey:** FSA has completed spring crop reporting and ARC/PLC signup. The wet spring presented challenges for farmers to get a timely crop planted. Due to those wet conditions, Waupaca FSA saw over 370 acres of prevent plant acreage reported. FSA saw over 160 acres of failed acreage reported, primarily alfalfa winter kill, this was minimal compared to other nearby counties. The Winter Kill issues did call for a Disaster Declaration by Gov. Walker. Winnebago and Waupaca counties were included as contiguous counties. VandeHey attached a map of the winterkill issues and the Emergency Loan press releases. September 1<sup>st</sup> will begin the MPP signup (Dairy Margin Protection Program). FSA has been told that there is funding available for all loans for the fiscal year. Loan activity has decreased recently but that is normal given the time of the year. FSA is experiencing more loan requests for farm purchases and improvements lately. FSA does not have a large number of Guarantee requests but I think our activity in this area is somewhat normal. The excessive rain at this point has not triggered a Disaster Declaration so we do not have Disaster Set Aside opportunity. FSA needs to have a Declaration for this to be available and it may not happen.

**Meeting Reports:**

**WI L+W County Conservationists Meeting -** Haase & Federwitz attended all or part of the July 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Highlights included an MDV program presentation, UWEX restructuring presentation, a Kewaunee County presentation on their groundwater issues and a Livestock Siting session. The Kewaunee session had well testing results available showing cause and effect of manure spreading over fractured bedrock soils.

**Town of Farmington Farmland Preservation (FP) –** Haase and Ryan Brown attended a July 18<sup>th</sup> town informational meeting on FP as requested by the town. Over 50 people attended and had many questions. The town will hold a public hearing on FP in October to gauge whether or not to proceed with FP zoning.

**DNR –Multi Discharger Variance (MDV) –** Haase attended a session hosted by DNR on the MDV program rollout. While several dischargers have committed to the program, only minimal funding will be available in 2018. Full funding will begin to occur in 2019. Haase will create budget lines in the 2018 budget to accommodate the program. Waupaca County will likely not see much funding from MDV until after 2019.

**County Well Testing Program** — Haase presented some data from the 1<sup>st</sup> round of sampling that occurred in Lind, Dayton and Farmington. Mean Nitrate levels have increased since the 1990's Waterwise testing program. The second sample date was July 18 & 19 for the towns of Scandinavia, Iola and St Lawrence. The 3<sup>rd</sup> sampling starts August 8<sup>th</sup> for Little Wolf, Union & Dupont. Haase will be scheduling information sessions for participants this fall to learn more about their results. UWSP will provide a groundwater educator.

**County Transfer Facility Farmlands Recommendation** — Solid Waste Board requested a formal recommendation from the LWCC regarding farmland stewardship. The LWCC discussed various options for improving water quality from PTF farm acreage that drains into the Little Wolf/Bear Lake Watershed Project area. The original wetland restoration/sediment basin proposal is not feasible due to effects on the western adjacent property owner. See attached write up from Haase to the Solid Waste Board.

**2018 LWCD Budget** — Haase presented the 2018 budget. Budgets are due to Finance on August 15<sup>th</sup>. DATCP staff and cost share funding are not yet known due to state budget delays. DATCP suggested a 10% reduction in staff grant will occur if legislators do not increase funding. The 2018 budget currently is at 0% levy increase except for staff salary and re-class increases. Levy impact is up \$13,422 due to those increases.

Motion by Federwitz, seconded by Whitman to approve the 2018 budget as presented. Motion carried without a negative vote.

**Cost Share Agreements/Grants:** None.

**County Conservationist Report - Brian Haase:** Haase reported that several very large, cost shared agricultural waste/leachate projects are finishing up as others get started. Haase made several field visits on July 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> with new DNR non-point coordinator Eric Evensen. Complaints were investigated at the Steve Goli farm on North Lake and at a downstream property from Sandy Valley Farms. Haase showed a video to the LWCC that was provided by the complainant showing direct discharge to the South Branch of the Little Wolf. Both landowners were very cooperative. Haase reported that DNR staff made a site visit to the Lang Farm regarding the animal lot pumping within the wellhead protection area. Lang will likely receive an NOD for pumping. The Facility Study is under way and expects to be completed before Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>. Haase will be meeting with the consultant at some point to discuss Department needs.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

The next LWCC will be Sept. 11 at 8:00 AM due to Labor Day. UWEX has a field day in Manawa on August 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjourn:** Motion by Johnson, seconded by Nygaard to adjourn. 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.