



**UNAPPROVED MINUTES
LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, October 13, 2016 – 5:00 P.M.
HHS Building Room #1001
303 W. Chapel St.
Dodgeville, WI 53533**

**Iowa
County
Wisconsin**

Meeting was called to order by Secretary, Carol Anderson at 5:00 P.M.

Roll Call, Approval of this Agenda and Approval of the Minutes of August 11th, 2016.

Members present: Bob Bunker, Roger Dax, Greg Parman, Dan Nankee, Dave Gollon, Carol Anderson and Rod Anding. Members absent: Dave Ladd. Others present: Larry Bierke, Andy Walsh, Debi Finkelmeyer, Rob Hemling, Dave Tarrell, Len Olson and Robert Bauer. Sup. Nankee made a motion to approve the agenda for this October 13th, 2016 meeting. Sup. Parman seconded the motion. Motion carried. Sup. Parman made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 11th, 2016 meeting. Sup. Nankee seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Report from committee members and an opportunity for members of the audience to address the committee. No action will be taken.

Sup. Nankee spoke about the Grassland Management Workshop held at Barneveld schools September 17th, 2016 and the packet of information contained great information. Sup. Anderson gave the Blackhawk Lake report. Chair, Bunker arrived and assumed the chair role.

APHIS Items.

Dave Tarrell presented the 2017 County budget/financial plan. Sup. Anderson made a motion to approve the 2017 budget. Sup. Parman seconded the motion. Motion carried. The committee set the 2016 crop prices and the final harvest date as December 15th, 2016. Sup. Parman made a motion to approve 2016 crop prices and final harvest date. Sup. Nankee seconded the motion. Motion carried.

SW Badger RC&D Update.

Robert Bauer, Grazing Broker spoke to the committee about his role as the Grazing Broker and presented the 2015-2016 Annual Report. He assists 9 counties in Southwest Wisconsin but works out of the Iowa County Land Conservation Department Office. His focus is to pair up livestock with quality pasture land. Currently they have received a grant for \$30,000.00 which allowed them to rent 2 farms in Iowa County to utilize as Prescribed Grazing sites.

NRCS Update.

Andy Walsh reported that they currently have 2 vacancies in Dodgeville as both Marie Raboin, Soil Conservationist and Erin Holmes, Farm Bill Biologist with Pheasants Forever left for positions outside of Iowa County. They will be interviewing for the Farm Bill Biologist position on October 18th, 2016. No set plan for backfill of Marie's position at this time. The fiscal year starts October 1st, 2016 so if anyone you know is receiving mail to fill out forms they felt they just filled out, it is most likely an update for the 2017 fiscal year. The EQIP application period ended September 2nd and they had 79 applications. Walsh also reported there are 111 CREP contracts and 130 CRP contracts set to expire on 9/30/2017. FSA advised that we will begin working on these in December. All CREP/CRP contracts interested in reenrollment will require an NRCS site visit and plan development.

Farmland Preservation Report.

Len Olson reported the LCD did a final mailing on September 27th, 2016 to approximately 100 FFP participants who do not have an NMP on file. In addition an email went out to the crop consultants as a reminder of the December 31st, 2016 deadline to produce a Nutrient Management Plan to continue to receive FFP tax credits. Olson also reported the LCD is planning for an October 30th, 2016 mailing date of the Annual 2016 Self-Certification form. This mailing will include a cover letter, directions, Self-

Certification form and an updated Certificate of Compliance. Olson reported to the committee that the DOR requirements are so that our office was required to split each separate entity out and assign a unique ID# to them. Landowners could receive multiple Self-Certification forms with a \$20.00 filing fee per form. Sup. Anderson made a motion to accept the report with the stipulation that the filing fee will be revisited in 2017. Sup. Dax seconded the motion.

NMP/LWRM Report.

Rob Hemling presented an update on the new projects and cost-share funds. In addition, he presented to the committee the Wisconsin Land & Water website and how they had highlighted Iowa County. Sup. Dax made a motion to approve the projects. Sup. Anderson seconded the motion. Sup. Nankee abstained from the vote. Motion carried.

Tree Planting Plan for 2017.

Iowa County has budgeted \$5,000.00 for tree plantings in 2017. Jim McCaulley presented to the committee the plan for these tree plantings.

WCA Dams Resolution and TP #15 Update.

Jim McCaulley reported to the committee that the WCA Dams Resolution passed at the Counties Association. This resolution allows for public dams to be given to private landowners. McCaulley presented an Affidavit, filed at the Register of Deeds showing that the DNR now owns TP #15.

2017 Workload Items.

Jim McCaulley reported to the committee where the LCD will focus our efforts in 2017.

LCD Grants Update.

Jim McCaulley reported to the committee that the LCD has asked other counties for extra bond funds (estimated \$20,000.00) in 2016 and has requested more LWRM funds from DATCP for 2017 (estimated \$40,000.00). The LCD will be applying for the DNR Rivers Grant in December 2016. McCaulley reported the LCD will send a letter of support to the Meudt-Mill-Trout Creek effort in 2016 and there is opportunity for landowner practice funding through the Grazing Broker effort.

DNR Rivers Grant Resolution & Application.

Jim McCaulley presented the Resolution Authorizing Application for Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources River Protection Planning Grant for the purposes of exploring the feasibility, effects, and potential costs of removing Iowa County's TP#7 Dam on Trout Creek. Sup. Parman made a motion to accept the resolution and advance it to the County Board and prepare/submit a Rivers Grant application by December 10th, 2016. Sup. Nankee seconded the motion. Motion carried.

LCD Fees Resolution & Review.

Jim McCaulley presented the Resolution Establishing Fees for Services Provided by the Iowa County Land Conservation Department. This Resolution implements fees for services provided by the Iowa County Land Conservation Department. These fees will take effect on January 1st, 2017 and will be clearly posted on the Iowa County website and at the Iowa County Land Conservation Department.

2016 CREP Sign Up Report.

Jim McCaulley reported that there were 25 CREP contracts in 2016 with 22 different landowners totaling \$182,152.00. That is an average of \$7,286.00 per contract and 24.4 acres per contract. If the revenues/fees would have been in place it would have generated \$5,404.00.

Revised 2017 LCD Budget.

Jim McCaulley presented the revised 2017 budget to the committee with new estimated revenue amounts. Sup. Parman made a motion to accept the revised budget. Sup. Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

LCD Staffing.

Jim McCaulley announced his retirement. His last day will be January 13th, 2017.

Other Business.

None.

Motion to set the next meeting date and adjourn.

The next meeting will be December 15th, 2016 at 3:00 P.M. at the USDA Service Center. Sup. Nankee made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 P.M. Sup. Parman seconded the motion. Motion carried.