

DRAFT

Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: Land Conservation and Resource Management Committee

Date of Meeting: Thursday, May 19, 2016

Electronic and Hardcopy Filing Date: Thursday, May 26, 2016

The regular meeting of the Land Conservation and Resource Management Committee (LCRMC) was called order at 4:00 p.m. by Acting Chairperson Don Hillert. Roll call showed that Don Hillert, David Danzinger, and Nettie Rosenow and were all present. Hank Weisenbeck and Scott Smith were excused.

Others present for all or part of the meeting: Carrie Olson, County Conservationist; Jason Poser, County GIS Technician; Joseph Nelson, County Surveyor; Rick Reuter, Town of Waumandee; Cletus Foegen and Ann Cornish, Town of Glencoe.

Election of Chairperson Mr. Danzinger made a motion to nominate Ms. Rosenow for chairperson, seconded by Mr. Hillert. Mr. Hillert called three times for other nominations. Mr. Danzinger made a motion to close nominations, seconded by Mr. Hillert. All in favor. Carried. Ms. Nettie Rosenow is elected the chairperson of the LCRM Committee.

Election of Vice Chairperson Mr. Danzinger made a motion to nominate Mr. Hillert for vice chairperson, seconded by Ms. Rosenow. Ms. Rosenow called three times for other nominations. Mr. Danzinger made a motion to close nominations, seconded by Ms. Rosenow. Mr. Don Hillert is elected the Vice Chairperson of the LCRM Committee.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes Mr. Hillert made a motion to approve the March 17, 2016 minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Danzinger. All in favor. Carried.

Public Comments regarding posted agenda items No public comments.

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Report Todd Mau, District Conservationist provided a written report which was read by Ms. Olson. Upcoming events include Trout Day Celebration sponsored by Arcadia Sportsman's Club on June 4, 2016 and Buffalo County Prairie Tour on July 29, 2016. Program updates include: Trout stream restoration signups until June 10th; EQIP signup rankings will be on June 10th, with the next general EQIP ranking September 2nd; Conservation construction is underway; Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) included 2 new contracts and 10 renewals this summer.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) Report No report.

County Land Surveyor Report Joseph Nelsen presented an Office Hours Report including budget, hours, and services provided for the January 2016 to May 2016 timeframe.

Mr. Nelsen also provided a report on the remonumentation efforts in the Town of Waumandee. The May 2016 Report shows that 156 PLSS corners have GPS survey controls established and 86 PLSS corner locations have been finalized with final and reference monuments set. Photo evidence of original survey

marker excavation and remonumentation was provided. Survey workflow was explained and described as following the same process as it had for previous 20 years. Goal is to continue working in the Town of Waumandee and to start the 2016 remonumentation work in the Town of Glencoe remonumentation in the fall.

GIS and Land Information Office Report Jason Poser presented a status report and update on the GIS and Land Information parcel mapping project. The state has mandated completion of parcel mapping by 2017. Buffalo County's parcel map initiative website is updated daily to show the progress of this parcel mapping project. Currently the county is on track with 78.77% mapped. Lidar was flown for the County and will be available for viewing Spring 2017.

Public Land Survey System (PLSS) Remonumentation Grant Disbursement and Discussion on RFP Remonumentation process

Mr. Poser and Mr. Nelsen provided background on the agenda item. The approved County Land Information Plan for 2016-2018 directs the development of countywide Land Records Modernization planning and disbursement of grant funds. The plan recommended spending the remaining \$16,684 from the 2016 WLIP Base Budget grant for continuing PLSS remonumentation efforts. The LCRM Committee approved spending the 2016 funds to continue surveying and documenting monuments in Waumandee and Glencoe Townships during the March 2016 Committee meeting. Due to a concern with the matching fund component, the agenda topic returned to the LCRM Committee to make a recommendation to Finance Committee.

Mr. Nelsen provided a history of the remonumentation program in the County beginning in the 1980's due to development pressure from Winona area. Based on this original framework, the Finance Committee decided to use a proportional match from each town based on budget and township priority/demand, along with an annual remonumentation budget to proceed with the program. In 2015 funding for this program was cut. Currently Buffalo County has not completed the county wide remonumentation project and the state is requiring foundational elements be completed.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) is being drafted by Mr. Nelsen and Mr. Poser that will provide the County with measurable goals and budget data for completing the 5 remaining townships in the County. Mr. Nelsen reiterated his concerns for the quality of the work that results from the RFP process.

Mr. Danzinger made a motion for a recommendation to equally split the remaining grant dollars (\$16,684) between the east townships currently in progress (Waumandee and Glencoe) under direction of the County Surveyor's Office. Mr. Hillert seconded. All in favor. Carried.

Cooperative Agreement with DNR Forestry to Administer Tree Planting Equipment Funds Ms. Olson provided copies of an agreement drafted between Buffalo County LCRM Department and WI-DNR Forestry Department to set up a non-lapsing fund account for tree planter equipment rental and maintenance. Intent is to continue to provide local landowners with tree planting equipment a low rental cost. Roles and responsibilities are assigned within the agreement for each Department. Mr. Hillert made a motion to approve the Cooperative Agreement with DNR Forestry to Administer Tree Planting Equipment Funds. Mr. Danzinger seconded. All in favor. Carried.

Garden Valley #10 PL-566 Update and Repair Proposal Report Ms. Olson provided an update on the Rose Valley dam repair project, including recent discussions with Dairyland Power Cooperative, recent lake bed dredging survey work with DATCP assistance, and an Engineering Services bid from Ayers Associates. Discussion was held on the Ayres Associates proposal. Mr. Danzinger made a motion to accept the Ayers Associates bid with administrative approval. Mr. Hillert seconded. All in favor. Carried.

Approve Bills for Bluff Prairie Restoration through CapX Funds Review of cost-share contractor bill for completed restoration work on Tim Salway's Bluff Prairie restoration project. \$2800.00 from County CapX2020 funds were allocated and approved by LCRM Committee on February 2016. The landowner provided a \$1000.00 match, and a \$6800.00 match from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife has been paid. Mr. Hillert made a motion to approve the cost-share payment. Mr. Danzinger seconded. All in favor. Carried.

County Conservationists Report Ms. Olson provided the following report:

- A Farmer-led Watershed Grant was awarded from DATCP to the Waumandee Watershed group. Buffalo County LCRM Department wrote an MOU with the Buffalo-Trempealeau Farmer Network (BTFN) to act as the collaborating entity. The \$12,000 grant will allow the group to organize field days, meetings, and set up cover crop test plots.
- County Land Conservation and Non-Metallic Mining webpages have been updated.
- Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) update: Recent zoning meetings with Towns along with survey results showed that preservation of farmland is important to landowners. The County has offered the option for enrolling into FPP and it will be up to each Town to decide.
- Conservation practice spreadsheet was developed for tracking of 2016 conservation projects.
- Copies of the 2015 Annual Report with budget tables was provided to the Committee members.
- Buffalo County Land & Water Resource Management Plan was distributed to Committee members.
- Land Conservation Committee Handbook was distributed to committee members. The handbook defines roles & responsibilities for the LCC and LCD staff, according to state stats.

Chairperson Report Chair Rosenow suggested priorities for the Department, such as encouraging programs to minimize erosion, promoting an awareness of land loss, and an inventory of land loss.

Public Comments Not Relating to the Agenda None given.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, June 16th at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie Olson
County Conservationist