

DRAFT

Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: Land Conservation and Resource Management Committee

Date of Meeting: Thursday, June 16, 2016

Electronic and Hardcopy Filing Date: Tuesday, June 21, 2016

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

Others present for all or part of the meeting: Carrie Olson, County Conservationist; Mark Rasmussen, DNR Wildlife Biologist; Anthony Opatz, Natural Resources Intern.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes Mr. Hillert made a motion to approve the May 19, 2016 minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Danzinger. All in favor. Carried.

Public Comments regarding posted agenda items No public comments.

Agency Reports (GIS, NRCS, FSA) Written reports and upcoming events from partner resource agencies and departments were reviewed. Tony Opatz, Natural Resources Intern provided a report on the Buffalo County Natural Resource Internship and work accomplishments to-date.

DNR Request for North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) Grant

Mark Rasmussen, DNR Wildlife Biologist presented information relative to a grant donation request from Buffalo County towards a North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant application. The \$1000 donation would contribute towards a \$1 million grant to allow DNR to purchase over 900 acres of land adjacent to the DNR Tiffany Wildlife Area for public recreation and wildlife habitat. A discussion was held on the public benefit of the potential land acquisition and it was determined that CapX2020 funds would be appropriate to fund this type of request.

Mr. Hillert made a motion to approve using County CapX2020 funding to support the NAWCA grant. Mr. Danzinger seconded. All in favor. Carried.

CapX Trout Stream and Bluff Prairie Restoration: Applications and Cost-share Approvals

Ms. Olson presented two application requests for restoration work from interested landowners.

- 1) Loren and Ruth Wolfe property request for a Bluff Prairie restoration project. \$8,000.00 total project cost; requesting \$3,000.00 from County CapX2020 funds.
- 2) Roy, Suzanne, Barry Fried property request for Trout stream restoration. Requesting \$5,000.00 from County CapX2020 funds for 2,000 linear feet of stream work on Eagle Valley Creek.

Mr. Danzinger made a motion to approve the Bluff Prairie and Trout Stream restoration applications as presented. Mr. Smith seconded. All in favor. Carried.

Ms. Olson presented two cost-share contractor bills for restoration work approval.

- 1) Review Gracie Hohman property Bluff Prairie restoration project. \$4100.00 from County CapX2020 funds were allocated and approved by LCRM Committee on February 2016. Requesting \$1100.00 payment for partial work completed on the 6.1 acre bluff prairie.

- 2) Trout Stream restoration work on Rick Allemann property on Danuser Valley Creek. \$7000.00 from County CapX2020 funds were allocated and approved by LCRM Committee on February 2016. Requesting \$7000.00 for restoration work completed on 3000 linear feet of stream.

Mr. Danzinger made a motion to approve the cost-share payments for the Buff Prairie and Trout Stream restoration projects. Mr. Hillert seconded. All in favor. Carried.

Cooperative Agreement between Buffalo County LCRM and former Nelson Rod & Gun Club for Trout Stream Restoration project funding

Ms. Olson led a discussion on draft agreement document between the County LCRM and former Nelson Rod and Gun Club designating the County as administrator of an allocated balance of Rod & Gun Club funds (to be determined by the dissolved Nelson Rod & Gun Club). The funds would be set aside to ensure funding contributes towards trout stream restoration in the Little Bear and Deer Creek watersheds within the next two years.

Mr. Hillert made a motion to accept the funds into a separate County account as presented. Mr. Danzinger seconded. All in favor. Carried.

County Trout Stream Easement Options

Ms. Olson led a discussion on a County-led program that would promote public trout stream restoration and recreational opportunities. The program would promote fish habitat and sediment control (by securing restoration projects) on local streams while allowing for public fishing opportunities. The County would be the holder of perpetual easements on streambanks for areas of the county where a local conservation club was not interested in holding an easement. Ms. Olson explained that the draft easement document had been reviewed by Tom Clark, Corporation Council. A discussion was held.

Mr. Smith made a motion to support the County-led Stream Easement program, allowing the County to secure stream easements. Mr. Hillert seconded. All in favor. Carried.

Garden Valley #10 PL-566 Update and Repair Proposal Report Ms. Olson provided an update on the Garden Valley/Rose Valley dam repair project, including recent discussions with Dairyland Power Cooperative, recent lake bed survey work with DATCP assistance, and Engineering Services bids from three engineering companies. Discussion was held with conclusion that additional details will be needed before any decisions could be made.

Buffalo County Land & Water Resource Management Plan Discussion was held on the 2016 Annual Work Plan detailing the goals and objectives described in the Buffalo County Land and Water Resource Management 10-Year Plan. Ms. Rosenow inquired about measurable goals to show the Land and Water Work Plan was being met. Ms. Olson described the annual Transect Survey along with erosion control conservation practices and nutrient management accomplishments by staff, as shown in the Work Plan. Mr. Danzinger requested Transect Survey data be reviewed at a future meeting. Ms. Rosenow inquired about promoting erosion control goals County-wide and also identifying critical sites. Mr. Hillert suggested utilizing Lidar as a tool to identify critical areas in need of stabilization. A discussion was held on priorities.

Cost-Share Program Approvals

Ms. Olson presented a project report for two completed cost-share construction projects.

- Homestead Farms c/o Terry and Chris Weisenbeck- CCC Dam restoration on three (3) structures with Critical Area Seeding maintenance. 70% Cost-Share total is \$3,713.50
- Gregory (Scooter) Green property- Grass Waterway project. 70% Cost-Share total is \$6,365.88

Mr. Hillert made a motion to approve cost-share bills as presented. Mr. Danzinger seconded. All in favor. Carried.

Conservation Department Position Descriptions All three Conservation Department staff Position Descriptions (PD's) were reviewed: County Conservationist, Conservation Technician, and Resource Management Specialist. Ms. Olson explained that the PD's had been updated in 2014 and 2015 to reflect the distinct job duties. A discussion was held. No action was taken.

County Conservationists Report Ms. Olson reported that county PL-566 structures requiring DNR inspections had been completed for 2016 with NRCS assistance. The cost savings to the county for the 10-year inspections equated to roughly \$4,000.00.

Chairperson Report Chair Rosenow reaffirmed priorities including promoting awareness of land loss and nutrient management.

Public Comments Not Relating to the Agenda None given.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, July 14 at 4:00 p.m.
The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie Olson
County Conservationist