

DRAFT

Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: Land Conservation and Resource Management Committee

Date of Meeting: Thursday, September 15, 2016

Electronic and Hardcopy Filing Date: Monday, September 19, 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 and David Danzinger were present. Scott Smith and Hank Weisenbeck were excused.

Others present for all or part of the meeting: Carrie Olson, County Conservationist; Tim Wucherer, Resource Conservation Specialist.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes Mr. Hillert made a motion to approve the August 18, 2016 minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Danzinger. All in favor. Carried.

Public Comments regarding posted agenda items No public comments.

Agency Reports The GIS Department provided a written Report for August describing accomplishments, including parcel mapping status (84.82%), emergency flood response alerts and mapping efforts, and development of a parcel property well geodatabase.

Soil Erosion Transect Survey Results Mr. Tim Wucherer presented annual soil loss information for 2009 through 2016. Land Conservation staff take data each spring for the Soil Erosion Transect surveys. Graphing trends show a decrease in annual soil loss across the county. The 2016 overall average soil loss was 1.68 Tons/Acre, down from 5.8 Tons/Acre as measured in 2009. Mr. Wucherer explained that the decrease was likely due to an increase in hay cropping (replacing row crops) and no-till farming practices observed throughout the county during the survey. Data was also presented for each Buffalo County watershed. The soil loss survey graphs will be displayed on the Buffalo County Land Conservation webpage. It was suggested that a news release be written to communicate that conservation practice efforts have benefited water quality by reducing soil loss.

Cost-Share Programs Approvals Ms. Olson presented a project report of completed cost-share construction projects for committee review. A CCC-Structure Repair was completed at the Jeff Hofer property on County Road O for a cost-share of \$3296.69. A CCC-Structure Repair project was completed at the 6-Shooters, LLC property on Sand Road for a cost-share of \$900.90. Both projects were successfully completed under the estimated budget. Mr. Danzinger made a motion to pay the cost-share bills as presented. Mr. Hillert seconded. All in favor. Carried.

Approve Bluff Prairie Applications for Restoration through CapX Funds Ms. Olson presented a report summarizing bluff prairie restoration applications that were requesting 2016 funding. Nine bluff prairie project sites with 54 total acres requested restoration funding. Approximately \$15,000 from County CapX2020 funds are allocated each year for bluff prairie restoration on sites that have high restoration potential and where a landowner provides a match. Allocated amounts vary for each site based on size, access to the site, and amount of restoration work needed. Site maps and plans were reviewed and discussed. Mr. Hillert made a motion to approve the applications as presented with the exception of one

application that did not provide sufficient details (Wick property). Mr. Danzinger seconded. All in favor. Carried.

Funding Options for Conservation Practice Repair from Rain Event Damage Ms. Olson explained the need to fund conservation structure repair and the lack of resources for emergency repair. Several funding options were discussed for conservation structure repair, streambank erosion, and agricultural land damage. Funding is available through USDA-NRCS or County Land Conservation for streambank restoration and repair, critical area seeding and stabilization, and construction of new conservation structures. Conservation staff are developing plans for projects to assist landowners. In addition, landowners have contacted the Land Conservation Department requesting assistance with sediment and debris removal from approximately 50 grade stabilization dams. Repair work estimates total \$300,000. The Committee stated their goal was to provide assistance to fix these type of damaged cost-shared conservation structures that had filled in with sediment where funding is not covered under other programs. Mr. Hillert made a motion to set up and use a Bond with a \$3,000 deductible to repair any government engineered conservation structure at a 50% cost-share match. Mr. Danzinger seconded. All in favor. Carried.

Buffalo County Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) Ms. Olson presented the final version of the Buffalo County Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP). The Committee reviewed and discussed the plan and Resolution. Mr. Hillert made a motion to approve the Resolution to adopt the 2016-2020 County Outdoor Recreation Plan, seconded by Mr. Danzinger. All in favor. Carried.

Conservation Aids for Buffalo County Fish and Game Projects Ms. Olson presented a Resolution to support trout stream restoration projects through DNR County Conservation Aids funding. Local projects are selected by the County Conservation Club and directed by the local Rod & Gun Club sponsor, who also provides the funding match. The project does not fiscally impact the County. The 2016-2017 Conservation Aids funds will support Eagle Valley Creek restoration with Fountain City Rod & Gun Club sponsoring the project. Mr. Hillert made a motion to approve the Resolution to support County Conservation Aids funding, seconded by Mr. Danzinger. All in favor. Carried.

County Conservationists Report Ms. Olson explained that the Land Conservation Department mailed 18 letters out to landowners in the Farmland Preservation Program requesting updated Nutrient Management Planning information for our records. Landowners have been responsive in providing the Department with requested information.

Chairperson Report The Committee requested a review of the current Buffalo County Manure Storage Ordinance for next month's meeting agenda.

Public Comments Not Relating to the Agenda None given.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, October 13 at 4:00 p.m. in the 4th floor Conference Room. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie Olson
County Conservationist