

DRAFT

Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: Land Conservation and Resource Management Committee

Date of Meeting: Thursday, January 5, 2017

Electronic and Hardcopy Filing Date: Monday, January 9, 2017

The regular meeting of the Land Conservation and Resource Management Committee was called order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairperson Ms. Nettie Rosenow. Roll call showed that Mr. Don Hillert, Mr. David Danzinger, Mr. Scott Smith, and Mr. David Linse (FSA representative) were present for all or part of the meeting. Others present for all or part of the meeting: Ms. Carrie Olson, County Conservationist.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Mr. Hillert made a motion to approve the December 12, 2016 minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Danzinger. All in favor. Carried.

Public Comments regarding posted agenda items: No public comments.

Agency Reports: Written reports were presented from Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), and GIS/Land Information Office. None presented.

CCC-Watershed Structures: The Land Conservation Department and Committee have been working on updating the CCC-Dam inventory list of the 135 structures located in Buffalo County. The spreadsheet includes: location of structure, landowner name, type of structure, past maintenance performed, and any maintenance needed at each structure. Chair Rosenow suggested mailing a letter to landowners requesting assistance with updating the inventory list. A discussion was held on conservation structure repair, priorities, and action to fund the repair of 5 structures per year using cost share dollars. Landowners will be contacted and those with interest in participating in the cost-share program will be encouraged to sign up through the Conservation Department. Mr. Danzinger made a motion to send a letter to those known landowners with CCC-structures on behalf of the Committee. Mr. Smith seconded. All in favor. Carried.

Resolution to Fund Cost Sharing for Buffalo County Conservation Structures Damaged by 2016 Floods: The August 2016 rain event caused flooding resulting in damage to approximately 2,000 conservation structures from overtopping, washout, and accumulating sediment and debris. Financial aid is needed to assist landowners and to reverse the effects of excessive soil erosion and water pollution runoff. A resolution was presented to support cost sharing for repairing flood damaged conservation structures. Land Conservation is requesting up to \$150,000 of CAPX2020 funding for the conservation structure repair projects, subject to a \$1,000 deductible and 50% matching funds from the landowner. Mr. Smith made a motion supporting the amended resolution as described. Mr. Danzinger seconded. All in favor. Carried.

County Conservationists Report: Ms. Olson provided the following report:

- Friday, January 13 the Buffalo-Trempealeau Farmer Network is hosting a Winter Farmer Forum.

- Save the Date for Buffalo County's Winter Bluff prairie meeting on February 9, 2017.
- Monday, February 13 the Land + Water West Central Area Business meeting (and Area Youth Conservation Speaking Contest) will be held in Eau Claire.
- 'Water Knows No Boundaries' video was presented and discussion was held on promoting local conservation and impacts to state conservation staffing grant funding levels.

Chairperson Report: Chair Rosenow suggested promoting conservation work and highlighting improvements in water quality through watershed management practices installed. Ms. Rosenow suggested focusing on the Waumandee Creek Watershed which was in the 'Priority Watershed Program' from 1985 until 2007. As a result of conservation practices installed (including manure storage facilities, barnyards, livestock fencing, streambank protection, and grade stabilization structures) water quality in Eagle Creek and Joos Valley Creek greatly improved. Ms. Rosenow suggested continuing planning and monitoring efforts in the Waumandee Watershed.

Public Comments Not Relating to the Agenda: None given.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 2nd, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.
The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie Olson
County Conservationist