

**DRAFT**  
**Buffalo County Minutes**

**Committee/Board:** Land Conservation Committee

**Date of Meeting:** Thursday, February 8, 2018

**Electronic and Hardcopy Filing Date:** Friday, February 9, 2018

The regular meeting of the Land Conservation Committee was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chairperson Ms. Nettie Rosenow. Roll call showed that Mr. Don Hillert and Mr. David Linse were present for all or part of the meeting. Mr. David Danzinger joined by phone. Mr. Scott Smith was excused. Others present for all or part of the meeting: Ms. Carrie Olson and Mr. Dennis Reimers.

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Mr. Hillert made a motion to approve the December 8, 2017 minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Danzinger. All in favor. Carried.

**Public Comments regarding posted agenda items:** None

**Agency Reports:** Mr. Dennis Reimers, NRCS, presented the February 2018 NRCS Report. Conservation program contract funding through Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program CREP/CRP were discussed. Mr. Reimers discussed Special Incentives programs to provide additional opportunity for those interested in stream habitat and streambank restoration, monarch habitat, and honey bee habitat, with a May deadline.

**Garden Valley Dredging Update and Dam Repair Contractor Approval:** Ms. Olson provided an update on the dredge project, which is expected to be completed by next week at the Garden Valley PL-566 Dam. Additional sediment had washed in resulting in additional material excavated from the impoundment. Committee supervisors considered and agreed that focusing on protection of upstream sedimentation sources was important. Watershed protection measures and funding was discussed, including cropping practices, sediment and erosion control practices, ownership, and program funding sources. There was consent to promote and protect any future conservation project in this watershed.

The committee reviewed bid results from the Garden Valley Dam Repair project. Consensus was given to accept Fitzgerald Excavating and Trucking Inc.'s bid for the embankment repair project. Mr. Hillert made a motion to award the Garden Valley Dam Repair project to Fitzgerald Excavating and Trucking Inc., seconded by Mr. Danzinger. All in favor. Carried.

**Work Truck Bids:** A report was provided detailing four bids received for purchasing a work truck, and including a trade-in of the existing 2004 work truck. Discussion was held on bid process, purchase, and leasing. Ms. Olson explained the approved budget included funds from both the Land Conservation Budget and Non-metallic mining budget for purchase of a work vehicle. The low bid came in from Fountain City Ford for a 2018 F150 at government rate with trade in for \$22,335. Mr. Hillert made a motion to accept the low bid as presented, seconded by Mr. Danzinger. All in favor. Carried.

**Conservation Cost Share Projects:** The February Cost Share Project Report was presented. A total of 53 landowners have signed up to clean out 81 dams through the County Dam Repair program. The February report included 4 Grade Stabilization Dams cleaned-out under the county flood repair cost

share program. Invoices for a total of \$10,706.25 for completed projects under the repair program were submitted for Dean Hestekin, Jeff Mann, David Sie, and LayZR Ranch (Secrist). Conservation cost share contract approvals and contractor invoices were presented for the Stettler Bluff Prairie restoration project. The State share for the project is \$2400.00. All landowner proof of payments for cost-sharing have been received. Motion by Mr. Hillert, seconded by Mr. Linse to approve the February Cost Share Projects and pay the invoices as presented. All in favor. Carried.

**Cost-Containment Procedures:** The current cost containment procedures for conservation practice cost share projects were reviewed. No significant changes were proposed to the existing process; minor changes are needed to improve the document to meet current state standards. There was a discussion on bidding requirements, with a proposed change to require bids for any project over \$15,000. Committee supervisors questioned when conservation practices were recorded on the deed and discussed land ownership and land transfer concerns when a conservation practice requires maintenance through a cost share contract. It was recommended that notification be made to any new landowner where a cost-shared conservation practice requires maintenance.

Motion by Mr. Linse, seconded by Mr. Danzinger to approve and adopt the cost containment procedures as presented. All in favor. Carried.

**County Conservationists Report:** Ms. Olson discussed County Zoning Ordinance revision process and conservation related changes. Discussion included public meeting and open house schedule, nutrient management concerns, and farmland preservation districts. Ms. Olson reported that the Farmland Preservation Plan has been pre-approved by DATCP and will need committee and board approval once zoning district maps have been finalized.

**Chairperson Report** Chair Rosenow questioned Land Conservation Committee supervisors about potential opportunities to become involved with WI Land and Water Conservation Association. Supervisors agreed that staff or agency reports on specific topics would be beneficial for future committee meetings to make informed decisions.

**Public Comments Not Relating to the Agenda** None given.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 8 at 2:00 p.m.

**The meeting was adjourned** at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carrie Olson  
County Conservationist