

DRAFT

Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: Land Conservation and Resource Management Committee

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Electronic and Hardcopy Filing Date: Monday, March 13, 2017

The regular meeting of the Land Conservation and Resource Management Committee was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chairperson Ms. Nettie Rosenow. Roll call showed that Mr. Don Hillert, Mr. David Danzinger, Mr. David Linse, and Mr. Scott Smith were present for all or part of the meeting. Others present for all or part of the meeting: Ms. Carrie Olson, Mr. Tim Wucherer, Dennis Reimers (NRCS District Conservationist) and Josh Sherman (NRCS Assistant State Conservationist).

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Ms. Rosenow suggested the addition of “per landowner” to clarify the deductible amount in the conservation structure repair action item in the January minutes. Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the January 5 and February 1, 2017 minutes with corrections, seconded by Mr. Hillert. All in favor. Carried.

Public Comments regarding posted agenda items: No public comments.

Agency Reports: Dennis Reimers, Buffalo and Pepin County District Conservationist and Josh Sherman, Assistant State Conservationist made introductions and presented the March 2017 Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Report. Conservation funding program priorities, contracts, and signup dates were explained and discussed, including: Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Mr. Reimers asked the committee to consider attending the Local Workgroup meeting on June 27th, 9-11am in Mondovi for an opportunity to provide input to local funding priorities.

A written report was reviewed from the GIS/Land Information Office, describing parcel mapping status and remonumentation survey corner correction updates.

WAV Stream Monitoring Updates: Tim Wucherer presented a report on Buffalo County’s 2016 and 2017 Water Monitoring Program through the WI-DNR Water Action Volunteers (WAV). Stream monitoring is performed at nine stream stations throughout the county by local landowners, FFA school students, and conservation staff. Basic monthly water samples and data are taken May through October, and include temperature, sediment, pH, dissolved oxygen, along with a habitat assessment to measure the health of the stream. In addition Total-Phosphorus sampling will be included in 2017 at three stream sites. Mr. Wucherer stated that several temperature data loggers had washed away during the August flood event, and a request has been made to DNR for replacements. He mentioned that shortly after the flood event, streams were clear and monitoring results showed healthy stream indicators were present. A free WAV Training has been scheduled for May 5 (6:30-8:30PM) and May 6 (8:30-Noon) for any landowner, student, or individual that would like to learn about the program and get involved.

A discussion was held on Rose Valley Creek (Cochrane Ditch) temperature and fish survey results. DNR surveys were taken in 2011 and 2014 showing temperatures were within allowable ranges to support a trout population, even though no trout were surveyed in the creek, which is likely due to fish passage

connectivity. It was requested that Conservation staff continue working on the Rose Valley pond rehabilitation project and provide an update at next month's meeting.

CapX Trout Stream Project Funding: County CapX Trout Stream Restoration applications were presented for 4 landowners, with a request for \$5,000 each. Project files and plans were reviewed for: Swinn Valley Acres (Frank Berg) on Swinns Valley Creek, Thomas Bagniewski on Florin Valley Creek, RNL Farms on Waumandee Creek, and Rick Allemann on Waumandee Creek. Each project has an approved NRCS design and DNR waterway permit. A discussion was held on priorities and stream easements. It was agreed that a match must be secured for any CapX funded project. Mr. Hillert made a motion to approve all 4 sites, provided a match has been secured. Mr. Danzinger seconded. Carried.

Nutrient Management Data Reporting: Ms. Olson explained that Nutrient Management Plans are required to be written by any Buffalo County landowner with a manure storage facility under the existing county ordinance and any landowner claiming tax credit under the Farmland Preservation Program. Mr. Wucherer presented two updated spreadsheet reports listing status of landowners enrolled in each program. Discussion was held on program requirements and conservation compliance. Conservation staff encourage landowner participation through individual training, farm inspections, and state grants that provide incentives to landowners for completing a nutrient management plan. Recommendations were made to continue updating the spreadsheet list and prioritize compliance inspections based on long-term commitments and resource concern.

Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation Program Annual Report: A 2016 annual summary report was presented for Buffalo County mine reclamation activities. Ms. Olson also highlighted the new Non-Metallic Mining department webpage that includes mapped locations and lists of all permitted non-metallic and Industrial Sand Mining (ISM) sites.

Soil & Water Resource Management (SWRM) Grant Application: Committee members reviewed the 2018 Joint DATCP/DNR Nonpoint Source Grant Application. Grant categories were explained and reviewed. Previous year county allocations were used as comparison. Questions on ranking and point system were asked and answered. The state biennial budget, along with a point system for each county's involvement in Farmland Preservation tax credits claimed, Nutrient Management checklists completed, positive spending of past funds, and the agriculture census land in farms are all factored into the calculation. Mr. Hillert made a motion to approve the 2018 Grant Application. Mr. Danzinger seconded. Carried.

Buffalo County Annual Report Ms. Olson presented the 2016 Land Conservation and Resource Management Department Annual Report, listing 2016 accomplishments, future challenges and goals, and budget tables. She explained that the 2016 flood presented additional challenges to department workload and goals. Additional goals and budgets were discussed. Ms. Olson explained that the soil erosion transect survey results were included in the report to highlight the significant decrease in soil loss observed in cropland 2016. Land Conservation will continue working with producers to encourage no-till and cover crop farming to maintain healthy cropland and minimize erosion.

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

- Staff are writing a state Nutrient Management Farmer Education (NMFE) Grant application; due in April.
- Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Grant application are due April 17; staff are writing 3 grant applications for barnyard and manure storage projects, on behalf of landowners.
- Information is slowly coming into our department in response to a CCC structures inventory letter that was written by the committee.

- Flood repair projects are being applied for by interested landowners, with Conservation Technician Tom Schultz assistance, under the new conservation structure repair program. Approximately \$42,000 has been applied for so far. The committee requested to review and approve the first batch of applications during the April Committee meeting.

Chairperson Report Chair Rosenow commended Buffalo County on the successful Bluff Prairie Management meeting held in February.

Public Comments Not Relating to the Agenda None given.

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, April 12, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.
The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie Olson
County Conservationist