

DRAFT
Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: Land Conservation Committee

Date of Meeting: Thursday, March 8, 2018

Electronic and Hardcopy Filing Date: Friday, March 09, 2018

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

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Mr. Scott Smith made a motion to approve the February 8, 2018 minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Danzinger. All in favor. Carried.

Public Comments regarding posted agenda items: None

Agency Reports: No Reports.

Wisconsin Habitat Partnership Fund Project Proposal: Mark Rasmussen, DNR Wildlife Biologist presented information relative to a new grant funding program. The Wisconsin Habitat Partnership Fund is currently seeking project proposals for habitat restoration, enhancement, or management activities that benefit priority wildlife habitat and provide for public recreational opportunities. Mr. Rasmussen described how the partnership program would benefit conservation and provide habitat restoration at the Tiffany Wildlife Area and at Lakes Coulee Wildlife Area. The required match for the reimbursement fund program would be supported through DNR funding, with no fiscal impact to the county. The Land Conservation Department would be responsible for grant administration of the reimbursement program. Motion by Mr. Danzinger to support a resolution authorizing Buffalo County Land Conservation to administer the grant and apply for the Wisconsin Habitat Partnership Funding, seconded by Mr. Smith. All in favor. Carried.

Phosphorus Water Quality Monitoring in Buffalo County: Tim Wucherer, County Resource Management Specialist presented results from data gathered for the 2017 Total Phosphorus Monitoring Program. Mr. Wucherer described the water monitoring technique, sampling locations, data analysis, and sampling results. Three streams in Buffalo County were sampled monthly, along with a winter sampling effort used as comparison. The data for the Black-Buffalo-Trempealeau Basin showed that out of the 58 samples taken, 91.4% exceeded the State Phosphorus Standard (0.075 mg/L), with only one sample in Buffalo County meeting the State Standard. A discussion was held on the sources of phosphorus, effects of excessive nutrients in streams, and management practices that could minimize nutrient runoff. There was a discussion on prioritizing water quality protection efforts to trout streams, along with locations upstream from restoration sites where cost-share dollars have been invested. The committee suggested requiring vegetated buffer strips along streams, permanent buffer easements, streambank protection practices, other cropland erosion protection measures, and funding to support management practices. It was decided that future discussions will be held on funding priority sites.

The committee shared concerns with winter manure spreading near streams and Mr. Wucherer explained that spreading on frozen soils is prohibited within 300 feet from any stream. All farmers that spread nutrients should have a nutrient management plan to ensure sufficient land is available to spread and also includes a winter spreading plan. There was a discussion on educational opportunities to share these requirements, along with the phosphorus monitoring results.

Garden Valley Pond Restoration Project Update: Ms. Olson shared photos of the completed dredging project at the Garden Valley (Rose Valley) PL-566 dam. The project was successful in removing accumulated sediment, while being completed under-budget. Repair to the dam embankment will be completed as a second phase of the project, with construction to begin in the spring.

2019 DATCP Grant Application: Ms. Olson presented the 2019 DATCP Grant application for review. The application includes staffing support, Bond, and SEG funding. The grant application amounts are consistent with previous years' application requests. Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Danzinger to approve the 2019 DATCP Grant application as presented. All in favor. Carried.

Land Conservation and Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation 2017 Annual Reports: The 2017 Annual Report with 2017 financial tables was presented. Accomplishments, goals, and challenges were discussed. The County Flood Repair cost share funding program was well-received by landowners and a major accomplishment for the department. Both the Land Conservation and the Non-Metallic Mining (NMM) Reclamation department program year-end budget reports were shared and discussed. Ms. Olson explained that due to less activity in mine reclamation, the NMM budget was under-spent while the Conservation Department budget was over-spent.

County Conservationists Report:

- 3 Nutrient Management Farmer Education sessions held at the Courthouse were successful.
- The Bluff Prairie Winter Management meeting at the Alma Rod & Gun Club was well attended, with 53 attending.
- Highway Department has been assisting with tree clearing and brushing maintenance work at 3 of the county-owned Alma Mill PL-566 dams.

Chairperson Report No Report.

Public Comments Not Relating to the Agenda None given.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, April 5 at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie Olson
County Conservationist