

DRAFT
Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: Land Conservation Committee

Date of Meeting: Thursday, April 5, 2018

Electronic and Hardcopy Filing Date: Friday, April 6, 2018

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

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

Public Comments regarding posted agenda items: None

Agency Reports: No Reports.

Runoff Risk Management Tools: Ms. Olson introduced Mr. Carl Duley, UW-Extension Agriculture Agent and she explained the request for natural resource education assistance as it relates to nutrient management and focusing on minimizing runoff. Mr. Duley addressed topics including 590 nutrient management plan implementation, manure storage, and custom hauler responsibility. He suggested a key strategy should include maintenance of grassed waterways with a focus on avoiding spreading through waterways. Mr. Duley proposed various grant funding sources and recommended administering a cost-share program with funding towards the operator, instead of the landowner. Educational tools, including social media and news releases were discussed. Mr. Duley was questioned and responded that conservation programs provides water quality benefit when specific watersheds or sites are targeted. Support was given for trout stream protection and habitat restoration incentives for the water quality benefit as well as the preservation of agricultural land.

Buffalo County Farmland Preservation Plan: Ms. Olson presented the draft Buffalo County Farmland Preservation (FP) Plan. The FP Plan is currently being reviewed by DATCP, as required for certification. Buffalo County's original FP plan was approved in 1983 and until now has remained unchanged. The updated plan will allow participation in the farmland preservation program and provides for the continued preservation of farmland which contributes to the economic and cultural importance of our county for current and future generations. Ms. Olson explained that any farm in the FP Area and in a future certified Farmland Preservation zoning district (ANR-40) could be eligible for conservation tax credits, provided the farm is in compliance with soil and water conservation standards. A discussion was held on timeline of plan certification and approval, which may coincide with certification of the county zoning ordinance in May.

Garden Valley Pond Repair: Ms. Olson provided an update on the timeline for the Garden Valley (Rose Valley) PL-566 Dam repair. The agreement for construction contract was reviewed and executed with

Fitzgerald Excavating & Trucking, LLC (Goodhue, MN). A pre-construction meeting has been scheduled for the last week of April, with construction expected to start at the end of April.

Conservation Cost Share Projects: The April Cost Share Project Report was presented. The county flood repair cost share program included invoices for 11 Grade Stabilization Dams. Invoices for completed projects under the repair program were submitted for: Craig Unser, Dave Fredrickson, Al Gleiter, Michael Schleicher, and Mike Robelia. The landowner portion paid was \$31,337.50 and county share due is \$24,612.50.

County CapX2020 trout stream and bluff prairie project approvals and contractor invoices were presented for the Stettler Bluff Prairie restoration project. The county share for the project is \$1900.00. The USFWS Partners program provided the match. All landowner proof of payments for cost-sharing have been received. Three trout stream restoration projects were reviewed for cost-sharing, including Lee Unser property on Shoe Creek, Gerald Salwey on Yaeger Valley Creek, and the Waumandee Rod & Gun Club property on Yaeger Valley Creek. The projects will include stream access easements as well as project plans designed by the USDA-NRCS.

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Danzinger to approve the April Cost Share Projects and Applications and pay the invoices as presented. All in favor. Carried.

County Conservationists Report: State grant applications were submitted for: Nutrient Management Farmer Education training, Targeted Runoff Management projects, and the WI Habitat partnership.

Chairperson Report: Chair Rosenow questioned the lack of monitoring and project evaluation following the Waumandee Creek Watershed Priority Watershed project (1990-2007). Ms. Rosenow specifically addressed phosphorus monitoring and TMDL report requirements for post-BMP monitoring in Joos Valley and Eagle Valley Creeks.

Public Comments Not Relating to the Agenda None given.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, May 3 at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie Olson
County Conservationist