

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

**Committee/Board:** Land Conservation Committee

**Date of Meeting:** Thursday, September 13, 2018

**Electronic and Hardcopy Filing Date:** Tuesday, September 18, 2018

The regular meeting of the Land Conservation and Resource Management Committee was called order at 4:30 p.m. by Chairperson Ms. Nettie Rosenow. Roll call showed that Mr. Don Black, Mr. David Linse, and Mr. Don Hillert were present for all or part of the meeting. Others present for all or part of the meeting: Ms. Carrie Olson

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Mr. Don Black made a motion to approve the August 2, 2018 minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Hillert. All in favor. Carried.

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

**Agency Reports:** None

**Rose Valley Watershed Project:** Ms. Olson presented a Lidar map showing topography and land use within the Rose Valley pond watershed. Landowners in the Rose Valley Watershed were contacted and encouraged to participate in the cropland conservation cost-share program with County Conservation Department and the Town of Belvidere. Ownership and conservation need were reviewed by the Committee. Ms. Olson reported that Conservation Technician staff has been busy inspecting sites, with 10 new grade stabilization dams signed-up for the cost-share program. In light of the recent funding of the Rose Valley pond and dam rehabilitation project, the committee recommended investing as much funding as possible into this watershed project in order to protect the Rose Valley pond.

**Bluff Prairie Restoration Grants:** In partnership with the La Crosse U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service a \$150,000 prairie restoration grant was awarded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) for a Driftless Area monarch butterfly initiative project. Buffalo County will match County CapX bluff prairie restoration funds to support projects that will increase the quality and quantity of pollinator habitat for monarch butterflies, rusty patched bumble bees, and other native pollinator species. Buffalo County has been collaborating with Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to sign up 6 new landowners for restoration projects. Motion by Mr. Linse, seconded by Mr. Hillert to approve funding the new bluff prairie restoration projects through County CapX as presented.

Ms. Olson presented a Buffalo County bluff prairie cooperative agreement performance report showing through the past Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and Buffalo County partnership, 22.74 acres of bluff prairie have been restored on private land in Buffalo County with another 19 acres planned and scheduled for restoration.

**Conservation Cost Share Projects:** The September Cost Share Project Report was presented. The county flood repair cost share program included 6 Grade Stabilization Dams cleaned-out. Invoices for completed projects under the repair program were submitted for: Paul Lorenz, Kay Metz, Paul Pronschinske, and Mike Roessler. The total cost for all projects is \$23,376.70, with the landowner portion paid and county share due is \$9,688.35.

Conservation cost share contract approvals and contractor invoices were presented for 3 new Grade Stabilization Dam projects, including: Michael Anibas, Johann Bragger, and Jim Lesperance. The State share for the project is \$20,237.23. All landowner proof of payments for cost-sharing have been received.

Conservation CapX trout stream restoration projects included 2 streambank stabilization and fish habitat projects on Yaeger Valley Creek, including one on Gerald Salwey property and one on Waumandee Rod and Gun property. The County Capx share for the 2 projects are \$10,000. All landowner proof of payments for cost-sharing have been paid.

Motion by Mr. Hillert seconded by Mr. Black to approve and pay for the Cost Share Projects as presented. All in favor. Carried.

**WI Land and Water Updates:** Statewide county conservation programs were discussed, including groundwater quality and well testing opportunities and county moratoriums on new or expanding large livestock facilities.

**County Conservationists Report:** Ms. Olson reported that a 2019 Producer-led Watershed Protection grant is being written to promote use of cover crops, interseeding, and grassed waterways within the Waumandee Watershed.

Discussion was held on 4% reduction of the proposed 2019 Land Conservation budget to meet the goals of the County. Several proposed budgeted items will be adjusted to meet the 4% goal.

**Chairperson Report:** No report.

**Public Comments Not Relating to the Agenda** None given.  
The next meeting was scheduled for October 18 at 4:30 p.m.

**The meeting was adjourned** at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carrie Olson  
County Conservationist