

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

**Committee/Board:** Land Conservation Committee

**Date of Meeting:** Thursday, February 6, 2020

**Electronic and Hardcopy Filing Date:** Monday, February 10, 2020

The regular meeting of the Land Conservation Committee was called order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairperson Nettie Rosenow. Roll call showed that Don Black, David Linse, and Don Hillert were present for all or part of the meeting. Others present for all or part of the meeting: Carrie Olson, Kristin Foehringer, Tim Wucherer.

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Hillert made a motion to approve the December 5, 2019 minutes as presented, seconded by Black. Motion carried.

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

**USDA- NRCS/FSA Report:** None

**Conservation Project Report and Cost-Share Contracts:** Technician, Kristin Foehringer outlined the selected conservation practice locations and projects for 2020 funding. She reported that historically used practices may not be the most effective for erosion and nutrient control and alternative conservation practices could address resource concerns more effectively. Foehringer takes a whole systems approach when surveying each farm's resource concerns and talked about funding priorities. There was a discussion about conservation practice maintenance agreements and cost-share agreements. The committee discussed encouragement of long-term lease agreements in rented land and accounting for conservation practices. Education and awareness on the economics of nutrients, soil sampling, and conservation were discussed to encourage land stewardship. Cost-share contracts were signed by the LCC chair for those projects that were extended from 2019 into 2020.

**Conservation Cost Share Invoices and Bluff Prairie/Trout Stream Restoration Project Approvals:** The January-February Cost Share Project Report was presented. Conservation trout stream restoration project was completed on Deer Creek at the Jim Lodermeier property. Total project costs were \$7,700 with the county paying on behalf of the former Nelson Rod & Gun Club for a portion of the project equaling \$3,776.66. All landowner proof of payments for cost-sharing have been received.

Conservation CapX2020 bluff prairie restoration project application was submitted for Don Baloun property. Total project costs for 5 acre restoration were estimated to be \$10,000 with the county share of the project \$5,000.00.

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

**Purchase of Self-Leveling Rotary Laser:** The field equipment is necessary for field technicians to perform job duties independently. The survey equipment is for use during active construction projects to confirm as-built elevations. Olson reported that this unbudgeted equipment package was estimated

to be \$781.53, which was the lowest amount based on four separate quotes. Don Hillert made a motion to accept the low bid and forward this action to the Finance Committee. David Linse seconded. All in favor. Carried.

**County Conservationists Report:**

- Olson reported on the bidding and award for the Tell Farms DNR runoff grant project.
- Olson reported that 8 farmers attended the first session of our farmer nutrient management plan writing training held today.

**Chairperson Report** Chair Rosenow reviewed the committee restructuring proposal. Rosenow had concerns with combining nine committees into one Land Use Committee and the wide range of issues were not related enough to be a cohesive committee. She brought up concerns about how the committee structure may not meet chapter 92 state statutes for Land Conservation Committees. Other committee members agreed that smaller committees are more effective at making decisions and able to provide better input to both public and staff. Committee members felt their current role was conservation advocacy to the board. Concerns were raised that conservation advocacy would be lost with restructuring to a Land Use Committee. Discussion was held about alternative committee restructuring, including combining Land Conservation with UW-Extension.

The **next meeting** was scheduled for Thursday, March 5, 2020 @ 4:00 PM.

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

**The meeting was adjourned** at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carrie Olson  
County Conservationist