

Draft

Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: Land Conservation Committee

Date of Meeting: April 12, 2021

Electronic and Hardcopy Filing Date: April 20, 2021

Call to order: Meeting called to order by Dwight Ruff, Chair, at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Dwight Ruff, Bill Bruegger, Jon Sendelbach, Steven Nelson, Brad Schmidtknecht. Terry Sobotta excused.

Others present for all or parts of the meeting: Kristin Foehringer, Tim Wucherer

Public comments regarding agenda items: None

Review/Discussion/Action- Minutes of the February 2021 Meeting: Motion by Bill Bruegger to approve previous meeting minutes and seconded by Brad Schmidtknecht.

Review/Discussion/Action: Financial Update: Foehringer provided the Department's 2021 adopted budget. Foehringer explained that providing a comprehensive account balance update has been difficult, as last years accounts were recently closed and the Department does not have access to non-lapsing account balances until the audit is completed. The Department has begun internal tracking spreadsheets of all departmental expenses, revenues, and grant-funded activities to have real-time records going forward, so as to not rely on county audit timelines.

Review/Discussion/Action: 2021 Cost-Share Contracts: Foehringer provided overview of the DATCP SWRM and SEG cost-share grant programs, and requested committee approval for proposed 2021 cost-share agreement contracts. Foehringer reviewed the ranking criteria for projects to receive cost-share during annual funding cycles. Chair must sign contracts for DATCP to approve and reimburse. Foehringer overviewed projects and designs/estimates for cost-share. Motion to approve proposal for projects made by Steven Nelson and seconded by Brad Schmidtknecht. Include all proposed 2021 projects on the list.

Review/Discussion/Action- Segerstrom/Buffalo White Sands, LLC: Foehringer explained that the financial assurance bond for this site was re-instated after Corp Counsel letters were sent. Department visited site with DNR NMM coordinator and reviewed reclamation needs. There were three highwalls that need to be reclaimed on the portion of mine that is no longer active, and current reclamation needs would exceed the bonded amount.

Review/Discussion/Action- CAPX Bluff Prairie Operation and Maintenance: Foehringer described the original Bluff Prairie Restoration program requirements, which required the landowner to sign a 10-year operation and maintenance plan, and an agreement with the County to allow the Department to access the site as needed and to allow for scheduled public tours. Committee would like to see landowners who have received cost-share to retroactively sign operation and maintenance plan and agreement with county.

Review/Discussion/Action-Land and Water Resource Management Plan Update: Foehringer explained that there was one planning meeting and follow-up correspondences. Next step is to get the focus questions answered and public input. Responses are due May 24th. This will help to guide her writing of the land and water plan revision.

Review/Discussion/Action-Outdoor Recreation Plan Update: Foehringer explained that they had a meeting to go over survey reports. Another meeting tomorrow to review the draft. Planning process is going well. Kristin said she can send a revised draft around after Friday.

Review/Discussion/Action- LCRMD Position Description Revisions: Foehringer explained that they are updating departmental position descriptions to accurately reflect current job duties and program requirements. Kristin sent the revised versions to the committee. Kristin needs support and approval from the committee to update these positions. Motion to approve made by Bradley Schmidtkecht and seconded by Jon Sendelbach.

Review/Discussion/Action-Natural Resource Internship Update: The natural resource internship program sponsored by the Land Conservation and Resource Management Department, NRCS, and DNR hired Josh Steckmesser, a Senior at UW Stevens Point to start at the end of May 2021. He will give a final report at the end of the internship. Six applicants were interviewed.

Review/Discussion/Action-Agency Reports-USDA- NRCS/FSA: Dennis Reimers plans to come to the next meeting to give an update on NRCS programs.

Review/Discussion/Action-Committee Chair Report: Ruff explained that there was not much to report that has not already been discussed.

Review/Discussion/Action- Department Manager Report: Foehringer shared the 2021 workplan. Showed how they allocate time and cost share resources. Information is reported in the Buffalo County Annual Report. Administering more than nine programs this year, reaching over 30 farmers through these programs and over 10 collaborative organizations.

Next Meeting Date/Time: May 11, at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Dwight Ruff at 7:45 p.m.

Submitted By

Anissa Glaus

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