

GRANT COUNTY LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

November 2, 2010
9:00 a.m.
Ag Services Building
Lancaster, Wisconsin

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vince Loeffelholz at 9:00 a.m. Present in addition to Chairman Vince Loeffelholz were, Donald Splinter, Lester Jantzen, Steve Adrian, Mark Stead, Marvin Kettler, and Grant Loy. Others present were, Greg Cerven, John Patcle, Marlene Sorenson, Kevin Lange, Jared Reuter, Lynda Schweikert, and Annette Lolwing.

Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Grant Loy that the Committee was in compliance with the Open Meeting Law. Motion carried.

Motion by Lester Jantzen, seconded by Steve Adrian to approve the minutes from the October 5, 2010 meeting. Motion carried.

Corrections to Agenda:

Lynda reported that Marlene Sorenson's NRCS report will be moved up to follow the Bob Hansis, TRM Grant Watershed item.

Motion by Mark Stead, seconded by Steve Adrian to approve the agenda with the deletion of Bob Hansis, TRM Grant Watershed, and also the postponement of Lynda's evaluation until the next meeting or such time when the Personnel Director can be in attendance. Motion carried with 1 opposition.

Bills: Annette Lolwing

Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Don Splinter to approve the bills. Motion carried.

Wildlife Damage Appraisal Deadline: Greg Cerven

Greg reported that we need to set a date as to when 80% of the crops will be harvested in Grant County. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Don Splinter to set the deadline date for crop appraisals for November 2, 2010. Motion carried.

Wildlife Damage Commodity Prices: Greg Cerven

Greg Cerven mentioned that we also need to set crop prices for the 2010 crops. Motion by Grant Loy, seconded by Lester Jantzen to increase the alfalfa hay price to \$125.00 per ton. Motion carried. Steve Adrian abstained. Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Marvin Kettler to leave the rest of the crops as listed. Corn at \$5.31 /bu., Soybeans at \$11.77/bu., Mix hay at \$83.00/ton, Organic corn at \$7.10/bu., and Grapes at \$.35/lb. Motion carried. Steve Adrian abstained.

County Board Chairman Report: John Patcle

John reported that they are working on the union negotiations. There are no contracts that have been settled. Will be working on the 2011 budget. The executive committee will be meeting on November 3rd. Full county board will be meeting on November 9th, hoping to get the budget passed. They are working with the strategic planning committee on the 3rd floor of the administrative building. Will be having a meeting on November 8th with the city officials to see if they have any assistance with the parking issues.

NRCS Report: Marlene Sorenson, Acting DC

Marlene reported that she will be acting DC until January, 14th. Marlene mentioned that Melissa Bartz will be the new DC starting on January 14th.

Marlene reported that she is able to have a soil conservationist transfer to help out. Wendy Fiala from Iowa County will be starting on November 22nd to help us out with various activities.

Marlene reported on an intensive program called ABC (Activity Based Costing) which is a national survey. It is an attempt to determine the time that is required to complete every task on their workload. Basically how NRCS and LWCD spends their time on each project. Results have been sent to the state office.

Marlene reported that she has been working on CRP. We have 67 contracts, new and renewed that need to have a field inspection, a conservation plan written, and the schedule of operations. The 67 contracts need to be completed by December 31st. A cooperative agreement between NRCS and LWCD to work on CRP is in the works.

Marlene reported that the EQIP and WHIP sign up ends on January 14, 2011. Many of the same practices are offered. There were 40 new EQIP applications, 46 EQIP deferred applications, and 1 WHIP application.

Marlene reported that CSP is a continuous sign up. There are 2 new applications for CSP. NRCS needs to review the 45 old contracts before they are able to make payments to the producer. No word as to when the money will be available. There are 5 new contracts to review.

County Cost Sharing Requests: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda reported that Al Neises is requesting a cancellation of \$750.00 of county cost sharing for the installation of grassed waterways. Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Steve Adrian to approve Al's cancellation request. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing on a well decommissioning for Roger Frommelt, Jamestown Twp., \$351.32. Motion by Marvin Kettler, seconded by Don Splinter to approve payment. Roll Call: 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing on a rip rap project for Dennis Beadle, Jamestown Twp., \$2,284.50 county cost sharing and \$4,593.00 DATCP cost sharing for a total of \$6,877.50. Motion by Mark Stead, seconded by Lester Jantzen to approve both payments. Roll Call: 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing on a rip rap project for Beverly Loy-Holmann, Lima Twp., \$2,274.00. Motion by Mark Stead, seconded by Marvin Kettler to approve payment. 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried. Grant Loy abstained.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for county cost sharing on well decommissionings for Kathy Wolf, North Potosi Twp., \$210.00, Scott Farm Enterprises, Ellenboro Twp., \$500.00, and Paul Langkamp, Lima Twp., \$350.00. Motion by Mark Stead, seconded by Lester Jantzen to approve the 3 well decommissioning requests. Motion carried.

Due to cost share limitations, Lynda presented the 3 tentative approval requests for structural practices for county cost sharing at one time, before any requests were approved.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for county cost sharing on a grade stabilization structure for Doug Schauff, Cassville Twp., \$3,500.00.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for county cost sharing on a rip rap repair site for Vince Loeffelholz, Paris Twp., \$3,500.00.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for county cost sharing for the closure of a waste storage impoundment for George Robert Egan, Hazel Green Twp., \$2,100.00.

Steve Adrian asked Vince Loeffelholz if he was OK with postponing his project until 2011, with having priority of the 2011 county cost sharing. Vince agreed to postpone his project.

Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Don Splinter to approve the Doug Schauff and George Robert Egan projects and to postpone Vince Loeffelholz's project until 2011. Motion carried.

Lynda reported that there are 2, 2009 DATCP projects that need to be completed by the end of the year. They are Gary Klein, who Lynda is working with at this time to get his NMP done. Also, Alan Lumley's grade stabilization structure which is under construction at this time.

Lynda reported that there will be probably half of the 2010 DATCP cost sharing applications that will need to be extended into 2011.

Animal Waste Ordinance Violation: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda reported on Amos Beiler's storage facility that was built in 2003 without an animal waste storage permit. Lynda sent letter stating that on November 29, 2010 we needed to hear from him on how he planned to proceed. Amos did call on 10/22/2010 to say that he has hired Austin Engineering to help certify his facility. He is willing to work with us. The next step is that he has until July 1, 2011 to bring the facility into compliance.

Animal Waste Ordinance Closure: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda reported that George Robert Egan has applied for a county manure storage closure permit for the closure of his earthen facility of 60' x 120' x 10' to hold 100,000 gallons that was constructed in 1980 by the SCS (Soil Conservation Service). The estimated cost is \$3,000.00 for the closure of the facility. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Mark Stead to approve the closure permit for the closure of the facility. Motion carried.

NRCS Contribution Agreement: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda reported that we have agreed to help with CRP and have agreed to a contribution agreement with NRCS. With the 2/3 portion that we will be doing will earn us \$16,290 in contribution money. We will receive this money in 2011. We receive a flat rate per contract that we write, and we will be writing 45 contracts. Motion by Lester Jantzen, seconded by Grant Loy to pursue the contribution agreement. Motion carried.

NACD Dues: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda reported that the National Association of Conservation Districts are asking for funding from the conservation districts. In our budget we have \$1,000.00 to be put towards the dues. Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Marvin Kettler to approve paying the \$1,000.00 in dues. Motion carried.

SAA: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda reported that on October 28th Vince Loeffelholz, Grant Loy, Don Splinter, Annette Lolwing and herself attended the fall SAA meeting that was held at the Mount Horeb Bank. Discussed the resolution of the WLWCA by law changes and the lack of county board members that have been attending the SAA meetings and WLWCA conference. There was an interesting round table discussion on the FPP. The other counties in the southern area are having the same issues with the NMP's., quality agronomist issues, and just the workload itself to have it completed and in compliance by 2015. Each county in the southern area are encountering different issues and are taking a little different process and approach as to how they are going about getting their spot checks completed.

WLWCA Donations: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda asked if anyone had any donations for the WLWCA conference. Don received a 1/16 scale 4620 John Deere tractor donated by Sloan Implement.

WLWCA By-Laws: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda and Don reported on the by-law changes that are in the planning stages between the WLWCA and WALCE organizations merging together. Lynda handed out the by-laws and the By-Law changes. The information in this packet will be voted on at the WLWCA Conference. One of the by-laws consists of waiving the dues for the county that submits the winning Conservation Farmer to offset the cost of hosting the Conservation Field Days on their farm. The WLWCA and WLWCB both of their by-laws have language in there for the WLWCB elections and so therefore they want to remove procedural language for the WLWCB elections in WLWCA by-laws.

Poster Contest Photos: Annette Lolwing

Annette reported on the poster contest winners at the Southern Area Association meeting. The 1st place poster winners from the local level were taken on to the SAA meeting to be judged at the area level. Grant County done well again this year at the Area level. In the primary division, K-1, Amelia Wehrle placed 1st, the Elementary division, 2-3, Eric Breuer placing 1st, the Middle division, 4-6, Jonathan Breuer placing 2nd, the Junior division, 7-9, Danielle Weber placing 1st, the Senior division, 10-12, Taylor Pickel placing 1st. The 4 first place winners will now go on to the state level which will be held on November 6, 2010 in Stevens Point. Annette asked for volunteers from the committee to help out with taking the photos of the poster winners at their schools. Steve volunteered for St. Mary's in Bloomington, Grant Loy for Iowa Grant, Lester Jantzen for Boscobel, and Vince Loeffelholz, Cuba City High School this year.

FPP Report: Kevin Lange

Kevin thanked the committee for supporting our educational opportunities, such as the Southwest Wisconsin Land Judging that was held on October 7, 2010. There were 236 kids from 15 schools. The top 5 teams were: 1st - Cassville, 2nd - Potosi, 3rd - Monroe, 4th - Lancaster, and 5th place River Ridge. Kevin finally disclosed the location of the land judging contest; it was at the Grant County Farm. Kevin wanted to personally thank Ron and Chuck Abing of Majestic View Farm for the use of their shop to set up the scantron machine to finish the scoring.

Kevin reported that he has been doing some contour strip jobs, and is back working on some CREP sites. Kevin and Lynda will be working with the new CRP.

Kevin reported that the nurseries have been asking for a preliminary tree order so he will start working on the 2011 Tree and Shrub order forms.

FSA Report: Jared Reuter

Jared handed out a fact sheet pertaining to the Crop Assistant Program (CAP). The CAP is looking at the 2009 crops, mainly soybeans in Grant County. Producers would sign a simple contract with FSA. FSA would preload all their information for all their soybeans that were produced in 2009. There are 4 counties in the state of Wisconsin that were claimed disaster counties; Lafayette, Grant, Crawford and Monroe Counties. A landowner is to physically produce and certify soybeans in this county. Producers that have land in contiguous counties are not eligible. Landowners need to sign an application stating that they had a 5% production loss or quality loss on their soybeans. They will use the county average of 51 bushel per acre. A producer would have less than 48 ½ bushel per acre. Application process started on Monday, October 25, 2010 through December 9, 2010. There is \$550 million for the program. Producers will be paid on an acreage basis at \$15.62 per bushel of soybeans. FSA will advance 75% of the total to the producer, once all the claims are in it will be determined if there is enough money to pay the additional 25%.

Jared reported that they have been issuing DCP acre program payments on 2,644 contracts and have accounted for \$4.8 million in Grant County, and is FSA's number 1 payment program. CRP payments accounted for \$3.2 million for rental and cost share payments on approximately 1,200 contracts. DDAP for dairy producers were paid \$.02 per hundred pounds of milk, paying out \$4.8 million in payments. Landowners are starting to seal their 2010 commodity loans. There is a facility loan program that has gone through some significant changes. It used to be \$100,000 and is now up to \$500,000 that a producer is able to take under a loan. Hay is now an eligible commodity. The SURE disaster program has 2 payments, the original calculation and the stimulus calculation. The stimulus payment had raised the payment level and paid \$2.1 million and the original calculation has paid out an additional \$800,000-900,000 in the stimulus calculation. It comes out to about \$3 million dollars that were paid out through the SURE disaster program. Out of 260 to 270 SURE applications there were around 170 contracts that were actually signed. The remaining applications are those that did not come in to sign.

Jared reported that they have picked up Iowa County in the Farm Loan Department with guaranteed and direct loans that FSA has with the producers. The 342 direct loans are made directly to the producer with no 3rd party bank. Direct loans are paying out \$30,231,418. There are 279 guaranteed loans. Those are loans that FSA guarantees and are from a 2 party bank. Guarantee loans have paid out \$56,221,355.

Jared reported that they will be having a county committee election with the ballots going out on November 4, 2010. Dave Knoke will be finishing up his maximum eligible years, 3 - 3year terms. On the election ballot will be Angie Bausch, John Reding, and Charles Raisbeck. Ballots will be counted in December either the 9th or the 10th.

Jared reported that he looked at 50.0 acres of corn with wind damage on Vavricka Road. In order to receive a secretarial designation, you have to hit a 30% loss on the threshold of the crop.

FSA is always looking for new outreach opportunities that he can attend to reach out to the minority groups.

Call for Agenda Items for Next Months Meeting

Next month schedule closed session for performance appraisal.

Other Business

Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Mark Stead to adjourn until December 7, 2010 or such a time that the personnel director can attend. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by
Annette Lolwing for Grant Loy