

# **GRANT COUNTY LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

May 3, 2011

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, Don Splinter, Lester Jantzen, Steve Adrian, Mark Stead, Grant Loy and Marvin Kettler . Others present were, Melissa Bartz, Lynda Schweikert, Kevin Lange, Jared Reuter, and Annette Lolwing.

## **Certification of Open Meeting Law: Annette Lolwing**

Annette Lolwing posted the agenda at the Ag Service Center and sent it to Karla Schwantes to post at the Administration Building and County Courthouse. It was also sent to WGLR Radio stating the date, time, and place of the meeting. Media notices were sent to WGLR Radio, and Herald Independent, Tri County Press, Boscobel Dial, and Platteville Journal.

Motion by Mark Stead, seconded by Don Splinter to approve the April 5, 2011 minutes with the two changes. To change the date from March 3, 2011 meeting to April 5, 2011 meeting date in the above heading, and Steve Adrian requested a change in the certification of the open meeting law to reference who posted the agenda and the location where it was posted. Motion carried.

Motion by Mark Stead, seconded by Marvin Kettler to approve the February 16, 2011 WDACP minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Lester Jantzen to approve the amended agenda as printed. Motion carried.

## **Bills: Annette Lolwing**

Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Marvin Kettler to approve the bills. Motion carried.

## **County Board Chairman Report:**

John Patcle reported that the County Board will be talking about committee sizes and the code of conduct. No union contracts have been settled with the county yet. The recount in the county was finished on Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. Recount was not due until May 9, 2011: Prosser picked up 2, and Kloppenberg picked up 8 votes.

## **2011 Soil & Water Resource Management Grant Approval: Lynda Schweikert**

Lynda informed the committee that we got our DATCP Cost Share Grant approved from the State. The amount is what they had initially submitted \$107,869 for Staff and Support, \$60,931 for regular Cost Sharing, and \$3,500 for NMP Cost Sharing (125.0 acres of nutrient management). Asked for a one year extension of \$22,200 on those practices that were approved and contracted in 2009. The one year extension was approved by DATCP for a total of \$197,500. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Lester Jantzen to accept the DATCP Grant. Motion carried.

**Budget Transfer from NRCS TSP Income to County Cost Sharing: Lynda Schweikert**

Lynda reported that last year when she was working on the budget she requested to have the NRCS contribution agreement money earmarked to be put towards cost sharing in 2011. Motion by Mark Stead, seconded by Steve Adrian to approve the transfer of the money. Motion carried.

**County Cost Share Approval: Lynda Schweikert**

The first sheet that was passed out was everyone who applied for county cost sharing and the practice that they had signed up for. The practices on the sheet are those that were ranked according to the priority, the date that they signed up for cost sharing, and the percentage of money that was requested. Lynda took the total cost sharing that is available for county and for DATCP to come up with a total of cost share dollars she had to work with. Lynda stated that there is going to be enough money to fund down through the grade stabilization structures. DATCP can only cost share up to 70% of the practice. County cost sharing policy states that they can piggyback funds up to 75%. Lynda handed out a final draft of what the total costs of the applications were. By adding the county cost sharing of \$38,399.63 plus the budget transfer of \$26,048.00 to county cost sharing totaling \$64,447.63 in county cost sharing plus the \$60,931.00 of DATCP cost sharing. Lynda then took those practices and maxed out county cost sharing to make better use of the DATCP funds. There were 3 that came in with more than allowable cost, therefore those 3 were prorated to receive the \$5,283.70.

Lynda presented a county cost share extension request until December 1, 2011 for John Ragatz, Beetown Twp., \$3,500.00 for his rip rap project. Design is complete, waiting for DNR permit. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Lester Jantzen to approve the extension request. Motion carried.

Lynda presented an extension request until December 1, 2011 for Roger Lane, Little Grant Twp., for \$3,500.00 DATCP and \$3,500.00 county cost sharing for his rip rap project. Design is complete, waiting for DNR permit. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Lester Jantzen to approve the extension request. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing on a well decommissioning for Doris Vesperman, South Lancaster Twp., \$430.93. Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Mark Stead to approve payment. Roll Call: 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing on a grassed waterway for Bussan Trust, Platteville Twp., \$978.39. Motion by Mark Stead, seconded by Marvin Kettler to approve payment. Roll Call: 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Reviewed a powerpoint presentation of photos of the practices who have applied for DATCP and county cost sharing.

Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Mark Stead to approve all 6 Priority (H-1) well decommissioning projects; for Eric Croft, Joe Kovars, Joan Heister, Ted Ogden, Jeremy Reding and David Bryhan. Motion carried.

Motion by Lester Jantzen, seconded by Mark Stead to approve the 2 waterways, Darrell Crapp and Jeremy Reding, with the priority of H-6. Motion carried.

Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Steve Adrian to decrease the cost share maximum from 75% to 70% county cost sharing. Motion carried.

Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Lester Jantzen to decrease the manure storage maximum SWRM cost sharing from \$10,000 to \$7,000 for John Shea and Lonnie Holthausen. Motion carried.

Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Lester Jantzen to prorate Steve Roling, Gerald Pitzen and Majestic View from \$7,500 to max of \$5,283.70 . Motion carried.

Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Grant Loy to approve County & SWRM cost sharing for all practices down to priority H-7, which would be the grade stabilization structures for Dennis Kaiser, Francis Droeszler, Irvin Muller & Sons, Fred Borsdorf, Al Do Farms, Bode Brothers, Donald Brandt, Wakendale Farms, Steve Adrian, Dan Reynolds, Mike Schauuff, Fred Kieler, Puls Living Trust and Jerry Wamsley. Steve Adrian Abstains. Motion carried. This leaves us with \$3,391.63 county cost share and \$0.00 in DATCP cost sharing.

Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Lester Jantzen to postpone all lower ranking applications pending additional cost sharing. Motion carried.

#### **LWCC Size – John Patcle**

John reported that it has been brought up by the Administrative Committee to cut the committees down in size to 5. Lynda completed a statewide survey of how many supervisors, FSA members, at large members, and any alternates that make up the other LWCC committees. The state average is 6 members per committee. LWCC statutes state that there must be 2 members from the Ag & Extension, and 1 FSA representative. If any committee decides to decreased their size it will not go into effect until the next election. Motion by Steve Adrian to downsize the committee by 1 person. Motion failed due to the lack of a second. Motion by Marvin Kettler, seconded by Vince Loeffelholz to leave the committee at 7 members. Steve Adrian recommended to have a Roll Call vote taken by answering a Yes, vote is to keep the committee the same size. Roll Call: 4 Yes, 2 No, 1 Abstained. Motion carried. Lynda will draft a letter to John Patcle stating that the LWCC will stay the same, so he can present it at the next Administrative Committee.

#### **Farmland Preservation Plan – Mark Stead**

Mark mentioned that at the last county board meeting, the county board was asked to adopt the Farmland Preservation Plan. The full County Board did not get to see the Farmland Preservation Plan as well as the Land Conservation Department. The plan has gone through the Planning and Zoning Committee and not the Land and Water Department. Land and Water Department is the enforcer and that they should have had a chance to review it and be involved. Lynda stated that this is the difference between what Terry Loeffelholz does through Zoning vs. what we do at the Land & Water Conservation Department. He works to get the counties eligible for the program, then the Land and Water take over from there to ensure compliance. Lynda does have a copy of the January Draft Plan. Was the actual plan adopted a draft plan or a preliminary plan. The preliminary Plan is what the County Board approved pending on some changes to be made. New zoning issues need to be taken to Corporate Counsel to make sure things are done legally.

#### **LWCD Display at Exhibition Hall Open House**

Steve reported that there will be an open house on May 21<sup>st</sup> from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Lynda was asked to provide a display, with the topic of her choice.

#### **New Fleet Gas Card**

Lynda mentioned that Mobil has bought out BP next door. Steve Adrian, seconded by Lester Jantzen to apply for a new fleet card. Motion carried.

### **Letter from Senator Kohl**

Lynda received a letter back from Senator Kohl responding that nothing could be done for RC&D. She also got a request from WLWCA to send letters to our senator and representative on our budget issue. The governor's proposal is for a permanent 5% cut in the DATCP budget for county staffing grants. Lynda is requesting that the 5% cut be changed to a lapse or a temporary cut so that the funds can be returned in the future once revenues recover. Letter was sent to Schultz and Tranel, no response back at this time.

### **DNR Runoff Complaints**

Lynda reported that this is the time of year that she gets runoff complaints. The complaint first goes to the WI DNR game warden, then they contact Lynda and the Animal Waste Specialist. Lynda has been working with Misty Morning Dairy, just north of Fennimore. Complaint was that the feed leachate issues coming from their feed storage facility into the Castle Rock Creek. Lynda met with Mark Cain, temporary DNR Animal Waste Specialist and Misty Morning Dairy. Once the facility has more than 1,000 animal units you then need to apply for the WPDES permit. That permit requires 0% discharge, so the leachate problem will be addressed in the WPDES permit.

The second complaint is from the Charles Vesbach farm. He was piping feedlot runoff from a filterstrip into the creek. He is required to remove the pipe and when it dries out he is to remove and replace filter rock and shape the filterstrip. The state will not give money to anyone that has already received money to fix a problem. He was paid to put in the practices and is now violating his maintenance on it; therefore no cost sharing is applicable.

### **FPP Report: Kevin Lange**

Kevin presented 1 cancellation of Notice of NonCompliance for John & June Yanna, Castle Rock Twp. who has been out of compliance since last June failing to do a nutrient management plan. Son, Jeff, has gone through the in office NMP training classes and has now got a NMP and is 100% compliance on the farm. Motion by Grant Loy, seconded by Lester Jantzen to approve the cancellation of Notice of NonCompliance. Since then, they have modified their FPP contract to the new Working Lands Initiative to receive the higher rate of tax credits. Motion by Lester Jantzen, seconded by Grant Loy to approve the modified FPP contract. Motion carried.

Kevin presented a voluntary notice of NonCompliance from James Stastny, Hickory Grove Twp. He did not want to do the NMP. Motion by Grant Loy, seconded by Lester Jantzen to approve the voluntary notice of NonCompliance. Motion carried.

Kevin reported that there were 115 tree orders, and sold 8,265 trees at the tree sale. Iawisil gives us a 10% overrun, and Laura's Lane has us order up to the next 100. There were extra trees that we had also sold and offered the few remaining trees and shrubs to the committee.

Lynda reported that she and Kevin sent out 39 reminder letters to those who were spot checked in 2010 to be working on their NMP. Have heard from about 30% of the people, have also given them a deadline date of May 6<sup>th</sup> to get back to us. Also sent out 151 spot check letters to those who will be spot checked this year.

### **NRCS Report: Melissa Bartz**

Melissa reported that they had 12 Conservation Stewardship Program applications. Went out to do the field visits and found that a couple did not meet the criteria. There will be 8 moving on to do contracts. Did get money for 1 more EQIP contract for a grade stabilization structure. The state has asked for more money but it is unlikely. Still waiting to hear from FSA to see how many CRP contracts they will have to write. At that point NRCS and LWCD will look at a contribution

agreement. There have been many mid-management CRP questions and doing modifications on those contracts. There have been lots of surveys and designs completed. We have a work study student, Mike Long, and Greg Gieslman, the slide scanning person have done many of the surveys and have been a big help. Melissa will be mailing out letters for 33 farm tracts that will be reviewed for compliance reviews/status reviews. They will be looking to monitor if the producer is following his conservation plan and not draining wetlands. Melissa investigated 1 wetland complaint this month. NRCS has spent around \$450,000 for EQIP this year. Grant County got the most money in the state and has also spent the most in the state.

**FSA Report: Jared Reuter**

Jared reported that his mother had passed away.

Jared reported that the FSA will be watching out for HEL, Wetland, and sodbusting for this year.

Jared reported that the building and leasing has come up with the RC&D funding being cut. FSA is the lease holder, so if any information, Jared would like to know so he can pass it on to the building owner. Jared stated that something needs to be done to separate the space from the FSA office. Otherwise NRCS will need to pay the rent until a new lease is in place. Dave is looking at re-insulating the outer edge of the roof. The furnace filters are not being replaced on a monthly basis.

Jared did mention that they may know by mid-May of how many of the potential offers made it in. The last offers were 71 or 72 contracts and 69 were accepted. Grant County was the biggest county of number of offers in the state. JoAnn Reynolds has officially transferred over to the farm loan office so Sue Funk and Colleen Landon will be administering the CRP. FSA is on a hiring freeze, and the budgets are being cut. Grant County is a top priority to get someone hired when they lift the freeze, as they are 2 ½ people short staff already.

Jared reported that they are getting ready for crop reporting.

Sue Funk broke her ankle.

**Call for Agenda Items for Next Months Meeting**

**Other Business**

Motion by Mark Stead, seconded by Steve Adrian to adjourn until June 2, 2011. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Annette Lolwing for Grant Loy