

GRANT COUNTY LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

July 5, 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, Marlene Sorenson, 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, was sent to Karla Schwantes to post at the Administration Building, County Courthouse and was also sent to WGLR Radio stating the date, time, and place of the meeting. Media notices were sent to WGLR Radio, Herald Independent, Tri County Press, and Platteville Journal.

Motion by Mark Stead, seconded by Grant Loy to approve the June 7, 2011 minutes with a change in the County Board Chairman Report that John Patcle, Bob Keeney, and Joyce Roling had met with the WPPA instead of the County Board. Motion carried.

Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Mark Stead to approve the Agenda as written. Motion carried.

County Board Chairman Report:

John Patcle reported that the Ag and Extension Committee in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce will be having a tractor pull on Friday night, July 8th.

John, Joyce and Bob will be meeting with the WPPA again on August 1st.

John reported that the Budget Repair Bill has passed and will be working with that.

John reported that Eugene Bartels passed away on July 2nd.

Bills: Annette Lolwing

Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Grant Loy to approve the bills. Motion carried.

County Cost Share Approval: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda reported that she has an extension request for Fred Borsdorf, Ellenboro Twp. for a lined waterway and repair. Repair work has been complete, but the lined waterway is not complete. Waiting for cooler weather to get it seeded. Requesting until December, 2011 to make sure the seeding is complete. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Mark Stead to approve the extension request. Motion carried.

Lynda reported a cancellation request for a rip rap repair for Vince Loeffelholz, Paris Twp. Vince opted to fix the rip rap on his own. The \$3,500.00 county cost sharing will go back into the account.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing on a well decommissioning for Jeremy Reding, Cassville Twp., \$450.50. Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Lester Jantzen to approve payment. 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing on a well decommissioning for Steven Mumm, Beetown Twp., \$370.04. Motion by Mark Stead, seconded by Steve Adrian to approve payment. Roll Call: 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing on a well decommissioning for Brian and Ann Conley, Waterloo Twp., \$500.00. Motion by Grant Loy, seconded by Marvin Kettler to approve payment. Roll Call: 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing on a well decommissioning for Kathy Wolfe, North Potosi, Twp., \$264.10. Motion by Lester Jantzen, 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 well decommissioning for Eric Croft, Fennimore Twp. \$500.00. Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Marvin Kettler to approve payment. Roll Call: 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing on a well decommissioning for Bruce Fischer, Mt. Hope Twp., \$251.76. Motion by Lester Jantzen, 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 well decommissioning for Bill Hageman, Mt Ida Twp., \$427.37. Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Lester Jantzen to approve payment. Roll Call: 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing on a well decommissioning for Ted Ogden, Lima Twp., \$259.00. Motion by Mark Stead, seconded by Grant Loy to approve payment. Roll Call: 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for county cost sharing on a well decommissioning for Allen Jantzen, Ellenboro Twp., \$250.00. Motion by Mark Stead, seconded by Lester Jantzen to approve Allen's request. Motion carried.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for county cost sharing on a well decommissioning for the Grant County Highway Department, North Lancaster Twp., \$500.00. Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Marvin Kettler, to approve the Highway Departments request. Motion carried.

Animal Waste Storage Permit to Construct

Lynda had a request from MJJ Farms, Melissa Winkers, Hwy 18 to construct a manure storage facility. Estimated cost is \$50,000, permit fee of \$50.00 has been paid. Ralph Hemling is the engineer of the project. Lynda approved the permit on June 16, 2011. Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Grant Loy to concur with Lynda's approval of the permit. Motion carried.

LWCD Copy Machine

Lynda reported that she has enrolled our copy machine in a maintenance agreement. In February, GFC Leasing cancelled the 5 year maintenance agreement that was on the copy machine. They have now gone to a year to year maintenance agreement or time and materials. At that time it was decided to go time and materials to see how that goes. The copy machine is in need of repair. The repair bill would be over \$600.00 and the year to year maintenance agreement would cost \$240.00. We are now on the maintenance agreement this year and it will be back dated to February once they receive the cash in hand.

Land and Water Conservation Department Report: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda presented a tree planting equipment report of income and expenses. The office owns 2 tree planters, 2 sprayers, tree spuds, and pruning saws. Income was \$300.00 and expenses were \$900.00. If we decide to continue with the tree planting program the rental rate must be increased. Lynda will give a report in August as to how each county runs their tree planting program, which counties own their own equipment, what they are charging and what is the value on the equipment.

Lynda gave an update on the Springbrook Financial Software. We still have no computer to enter time and weekly bills into. The holdup at the IT department was that the computer that Lynda had given to them did not have an operating system. Lester Jantzen and Don Splinter will check on the progress at the next Public Property Meeting.

Lynda reported that she has signed a contribution agreement with NRCS for 38 CRP contracts and 5 CREP contracts totaling \$16,626.00.

Lynda reported that this year the Land and Water Conservation Department will be handing out customized grocery bags for the fair giveaways. Lynda mentioned that the NRCS and Land Conservation have reserved a 10' X 10' section for a booth at the exhibit hall during the Grant County Fair.

Lynda handed out a paper version of the power point presentation about the WLWCA/WALCE merger. It will not be decided on until the WLWCA Convention in December, and then to the WALCE convention in March.

Lynda mentioned that she will be on vacation from July 18-22, 2011.

FPP Report: Kevin Lange

Kevin presented 2 voluntary Notices of NonCompliance to Donald and Elizabeth Bauer, Liberty Township, and Clinton Henry, Ellenboro and Lima Township. There is 1 cancellation of Notice of NonCompliance to report; Steve Muldoon, Ellenboro and South Lancaster Township failed to turn in his self certifying postcard, since then he has now turned in his postcard and is back into compliance. Motion by Lester Jantzen, seconded by Grant Loy to approve the 1cancellation of Notice of NonCompliance and the 2 that have voluntarily dropped out of the FPP. Motion carried.

Kevin reported that since the last meeting he and Annette have completed the Transect Survey that we do every summer. A couple of side notes taken while on the route are; the amount of sodbusting that has been done, and also how many ungrazed pastures there are.

Kevin reported that he has been working on some CREP contracts to fulfill the contribution agreement. Lynda and himself have been doing some CRP cover spotchecks for the latest signup.

Lynda reported that she and Kevin met with Harrison Township. There is going to be an informational meeting for Farmland Preservation on August 8, 2011 after their meeting at 7:00 p.m. They will be working with Todd Johnson and Terry Loeffelholz to send out invitations to all Harrison Township landowners.

Lynda reported that the FPP spotchecks are 30% complete.

Lynda reported that the Southern Area Tour will be in Rock County on August 3, 2011; meeting at Beckman Mill County Park in Beloit Wisconsin, at 8:30 am. Will be touring Beckman Mill County Park, a Mint Oil Distillation Plant, lunch at MacFarlane Pheasant Farm, and tour the MacFarlane Pheasant Farm Hatchery, and tour the Rock Prairie Dairy LLC Construction Site. Those interested in attending, notify Annette by July 15, 2011. Those definitely attending are: Mark, Lester, Vince, Grant, John, Lynda, and Annette.

FSA Report: Jared Reuter

Jared reported that there were 75 CRP offers and 73 were accepted. 52 of the 73 landowners have gotten back to FSA, with the remaining 21 that have until the middle of July if they wish to move forward with a CRP contract. There were 54 current CRP contracts that were re-enrolled, 19 were brand new and 3 were a combination of new and existing CRP contracts. NRCS and LWCD will be starting the site visits and conservation planning. Land rent has been getting updated each year. This year's rent is reflective of last year's rental rate.

Jared mentioned that crop reporting is over 75% complete, with just a couple of weeks left to report.

Jared reported that June 1, 2011 is the deadline to accept and approve DCP acre contracts, they have extended that deadline to the end of July to accept contracts and approve them.

Jared reported that they are not getting many more requests for the SURE – crop disaster program for 2009. July 29, 2011 is the deadline to put an application in for the 2009 SURE program. FSA did get approval for Quality Adjustment Factors for 2009 on the moisture and test weight on corn. You can certify to it, but if you are pulled for a spotcheck you must be able to prove that your moisture on average of your whole corn crop was on average of 22 to 22.5% to get the adjustment factor for moisture, the test weight must be below 48.5 on average.

Jared reported that the landlord told us by the end of July – beginning of August he is having a roofing contractor come in because of the icing issues on the edges of the roof.

Jared mentioned that they did drop the square footage because of RC&D relocating to Platteville. Dave is waiting until the roof is done before he walls off the RC&D area. Since the change of square footage, the lease has been moved to the top of the pile and Jared stated that he got a call from Washington DC. May be soliciting for space in the next couple of months. FSA would put out an advertisement, and Dave can place a bid. Washington may offer an extension on the existing lease. Then possibly be put up for an open solicitation 5 years down the road.

NRCS Report: Marlene Sorenson

Marlene introduced Mike Long, our summer environmental engineering student that is in his 5th year at UW-Platteville. Mike is working as a work study student, working part-time. He is originally from Kenosha County. Mike has been doing some surveying with Randy, Al and Dave. He is busy working on designs for dams and waterways.

Marlene reported that NRCS is working with the CRP contracts, and wetland determination issues. Jeff Deniger, soil scientist, was down and went out to 11 wetland sites in 2 days.

They had 2 more EQIP applications that were funded: Mark Hudson, a dam and Dennis Beadle, rip rap, diversion and a crossing. This is money that the other states could not use or contracts that have been cancelled. Will be receiving approximately \$25,000.

Marlene reported that they have 8 new CSP contracts. Jean Stramel, grazing specialist has been down to monitor 3 CSP pastures.

Marlene reported that she had 2 Cuba City girls, Ann Burrows and Cara Austin came to job shadow. Marlene took them around the county and showed them residue checks, weed identification and how to treat them, looked at pastures, and showed them a couple of wetlands.

Marlene reported that letters were sent out to female landowners in Grant County as an outreach program for those women that may or may not have been underserved and also may or may not know about the programs in the county.

Marlene reported that Sam Skemp will be leading the Coon Valley tour on Wednesday, July 27, 2011. Anyone interested in attending, contact Marlene.

Call for Agenda Items for Next Months Meeting

Other Business

Motion by Mark Stead, seconded by Lester Jantzen to adjourn until August 2, 2011. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by
Annette Lolwing for Grant Loy