

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

February 5, 2013  
9:00 a.m.  
Ag Services Building  
Lancaster, Wisconsin

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Stead at 9:00 a.m. Present in addition to Chairman Stead were; Dwight Nelson, Lester Jantzen, Roger Guthrie, Myron Tranel, Dale Hood and Vince Loeffelholz. Others present were, Greg Cerven, Dan Goltz, Rick Lange, Kevin Lange, Lynda Schweikert, and Annette Lolwing.

Mark Stead introduced Myron Tranel who will be representing the Farm Service Agency at this meeting.

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

Annette Lolwing sent the agenda to Karla Schwantes to post in the Administration Building and at the Courthouse, also sent an agenda to Bob Middendorf, WGLR, and was posted in the front of the Ag Service Building. Media notices were sent to Karla Schwantes, Herald Independent, Tri County Press, and the Platteville Journal.

Motion by Dwight Nelson, seconded by Vince Loeffelholz to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried.

Motion by Roger Guthrie, seconded by Dale Hood to approve the January 3, 2013 minutes as printed. Motion carried.

## **Bills: Annette Lolwing**

Motion by Dwight Nelson, seconded by Lester Jantzen to approve the bills. Motion carried.

## **Wildlife Damage Abatement Claims Program – Greg Cerven & Dan Goltz**

Greg Cerven reported that they had 11 participants in 2012. Steve Adrian and Arnold Cuchna did not shoot their harvest objective by September 15, 2012. They were both asked if they wished to appeal the decision and they both refused the opportunity. One landowner withdrew from the program. Motion by Myron Tranel, seconded by Lester Jantzen to approve the 8 landowners who did meet the requirements for the deer damage claims and to deny the 2 landowners who did not meet the requirements. Motion carried.

## **County Cost Sharing Requests: Lynda Schweikert**

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing on a well decommissioning for Ron Austin, Lima Twp., \$404.59. Motion by Lester Jantzen, seconded by Dale Hood to approve payment. Roll Call: 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing on a streambank protection project for John Wiegman, Smelser Twp., \$1,304.19. Motion by Vince Loeffelholz, seconded by Myron Tranel to approve payment. 6 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Lester Jantzen Abstained. Motion carried.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for county cost sharing on a well decommissioning for Mike Padrutt, Watterstown Twp., \$500.00. Motion by Dale Hood, seconded by Dwight Nelson to approve Mike's well decommissioning request. Motion carried.

**SWRM Cost Sharing: Lynda Schweikert**

Lynda had no SWRM cost sharing request to report.

**Ordinance Approval: Lynda Schweikert**

Lynda reported that the original Animal Storage Ordinance was written and passed in 1999. Lynda has been working on updating the ordinance. A copy of the 1999 Animal Storage Ordinance was handed out with updates. The items that she updated are: Clarified the definition and size restriction, Updated definitions from NRCS Standards, Clarified idle storage facility requirements, Clarified that stacks are not part of the ordinance, added new permit fee breakdown, Clarified what is needed for a Nutrient Management Plan, Clarified what is needed for Closure of storage facility, and Clarified certification procedure. There was discussion on how the minimum size to trigger the ordinance was achieved and whether or not our ordinance was too strict. Lynda was asked to see what size other counties around the state are using. The LWCC members wanted a month to read over the changes, so no action was taken at this time. Will bring this back to the March meeting for discussion. Once approved, the Ordinance will be presented to the County Board.

**WLWCA Letter to Governor: Lynda Schweikert**

Lynda reported that we were asked by WLWCA to compose a letter to Governor Walker asking him to support the full funding of the LWCD offices. The last biennium, Walker directed DATCP to lapse 1.6 million dollars of the state aid for the LWCD. The next budget Governor Walker stated that he wanted to make the lapse permanent. Letter is asking Governor Walker to reverse those cuts and return to the 2009-2011 base budgets of \$9.3 million per year in state aid for county LWCD's. Motion by Dale Hood, seconded by Lester Jantzen for the approval to send the letter along with the signatures from our LWCC to Governor Scott Walker. Motion carried.

**Land and Water Conservation Report: Lynda Schweikert**

Lynda reported that she had 9 individuals attend the Farmer Written Nutrient Management Training who wrote plans for 1,815 acres. There were 8 individuals that have completed their plans at the training in 1 day vs. the 2 days that they were scheduled for. There is still 1 individual that is still working toward completion and will be working with Kim Meyers, a Nutrient Management Plan Specialist. Kim Meyers is a good addition to our program, and has brought some useful ideas. It was another very successful year.

Lynda reported that the WLWCA Conference will be held March 11 – 13 at the Chula Vista in Wisconsin Dells. Vince brought a 2008 Grant County Fair, Oliver tractor that was donated by the fair board to donate to the silent auction.

Lynda reported that Farmer's Union and the Farm Bureau developed and passed a resolution in supporting full funding for the LCD offices. Good to know we have support from these organizations.

Lynda reported that on Wednesday, April 4, 2013, from 2:30 to 4:30 in the Ullsvik Hall, located at the UW Platteville there will be a public hearing for the ATCP 50. That is DATCP's law regarding the statewide agriculture performance standards. DATCP is now revising their law to include 4 more performance standards. 1. Requiring a non-tillage set back from all streams in the state. Planting up to the stream bank is acceptable, but only if using a no-till tillage system. 2. The PI index that is tied to the NMP. The PI, phosphorus index, must not be over 6 throughout their crop rotation; the new standard will not allow the PI to exceed 12 in the crop rotation. The new laws will apply to Farmland Preservation.

Lynda reported that she has been working on the Annual Report, for the County Board and also working on the Annual Report for the newspapers. The first draft will be sent to the newspaper today. It will be distributed the week of February 27th.

Lynda reported that she will be on vacation February 11 – 15.

**FPP Report: Kevin Lange**

Kevin reported that he has 5 Cancellations of Notice of NonCompliance; Carol Andrews, Clifton Twp., Shirley Updike, Watterstown Twp., Peggy Storms, Watterstown, Hickory Grove, Muscoda, Twp., Jeff & Dale Kaiser, Paris Twp., and Bernadine DiVall, Liberty Twp. was initially found out of compliance as they failed to provide us with a Nutrient Management Plan in the allotted time, they have now provided us with one. Kevin also presented 1 Notice of NonCompliance; Donald Pennekamp, North Potosi Twp. Motion by Vince Loeffelholz, seconded by Roger Guthrie to approve the 5 Cancellation of Notice of NonCompliances and 1 Notice of NonCompliance. Motion carried.

Kevin has been answering many phone calls from the tax preparers regarding the FPP tax credits.

Kevin reported that he has been working:

- On the articles for the Annual Report.
- Working with Lynda on the Farmer Written Nutrient Management Plan classes.
- Working on Conservation Plan updates because of new renters and on expiring CRP acres coming back into crop production.
- Working on the FPP spot check list for 2013.
- Will be writing another Tree Sale article for the newspaper to remind them of the deadline of February 22, to order trees.

Kevin gave an update on the 2013 Tree Sale. We have 48 tree orders turned in, with 13 of those orders coming from the website, and selling 3,200 trees so far.

**Set Designee to Approve FPP Cancellation Notice of NonCompliance: Lynda Schweikert**

Lynda asked the LWCC to be appointed as designee to approve Cancellations of Notice of NonCompliances. During tax season it would be advantageous to the landowner to have a quicker turnaround with the paperwork. The notices will still be brought to committee for their information. Motion by Roger Guthrie, seconded by Lester Jantzen to approve the County Conservationist, to be the designee to sign the Cancellation of Notices of NonCompliance. Motion carried.

**NRCS Report: Rick Lange, Acting DC**

Rick reported on the vacancy of the District Conservationists position. We are under a soft hiring freeze which means that they will only be able to advertise 100 positions in the country within the next 90 days; 66 of those will be in the field. Each state was to submit the 3 highest priority vacancies. Grant County was one of them. The panel that Patti Jackson Kelly had was sent back to Washington. Rick mentioned that he will only be here until March 22, 2013; then there will be another acting D.C. here for an additional 2 months.

- Have received some EQIP news. Must have the applications ranked by February 22, 2013. Funds must be obligated by the end of March. The allocation for Grant County was: \$206,000 for cropland practices, \$111,000 for pastureland practices for a total of \$317,000 for the local allocation. There is another \$2 million at the area office set aside for the Farmstead practices; such as: manure pits. We have 2 pending. Grant County had the highest money allocation with Vernon County receiving \$194,000, and Crawford County had \$104,000 for their total allocations. There is also \$380,000 set aside at the Area office for Forestland practices and will be competing area wide. Specialty crops will also be competing area wide. There is \$1 million for beginning farmers, and \$670,000 for the Socially Disadvantaged. The total EQIP money coming to the state of Wisconsin is almost \$30 million.

- We have heard that the Driftless Area Land Conservation Initiative sign up will end March 15, 2013, which will be ranked by the end of April, and funds obligated by the end of May with \$1.5 million. This money will be divided into 4 equal pools between the Working Lands, Woodland, Prairies and Savannas, and Cold Water Restoration. There are 23 counties that are eligible to apply for the DALCI money. The Landscape Initiative will be for landscape type practices only. There will be no barnyards or NMP.
- Finally got word on the CSP: there were enough funds to pay the existing contracts. There will not be enough money for a National Sign Up.
- Still no new news on the Farm Bill.

**FSA Report: No Report**

Motion by Dale Hood, seconded by Vince Loeffelholz to adjourn until March 5, 2013.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Annette Lolwing for Lester Jantzen