

GRANT COUNTY LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

May 7, 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, Dale Hood, and Vince Loeffelholz. Others present were, Larry Wolf, Jared Reuter, Joe Schmelz, Joyce Roling, Bob Middendorf, Todd Johnson, Randy Chambers, Kevin Lange, Lynda Schweikert, and Annette Lolwing. Myron Tranel, Absent.

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, Platteville Journal, and the Muscoda Progressive.

Motion by Dale Hood, seconded by Dwight to approve the amended agenda as printed with the change of 2012 to 2014 Joint DATCP/DNR SWRM Application Approval. Motion carried.

Motion by Vince Loeffelholz, seconded by Lester Jantzen to approve both of the April 2, 2013 LWCC meeting minutes and also the minutes from the joint meeting between the Land and Water Conservation Committee and the Zoning and Sanitation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

Bills: Annette Lolwing

Motion by Dwight Nelson, seconded by Vince Loeffelholz to approve the bills. Motion carried.

County Cost Sharing Requests: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda presented 13 County Cost Sharing extension requests. These practices were not constructed in 2012 due to the drought. Those asking for an extension consist of: Tom Majerus, Paris Twp., Dam & Waterway, \$783.00; Esser Brothers, Waterloo Twp., Dam & Waterway, \$3,500.00; Donald Brandt, Jamestown Twp., Dam, \$1,940.00; Brook Grinde, North Potosi Twp., Dam, \$3,500.00; Francis Droeszler, Jamestown Twp., Dam, \$2,951.00; Irvin Muller's Sons, Paris Twp., Dam, \$3,500.00; Joe Weber, Jamestown Twp., Dam, \$3,500.00; Carl Abing, Waterloo Twp., Dam and Waterway, \$1,914.00; Ken Kunkel, Jamestown Twp., Rip Rap, \$1,509.75; Chris Neises, Patch Grove Twp., Rip Rap, \$2,955.00; Doug Schauff, Waterloo Twp., Rip Rap, \$313.00; Joe Starrett, Beetown Twp., Rip Rap, \$3,279.00; Ron Kunkel, Hazel Green Twp., Rip Rap, \$3,500.00. Motion by Roger Guthrie, seconded by Dwight Nelson to approve these landowners an extension to December 31, 2013 to complete their project. Motion carried.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for county cost sharing on a well decommissioning for Jim Ashmore, Lima Twp., \$300.00. Motion by Lester Jantzen, seconded by Dale Hood to approve Jim's request. Motion carried.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for county cost sharing of \$3,500.00, and DATCP cost sharing of \$4,750.00 for a total of \$8,250.00 cost sharing on a grade stabilization structure for Fred Kieler, Paris Twp. Motion by Vince Loeffelholz, seconded by Lester Jantzen to approve Fred's request. Motion carried.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for county cost sharing of \$3,500.00, and DATCP cost sharing of \$3,894.00 for a total of \$7,394.00 cost sharing on a grade stabilization structure for Tim Hilvers, Paris Twp. Motion by Lester Jantzen, seconded by Roger Guthrie to approve Tim's request. Motion carried.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for county cost sharing of \$640.00, and DATCP cost sharing of \$7,500.00 for a total of \$8,140.00 cost sharing on 3 grade stabilization structures for Neil Seng, Potosi Twp. Motion by Lester Jantzen, seconded by Dale Hood to approve Neil's request. Motion carried.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for an additional \$900.00 county cost sharing to be added with the \$1,940.00 county cost sharing that is extended to December 31, 2013, and DATCP cost sharing of \$7,500.00 for a total of \$10,340.00 cost sharing on 2 grade stabilization structures for Donald Brandt, Jamestown Twp. Motion by Vince Loeffelholz, seconded by Roger Guthrie to approve Donald's request. Motion carried.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for county cost sharing of \$3,500.00, and DATCP cost sharing of \$7,500.00 for a total of \$11,000.00 cost sharing on rip rap for JoAnne Gibson, Jamestown, Twp. Motion by Roger Guthrie, seconded by Dwight Nelson to approve JoAnne's request. Motion carried.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for DATCP cost sharing for a grade stabilization structure for Tom Reynolds, Potosi Twp., \$3,443.00. Motion by Lester Jantzen, seconded by Dale Hood to approve Tom's request. Motion carried.

Discussion on Combining Land & Water with Planning & Zoning:

Todd Johnson, UW Extension handed out booklets of the study and some research that was prepared in collaboration with the Grant County Conservationist, the Grant County Personnel Director, and the University Wisconsin Extension-Grant County. There was a staff survey that was sent out via computer to the staff of both departments. Of the (5) Land & Water Conservation staff, (4) completed the survey. Of the (2) Zoning and Sanitation staff, (2) completed the survey. Motion by Vince Loeffelholz, seconded by Roger Guthrie to merge the Land & Water Conservation Department with the Planning and Zoning. Motion carried by majority voice vote. Dale Hood opposed. Planning and Zoning Committee will need to vote on May 16th if they wish to merge.

Storage Abandonment Permit Approval – Nick Mumm

Nick Mumm applied to abandoned 3 manure storage facilities. Nick applied on April 10, 2013 for his manure storage abandonment permit. Lynda approved Nick's permit on April 29, 2013. Motion by Dwight Nelson, seconded by Lester Jantzen to concur Lynda's approval of Nick's permit. Motion carried.

2014 Joint DATCP/DNR SWRM Application Approval: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda had presented this information to the committee at the April meeting. This was not on the agenda so it could not be approved at the April meeting. Lynda is asking for the full staffing request of \$193,736 and the total cost sharing request of \$125,000. Motion by Roger Guthrie, seconded by Vince Loeffelholz to approve Lynda to submit the request. Motion carried.

2013 Soil & Water Resource Management Grant Contract Approval: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda reported that we will be receiving \$102,531 for staff and support (\$8,573 more than last year), \$61,741 for DATCP cost sharing (\$1,499 more than last year) Plus the carryover of \$60,242, from 2012, the \$35,000 SEG funding can only be used for Nutrient Management Plan Cost Sharing (\$10,000 more than last year. There is \$3,111 which is carried over from 2012 which 1 more NMP needs to be written. Therefore in 2013 we would be receiving \$262,625.00 from the state. Motion by Dale Hood, seconded by Lester Jantzen to approve the SWRM grant. Motion carried.

Engineering Job Approval Authority for Lynda Schweikert

Lynda reported that NRCS has redone their engineering job approval sheet. Job approval gives the technicians authority to work under the state and federal engineers to do the engineering practices. Lynda has maintained some of the less extensive job approvals, such as the well decommissionings, and the manure storage abandonments. Lynda needs approval from her supervisor for the updates of her job approvals. Motion by Lester Jantzen, seconded by Vince Loeffelholz to approve Lynda's job approval. Motion carried.

Land and Water Conservation Report: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda reported that she and Myron Tranel worked together to come up with an explanation letter for Steve Adrian in response to his letter that was read at the April 2, 2013 LWCC meeting concerning the update of the animal waste storage ordinance. Myron's reason to expand the size of the minimum storage capacity is that the dairy herds are getting larger and funding to pay for larger storage facility is lacking. With the smaller dairy farms the 3500 cubic feet of storage was sufficient, but now with the larger farms the 3500 cubic feet of storage is not sufficient anymore.

Lynda reported that she also sent a response letter to Herman Maier who was requesting a determination on altering an existing storage facility. It was the consensus of the LWCC that either option was noted as altering the existing facility since the transfer system was a part of the waste storage facility. If he decides to continue with his project he will need a permit.

Lynda reported that on Wednesday, April 4, 2013 from 2:30 to 4:30 there was an ATCP 50 Public Hearing at the Ullsvik Hall, UW Platteville. Lynda, Dwight, Vince and Kevin attended. Was a very low turn out, less than 10 people. Lynda felt that they actually listened to the comments. Lynda did alert Farm Bureau of the pasture issue that they were supporting. Lynda was interviewed by AgriView as to what her position was with the Nutrient Management Plans in the pastures of Southwest Wisconsin. This article then inspired the Cattleman's Association to contact Lynda to discuss the NMP's on grazed pastures. Lynda reported that the SAA Spring meeting will be held on May 29, 2013 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm in Mt. Horeb. There has been an interim President and Vice President, will be voting on the permanent President and Vice President. Those who plan to attend the meeting are: Mark, Lynda, Vince, Lester, Dwight, Dale, and Annette.

FPP Report: Kevin Lange

Kevin reported that Lynda signed off on the cancellation of Notice of NonCompliance for John and Lynn Batko, Liberty Twp. Kevin reported that Lynda had sent out letters to landowners that had been spot checked in 2012 that still need to complete their NMP's. There were 6 landowners that contacted our office requesting to drop out of the Farmland Preservation Program. Those 6 Voluntary Notice of NonCompliance include; Wayne and Kathryn Harris, Paris and Jamestown Twp.; Mary C. Kieler, Jamestown Twp.; Robert Mitchell, Clifton Twp.; Stephen M. Napp, Fennimore and Mt. Ida Twp.; Steve and Susan Pluemer, Potosi Twp.; and Clifford Wachter, Woodman Twp. Motion by Vince Loeffelholz, seconded by Dwight Nelson to approve the 1 cancellation of Notice of NonCompliance and the 6 Voluntary Notice of NonCompliance. Motion carried.

Kevin reported that they have 2 years left to get through the 1st round of spotchecks for the Farmland Preservation Program.

Kevin came back to work after being off work for 3 weeks because of surgery.

NRCS Report: Joe Schmelz – Acting DC

Joe Schmelz, from Iowa County, gave a brief introduction of himself. Joe will be the acting DC in Grant County until May 24th. Then Steve Bertjens will be the acting DC until the position is filled.

Joe reported that NRCS is just finishing up with the 2013 regular EQIP contracting. Also had some funds come through for the DALCI (Driftless Area Landscape Conservation Initiative). This is a special sign up for the counties that are in the driftless area that border the Mississippi River. We had 54 contracts, administering \$981,000 between both sign ups.

- There is a CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program) sign up going on now, until May 30, 2013.
- NRCS will be conducting compliance reviews for 44 landowners. Because of the separation of duties policy, Grant County staff are not able to spot check their own county. Richland County staff will be spot checking Grant County, and Grant County staff will be going to Crawford County to complete their compliance reviews.
- NRCS reopened the District Conservationist position; they do have applicants, but have not proceeded with a panel or interviews at this time.

FSA Report: Jared Reuter

Jared reported that there will be no FSA staff furloughs through September. Some discretionary money came through. If this money had not come through, approximately \$30 million, the FSA offices would have needed to be shut down for 2 weeks. FSA has already been doing a lot of cost savings by not back filling positions.

- Jared mentioned that all the offices will be getting a new phone system in the next week. The phone change over will be on Thursday, May 30th.
- FSA has a new computer system. Half a billion dollars was allocated for the new farm records system. There will not be a server in every field office, rather, there will be 1 server housed in 1 location for all the data. Grant County FSA staff has been trained on line and face to face to have access to the system. Only 20% of the system has been released. Still need to be trained on the remaining 80% of the system.
- CRP sign up is May 20th to June 14th. Everything is the same as the last CRP sign up. Still looking at the crop years of 2002 – 2007 for cropping history. Do not have any final rental rates. An average of rental rates will be from \$158.00 to around \$200.00 per acre. FSA has 200 plus expiring CRP contracts and some of those are continuous sign ups that are eligible to roll over into the CREP.
- Crop reporting is approximately 3 to 4 weeks behind as to where they were in 2012.
- Jared reported that there are some new requirements. Crop insurance requires you to report your fall seeded crops that you are going to insure by November 15th. They will also require you to report any perennial forages; hay, buffers, terraces, waterways, and pasture by November 15th even if no crop insurance is involved. If you don't certify by November 15, 2013 and you come to the FSA office in 2014, you will be charged a late filing fee. Producers will not be able to report the perennial forages until October 1, 2013.
- The yearly sign up for DCP/ACRE; ACRE, you must elect for it by May 30, 2013. August 2, 2013 is the DCP that is approximately 40% complete.

Lynda mentioned that the trees will finally be pulled. Thursday, May 9th will be the sorting day, and the 10th will be the tree pick up date. Lynda asked the committee members to see if they would be interested in helping sort the trees on May 9th at the Grant County Fairgrounds.

Motion by Vince Loeffelholz, seconded by Dale Hood to adjourn until, Monday, June 3, 2013.

Respectfully Submitted by
Annette Lolwing for Lester Jantzen