

GRANT COUNTY LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

December 11, 2013
1:00 p.m.
Ag Services Building
Lancaster, Wisconsin

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Stead at 1:00 p.m. Present in addition to Chairman Stead were; Dwight Nelson, Lester Jantzen, Vince Loeffelholz, Roger Guthrie, Myron Tranel, and Dale Hood. Others present were, Larry Wolf, Joe Schmelz, Kevin Lange, Lynda Schweikert, and Annette Lolwing.

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 Lester Jantzen to approve the agenda as printed. Dale asked if he could report on a couple of meetings that he attended. Motion carried.

Motion by Dwight Nelson, seconded by Vince Loeffelholz to approve the November 5, 2013 minutes. Motion carried.

Bills: Annette Lolwing

Motion by Roger Guthrie, seconded by Lester Jantzen to approve the bills. Motion carried.

Set 80% Harvest Date for WDACP: Greg Cerven

Greg Cerven asked the committee to set a date as to when they thought the 80% of the crops were harvested. Motion by Roger Guthrie, seconded by Myron Tranel to approve November 26, 2013 for the deadline date that 80% of the crops were harvested. Motion carried.

Set Commodity Prices for WDACP: Greg Cerven

Greg handed out a sheet listing the approved prices for last year, (2012) as well as the current market price for 2013.

In 2012, the price for Corn was \$7.37/bu. Motion by Vince Loeffelholz, seconded by Lester Jantzen to approve the current market price of \$4.17/bu. Motion carried.

Soybean price for 2012 was \$14.24/bu. Motion by Myron Tranel, seconded by Dwight Nelson to approve the current market price of \$11.14/bu. Motion carried.

Alfalfa Hay price for 2012 was \$184/ton. Motion by Dale Hood, seconded by Myron Tranel to approve the current market price of \$200/ton. Motion carried.

Mixed Hay price for 2012 was \$145/ton. Motion by Myron Tranel, seconded by Dale Hood to approve the current market price of \$145/ton. Motion carried.

Organic Corn price for 2012 was \$16.00/bu. Motion by Dwight Nelson, seconded by Lester Jantzen to approve the current market price of \$9.10/bu. Motion carried.

Organic Hay price for 2012 was \$224/ton. Motion by Lester Jantzen, seconded by Dwight Nelson to approve the current market price of \$220/ton. Motion carried.

Grapes price for 2012 was \$.37/lb. Motion by Vince Loeffelholz, seconded by Myron Tranel to approve the current market price of \$.39/lb. Motion carried.

2014 WDACP Budget: Greg Cerven

Greg Cerven reported that the 2014 budget is set at \$17,000, the same as the 2013 budget. This is an in/out account with no cost to the county. Motion by Myron Tranel, seconded by Vince Loeffelholz to approve the 2014 WDACP Budget. Motion carried.

County Cost Sharing Requests: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda presented a cancellation request for Chris Neises, Patch Grove Twp., on a rip rap project. Chris received 75% through EQIP cost sharing and therefore is not eligible for county cost sharing. Motion by Vince Loeffelholz, seconded by Myron Tranel to cancel Chris's request. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing of \$500.00 on a well decommissioning for Tom Majerus, Paris Twp. Motion by Dale Hood, seconded by Dwight Nelson to approve payment. Roll Call: 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing of \$3,500.00 on a closure of waste impoundment structure for Tom Schneider, Beetown Twp. Motion by Roger Guthrie, 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 of \$3,500.00 and DATCP cost sharing of \$9,494.97 on a waste storage facility for Lonnie Holthaus, Mt. Ida Twp. Motion by Myron Tranel, seconded by Dwight Nelson to approve both payments. Roll Call: 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing of \$2,471.10 and DATCP cost sharing of \$5,240.00 on 2 grade stabilization structures for Steve Roling, Paris Twp. Motion by Myron Tranel, seconded by Dale Hood to approve both payments. Roll Call: 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

SWRM Cost Sharing Requests: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda reported a cancellation request of 2012 DATCP cost share funds for George Lazerus, Smelser Twp., on a grade stabilization structure. The project has been changed to a rock lined waterway which will be cost shared by EQIP, therefore he will no longer need the DATCP cost sharing. Motion by Lester Jantzen, seconded by Dwight Nelson to approve George's cancellation request. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for 2013 DATCP cost sharing of \$3,439.44 on a concrete block chute for Tim Clare, Platteville Twp. Motion by Dale Hood, seconded by Lester Jantzen to approve payment. Roll Call: 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Lynda presented a tentative approval request for 2013 DATCP cost sharing on a grade stabilization structure for Bode Brothers, Paris Twp., \$7,700.31. Motion by Myron Tranel, seconded by Vince Loeffelholz to approve Marland and Kendle Bode's request. Motion carried.

2013 SWRM Extension Request

Lynda presented a 2013 to 2014 Extension request for 2013 Soil & Water Resource Management Grant Projects. Landowners that will have DATCP cost sharing extensions are: Burr Oak Farms, Ronald Kunkel, JoAnne Gibson, Dennis Crapp, Ron Sturdevant, Bryan Tippet, and Bode Brothers. Motion by Myron Tranel, seconded by Roger Guthrie to approve the extensions of \$6,076.00 SEG funding for Nutrient Management Plans and \$36,130.31 Bond funding for construction projects. Motion carried.

Storage Ordinance Permits

Lynda reported that Tom Schneider is requesting the closure of an earthen storage facility. Tom has paid his \$5.00 permit fee and Lynda approved his permit on October 22, 2013. Motion by Myron Tranel, seconded by Roger Guthrie to concur with Lynda's permit approval. Motion carried.

Lynda reported that David John Vosberg, Clifton Twp., requesting the closure of a concrete hog facility under a building. David John has paid his \$5.00 permit fee. Motion by Dale Hood, seconded by Lester Jantzen to approve the permit. Motion carried.

Land & Water Conservation Report

Lynda handed out a memo from John Petty, Bureau of Land and Water Resources regarding the DATCP Staffing Formula for 2015 SWRM Grants. DATCP is required to try and fund the staffing grants of 100% first position, 70% of the second position and 50% of all subsequent positions. DATCP is proposing that funding the 1st position at 100% must be working 100% on "Conservation" activities. It is penalizing counties that have merged with other departments. Lynda will be sending in comments on the proposal. She has until December 14, 2013 to have her comments sent in.

Lynda reported that Kevin and she just finished with the 2nd NMP training "crediting session". There were 8 of the 10 students that attended the session.

Lynda reported that Mark Bethke contacted Lynda asking if Dale Hood would be a nominee from the Southern Area for the Land and Water Conservation Board. Dale is considering the request.

FPP Report: Kevin Lange

Kevin presented 2 Voluntary Notices of Noncompliance for FPP: Robert N. Nihles, Lima, Clifton and Ellenboro Twp., and John Mitchell, Liberty Twp. Motion by Lester Jantzen, seconded by Roger Guthrie to approve the 2 Voluntary Notices of Noncompliance. Motion carried.

Kevin presented 1 Cancellation of a Notice of Noncompliance for Earl Jantzen, Jamestown Twp. Motion by Vince Loeffelholz, seconded by Lester Jantzen to approve the cancellation. Motion carried.

Kevin and Annette worked on the 2014 Tree Sale Order Form. Asking the committee to proof read the order form.

NRCS Report: Joe Schmelz

Joe reported that the last couple of months have been very busy. Have installed 40-45 structures and have closed out those contracts. There have been some really big contract years the last couple of years. Grant County averaged \$500,000 to \$600,000 in EQIP cost sharing. In 2011, EQIP cost sharing was \$900,000 and in 2012, EQIP cost sharing increased to \$1.1 million.

Joe reported that there are 2 CSP programs: 1. Conservation Security Program 2. Conservation Stewardship Program. Have been authorized to do contract reviews and to make payments.

- EQIP Application deadline is December 20, 2013. We started out with approximately 60 applications. We have lost approximately 20 rip rap applications due to the new DNR policy changes of the Cultural Resources and the Threatened and Endangered Species reviews. Still leaving 40+ applications to be ranked. Will also have a new High, Medium, and Low ranking process depending on the status of the permits.
- CSP Application deadline is January 17, 2014.

FSA Report: Jared Reuter

Lynda presented a written report from Jared Reuter. See attachment.

Motion by Roger Guthrie, seconded by Dwight Nelson to adjourn until, Friday, January 10, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by
Annette Lolwing for Lester Jantzen

FSA Update

Budget

A budget compromise is heading to the House of Representatives and the Senate for approval. The budget would be for the remainder of Fiscal year 2014 (October 1st through September 30th) and for fiscal year 2015. The initial look at the budget shows the rolling back of sequestration which may allow our agency to back-fill positions lost due to retirement.

The Grant County office will be 3.0 people understaffed as of January 11th. If the budget goes through as planned we may be able to hire one or two new Program Technicians.

Programs

Without a Farm Bill we still have some programs that continue. Our Farm Loan department is still working on direct and guaranteed loan applications. We also have the ability to accept/process Farm Storage Facility Loans (for building needed commodity storage) and Marketing Assistance Loans (for taking a loan out on harvested 2013 crops like corn, soybeans, and small grains). The current interest rates for Farm Storage Facility Loans are 2.0 percent on a 7 year loan, 2.625 on a 10 year loan, and 2.875 on a 12 year loan. Marketing assistance loans on 2013 crop commodities is 1.125 percent for a 9 month note.

There will be no new CRP sign-ups until new legislation is passed but we can service our current CRP contracts.

The word on the street on the Farm Bill is that they are proposing holding over negotiations until January to approve a new Farm Bill to avoid another extension of the current 2008 bill like we had last year.

We are currently busy trying to get all producers who have any perennial forage cover including grass water ways, buffers, alfalfa, pasture as well as any fall 2013 seeded crops to report these to our office before the end of December. Any late filed crop reports will be charged a late file fee of a minimum of \$46.00 per farm number.