

GRANT COUNTY LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

July 7, 2009

9:00 a.m.

Ag Services Building

Lancaster, Wisconsin

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Paul Landon at 9:00 a.m. Present in addition to Chairman Landon were Don Splinter, William Biefer, Steve Adrian, Vince Loeffelholz, David Klar, Marvin Kettler and Dwight Nelson. Others present were, John Patcle, Karyl Fritsche, Lynda Schweikert, Jared Reuter, Kevin Lange, Annette Lolwing, and Representative Phil Garthwaite.

Motion by Dwight Nelson, seconded by Marvin Kettler that the Committee was in compliance with the Open Meeting Law. Motion carried.

Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by William Biefer to approve the minutes from the June 4, 2009 meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Dwight Nelson to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried.

Representative Phil Garthwaite:

Had an introduction of those who were in attendance. Lynda gave a little history of the problems with the permitting process for stream bank protection under chapter 30. An issue with the confusing blackout dates with the Northern Cricket Frog, South of Highway 18, and the Trout and Ozark Minnow, North of Highway 18 provides the landowner with a small window of opportunity to install their practices. The Northern Cricket Frog is the biggest issue. The timeliness that it takes to get a permit, landowners and the LWCD risks losing cost sharing funds and landowners paying liquidated damages on an EQIP contract. Due to the restrictions of cricket frogs and trout habitat, winter construction is basically eliminated. We would like to keep the voluntary relationship and trust with the landowners. Lynda also discussed some of the possible solutions for these issues; a blanket approval, the net benefit of preventing the soil being lost each year silting in the rivers and streams and filling up the spawning areas. If permitting continues to be an issue we may have no other choice than to remove rip rap as an eligible practice for cost sharing. Lynda referenced the docket that was handed out at the June meeting and made comment on the State funding issues with the Joint Finance Committee, the reallocating NMP funds for staff, and the DATCP Allocation Plan: NR92.14(6). Lynda thanked Phil for his support on the Statewide Phosphorus Ban.

Phil will be taking the information back to his colleagues. He appreciated Lynda addressing the complaints and also for offering solutions for the issues.

Lynda and committee thanked Phil for taking the time to attend our meeting.

Bills: Annette Lolwing

Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Vince Loeffelholz to approve the bills. Motion carried.

County Board Chairman: John Patcle – No report given.

Cost Sharing: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda reported that Todd Harms, Platteville Twp. is requesting an extension until August, 2009 for his well decommissioning project. Motion by Marvin Kettler, seconded by Dwight Nelson to approve Todd's request. Motion carried.

Lynda reported that Dan Welters, Hazel Green Twp. is requesting to cancel his \$3,500.00 county cost sharing for his rip rap project. Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Vince Loeffelholz to approve Dan's cancellation request. Motion carried.

Lynda reported that Gerard Aide, Muscoda Twp. is requesting to cancel his \$120.00 county cost sharing on his second well decommissioning project. Motion by William Biefer, seconded by Steve Adrian to approve Gerard's cancellation request. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing on a well decommissioning project for Julie Ann Eyermann, Waterloo Twp., \$500.00. Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Marvin Kettler. Roll Call: 8 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing on a well decommissioning project for Paul Reese, Platteville Twp., \$239.98. Motion by Vince Loeffelholz, seconded by Marvin Kettler. Roll Call: 8 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing on a well decommissioning project for Ken Howe, Waterloo Twp., \$97.06. Roll Call: 8 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing on a well decommissioning project for Noble Farms Inc., Lima Twp., \$193.60. Roll Call: 8 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing on a well decommissioning project for Gerard Aide, Muscoda Twp., \$101.58. Roll Call: 8 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing on a waste storage facility for Clark View Farms LLC, Wyalusing Twp., \$3,500.00. Roll Call: 8 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for county cost sharing on a well decommissioning project for Marvin & Chester Haas, Waterloo Twp., \$500.00. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Don Splinter to approve Marvin & Chester's request. Motion carried.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for county cost sharing on a well decommissioning project for James Vondrum, Ellenboro Twp., \$438.75. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Don Splinter to approve James's request. Motion carried.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for county cost sharing on a rip rap project for Dennis Beadle, Jamestown Twp., \$3,500.00. Motion by Vince Loeffelholz, seconded by William Biefer to approve Dennis's request. Motion carried.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for additional county cost sharing on a grade stabilization structure for Steve Roling, Paris Twp., \$1,100.00 to be added to the previously approved \$2,400.00 at the February 3, 2009 meeting. Total tentative cost share request totaling \$3,500.00. Motion by Vince Loeffelholz, seconded by Don Splinter to approve Steve's request. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for DATCP cost sharing on grassed waterways for Darrell Crapp, Potosi Twp., \$6,383.00. Roll Call: 8 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for DATCP cost sharing on nutrient management for Steve Mulrooney, Mt. Ida Twp., \$4,816.00. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by William Biefer to approve Steve's request. Motion carried.

Lynda mentioned that Steve Mulrooney had 172 acres to utilize \$4,816.00 of the \$6,300.00 of the allocated nutrient management money. Gary Klein agreed to do 53.0 acres, \$1,484.00 of nutrient management this year and he would be priority to do the remaining acres if funds are available in 2010.

Land & Water Conservation Report: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda reported that Clark View Farms LLC is altering an existing manure storage facility. It was not originally permitted as it was built before the county had an Ag Waste Ordinance. The facility was certified by a private engineer that it meets NRCS standards and specifications. Larry Austin, engineer, certified current alterations, and Mike Dreischmeier, NRCS area engineer approved the alterations. Clark View Farms LLC paid their \$17.00 permit fee. Lynda issued a permit for the alteration of the manure storage facility. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by David Klar to approve Lynda issuing the permit to Clark View Farms LLC. Motion carried.

Lynda reported that she had sent a letter to the Conservation Congress on June 6, 2009. Have not had any response from the letter.

Lynda and Committee thought that the discussion with Representative Phil Garthwaite went well. Senator Dale Schultz will be attending the August meeting.

Lynda asked if there were any objections to have staff purchase lumber and assemble a box for the back of Kevin's work truck. There were no objections.

Lynda reported to the committee that she will be on vacation from July 13 – 17, 2009.

Lynda mentioned that Jeff Anderson, computer specialist, is asking the departments for information to be put on the website. Lynda is putting together a list of items. Lynda asked if any of the committee members have anything that they would like to add or see on the website.

FPP Report:

Kevin reported that he and Annette had spent several part days to complete the Transect Survey. Noticing a trend for the 2009 crop season was a lot less no till.

Kevin mentioned that he has been working on CREP and sodbusting plans.

NRCS Report: Karyl Fritsche

Karyl reported that the EQIP allocation is \$299,399; funding 28 applications out of 133 applications. Projects approved are; rip rap, dams, waterways, few buffer strips, underground outlet, animal trails and walkways, and CNMP's.

Karyl mentioned that there is a new EQIP signup for the Driftless Area. The signup ends on July 31, 2009. If there is no current agriculture production on the land, landowners need to signup for WHIP. State funding is \$155,000 for 13 counties. NRCS will be doing the ranking for the county, then sent to the state for review.

Wisconsin has asked for an additional \$9 million for EQIP, may go to fund the animal waste applications.

Karyl mentioned that CSP is coming and is a nationwide program that opens on August 15, 2009. Training is scheduled for August 10, 2009. State Technical Committee set a \$15.00 per acre cap, and no forestry practices.

Karyl stated that Marlene Sorenson will be acting DC from July 20, 2009 through August 28, 2009. Ryan Gerlich will be acting DC on August 31, 2009 through September 30, 2009. Marlene back acting DC on October 1, 2009 through October 8, 2009.

FSA Report: Jared Reuter

Jared reported that there will be a County Committee election open house for (South Lancaster, Ellenboro, Lima, Harrison, Platteville, Paris, Smelser, Jamestown, and Hazel Green Twp.) on July 7, 2009 from 1:30 to 3:00.

Jared reported that FSA has a new State Executive Director; his name is Brad Pfaff who was the policy advisor for Ron Kind and also worked as a staff member on Herb Kohl's state staff. Projected start date is in August.

Jared reported that the lease packet has been sent in and the process to begin either renewing our current lease or soliciting new space is probably about three to four months off. This is the lag time that it takes to get an answer from our national office on how we are to proceed next. There is no way to expedite this process to make it go faster. Jared did submit a month to month lease agreement where Mr. Bainbridge asked for \$15.00 per square foot. This is a \$3.50 reduction from his prior request of \$18.50. Jared did hand out a Preliminary Market Analysis packet of comparisons of our building.

Jared stated that crop reporting has been extended to August 14, 2009. He mentioned that this will not change the crop insurance requirements.

Jared reported that the Milk Income Loss Contract rate for May has been announced and it is \$1.46725, they are making payments as fast as they can.

Jared reported that they have received far more interest in extending CRP contracts that have an extension offered. They are nearing 50 percent of the 70 eligible contracts.

Other Business:

Lynda explained her new brochure “Do I need a Nutrient Management Plan” that was handed out.

Lynda reported that there was a manure storage field day at Gerald Breitspreckers’ farm. Lynda spoke about cost sharing, Ralph Hemling spoke about construction, Ted Bay spoke about modernization and organization, and Dave Cauffmann spoke about the advantages and disadvantages of manure hauling. Had a good attendance of around 20 people.

Motion by Dwight Nelson, seconded by Marvin Kettler to adjourn until August 4, 2009. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by
Annette Lolwing for Dwight Nelson