

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

August 4, 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, Marlene Sorenson, Lynda Schweikert, Jared Reuter, Kevin Lange, Annette Lolwing, and Senator Dale Schultz.

Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by William Biefer that the Committee was in compliance with the Open Meeting Law. Motion carried.

Motion by Vince Loeffelholz, seconded by Dwight Nelson to approve the minutes from the July 7, 2009 meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Dwight Nelson to approve the agenda with the change that there will be no report from John Patcle. Motion carried.

## **Bills: Annette Lolwing**

Motion by Marvin Kettler, seconded by Dwight Nelson to approve the bills. Motion carried.

## **New Cooperators and Cancellations: Annette Lolwing**

Annette presented 1 cancellation. The cancellation was from Wahl Mar Acres, C/O Dan Mancinek who owned land in Ellenboro Twp., Sec. 33, 105.5 acres was sold to Ronald and Jeanette Means in 2001. In 2004 the land was sold to Richard Riniker. The 105.5 acres is now owned by Jeff Frederick. Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Dwight Nelson to approve the cancellation. Motion carried.

## **County Board Chairman: John Patcle – No report given.**

## **Cost Sharing: Lynda Schweikert**

Lynda mentioned that last month she reported that Gerard Aide had cancelled his \$240.00 for his 2<sup>nd</sup> well decommissioning project. In error it should have been \$120.00. Motion by Paul Landon, seconded by Don Splinter to change Gerald Aide's cancellation from \$240.00 to \$120.00. Motion carried.

Lynda reported that Alan Lumley, Jamestown Twp., is requesting an extension until December 1, 2009 for his grade stabilization project. Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by William Biefer to grant Alan's request. Motion carried.

Lynda reported that Jerry Anthony, Paris Twp., is requesting an extension until September 1, 2009 for his well decommissioning project. Motion by Dwight Nelson, seconded by Marvin Kettler to approve Jerry's extension request. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing on a well decommissioning project for Fritz Brothers, Marion Twp., \$212.13. Motion by William Biefer, seconded by Vince Loeffleholz to approve payment. 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 Chester and Marvin Haas, Waterloo Twp., \$500.00. Motion by Dwight Nelson, seconded by Marvin Kettler to approve payment. 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 James Vondrum, Ellenboro Twp., \$298.62. Motion by Vince Loeffelholz, seconded by Steve Adrian to approve payment. 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 Todd Harms, Platteville Twp., \$232.10. Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by William Biefer to approve payment. Roll Call: 8 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing on a stream crossing repair for Joe Lolwing, Liberty Twp., \$289.50. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by William Biefer to approve payment. Roll Call: 8 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing on a grassed waterway repair for Scott Vosberg, Smelser Twp., \$1,224.26. Motion by Vince Loeffelholz, seconded by Marvin Kettler to approve payment. Roll Call: 8 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for county cost sharing on a grade stabilization structure for Carl Uppena, East Cassville, Twp., \$2,225.00. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Paul Landon to approve Carl's request. Motion carried.

Cost share report was interrupted at 9:20 A.M. by the late arrival of Senator Dale Schultz.

### **Senator Dale Schultz**

Had an introduction of those who were in attendance. Lynda thanked Senator Schultz for taking the time to attend our LWCC meeting. Lynda gave a little history of the permitting process for stream bank protection under chapter 30. Senator Schultz had read the letter of concerns that Lynda had sent to him on June 9, 2009 and was familiar with some of the issues that were addressed in the letter. Lynda explained the 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. Lynda handed out a docket of information on the Northern Cricket Frog. The Northern Cricket Frog is the biggest issue with the timeliness of acquiring a DNR stream bank stabilization permit. Lynda also explained that the timeliness that it takes to receive a permit is detrimental to the landowner and also to the LWCD with risks of losing cost sharing funds and for landowners paying liquidated damages on an EQIP contract. Senator Schultz offered some suggestions for our office to try with the DNR. We should work with the DNR people, suggested quarterly meetings with the DNR, document discussion in the meetings, show our progress and also show if nothing gets done. Lynda explained that we are already working with Frank Fetter in this matter, but Frank stated the cricket frog issues are out of his hands. Senator Schultz suggested for Lynda to contact, Gary Rhode on the Natural Resource Conservation Board and invite him down to the office to go over the concerns relating to the permitting

process. Senator Schultz thanked the LWCD and LWCC for what they do for the farming community. Question was asked if the state has declared a federal disaster for the hail damage. Senator Schultz stated, first of all, the state has no money, and the small disaster program that they do have has a small amount of money that the funds would not go very far.

Paul Landon thanked Senator Dale Schultz for his time to come to one of our meetings.

Resumed Lynda's cost share report at 10:42 A.M.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for county cost sharing on cover crop (1<sup>st</sup> Year) for Tom Kunkel, Hazel Green Twp., \$833.00, (2<sup>nd</sup> Year) for Patrick Yelinek, Clifton Twp., \$461.55, (2<sup>nd</sup> Year) Lloyd Yelinek, Clifton Twp., \$430.95, and (1<sup>st</sup> Year) for Bollant Farms, Wingville Twp., \$1,000.00. Motion by William Biefer, seconded by Dwight Nelson to approve all four cover crop requests. Motion carried.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for county cost sharing on a well decommissioning project for Joe Lolwing, South Lancaster Twp., \$337.50. Motion by Marvin Kettler, seconded by Dave Klar to approve Joe's request. Motion carried.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for DATCP cost sharing on nutrient management for Gary Klein, Hickory Grove Twp., \$1,661.00. Gary agreed to do 59.4 acres of nutrient management this year and he would be 1st priority to do the remaining acres if funds are available in 2010. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by William Biefer to approve Gary's request. Motion carried.

### **Land & Water Conservation Report: Lynda Schweikert**

Lynda reported that she had written a letter of support to the Selection Committee of RC & D nominating Steve Bertjens for Outstanding Performance by a Coordinator. The letter outlined how our county has been impacted by the Southwest Badger RC & D, which is coordinated by Steve Bertjens. In Grant County we are thankful to work with Steve Bertjens and fully support the nomination of Steve for Outstanding Performance by a Coordinator.

Lynda mentioned that the Southwest Badger RC&D Council is having a Council meeting and project tour on August 27, 2009 in Platteville, WI. Meeting will be held at the Country Inn & Suites from (9:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.). Board the bus at 12:30 P.M. for the tour. Anyone interested in attending, contact Steve Bertjens at (608) 723-6377 ext. 136.

Lynda reported that the 2009 SWRM grant staff & support reimbursement request earned is \$113,828.61 and the total grant allowable is \$106,525. Lynda is asking for reimbursement for \$106,525 would like committees' approval. Motion by Vince Loeffelholz, seconded by Dwight Nelson for Lynda to ask for the reimbursement. Motion carried.

Lynda reported that NRCS has offered \$20,175 in an NRCS contribution agreement for 2010. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Vince Loeffelholz to approve Lynda to accept the \$20,175 through the NRCS Contribution Agreement. Motion carried.

Lynda handed out a draft version of the 2010 budget. Guidance was to have no increase in wages. Medical Associates increased 8.2%, and Dean increased 8.8% for health insurance. Lynda and Nancy Scott will go over the budget and will be brought back at the September 1, 2009 meeting for approval. Budget will then be taken to the Finance Committee on September 8, 2009.

Lynda reported that we are back in the “good” status with DATCP cost share money and tentatively we are approved to receive \$68,000 from DATCP in 2010. This amount is contingent upon State Budget changes. WALCE and WLWCA fought hard to keep our budget the same.

**FPP Report:**

Kevin reported that he has been working on NRCS and FPP status reviews, sodbuster plans, CREP contracts, and expired CRP plans. Jared Reuter explained that about a half of the expiring CRP contracts have been extended. The state has placed a cap of 32 million CRP acres. The state is still between 33.5 million to 34 million acres of CRP, therefore the expiring CRP is not enough to drop below the state cap to be able to offer a general CRP sign up.

**NRCS Report: Marlene Sorenson – Acting DC**

Marlene reported that Karyl had a baby boy, Clark Pearson Fritsche, on July 28, 2009.

Marlene reported that she will be acting DC in August and Ryan Gerlich will be acting DC in September.

Marlene gave a recap on the 2009 EQIP sign up. There were 29 applications accepted and obligated by July 31<sup>st</sup>. There was \$301,721 worth of contracts. There were still several applications that ranked high that did not get approved. There was one Organic EQIP application that was approved. This is a transition to Organic Farming – 3 year contract.

Marlene reported that the EQIP sign up for the Driftless Area ended on July 31, 2009. Have until August 15, 2009 to process one accepted application. A multistate Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) proposal from Trout Unlimited was selected for the funding. In Wisconsin, \$155,000 will be available in EQIP and \$25,000 in WHIP for FY09 contracts. There were 2 applications that were eligible for WHIP funding. There will only be two or three contracts in the state for the Driftless Area – EQIP sign up.

Marlene reported that Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a new program and is offered to every watershed in the country. Marlene will be on a committee to develop a ranking and screening tool to rank and filter out producers that will not be eligible. It is a program that will take some time to go through an excel spreadsheet with each producer. There will be lots of enhancements and new practices in this CSP sign up. Sign up begins August 15, 2009 and ends September 30, 2009.

**FSA Report: Jared Reuter**

Jared mentioned that Dave Bainbridge approved to receive \$15.00 per square foot for the building lease.

Jared spoke about the hail damage in the county. The FSA staff is emphasizing producers to report all their crop damage and to document if the crop is failed. Producers also need to keep good records of their crop production. Jared met with Emergency Management the week of July 27<sup>th</sup> to review the damages from the hail storm. For FSA to claim a crop disaster, a producer suffers 30% loss on all grain crops and 10% on Alfalfa.

Jared reported that they had 45 ACRE applications before the hail storm and an additional 15 applications after the hail storm. Jared is offering a couple of evening meetings to invite and talk about the new ACRE program with the producers. Evening sessions will be offered on August 5<sup>th</sup> at the Youth & Ag Center and again on August 6<sup>th</sup> at the Mound City Bank from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. Once you sign up in the ACRE program you will always be in the ACRE program, there is no going back. Deadline to sign up for the ACRE program in 2010 is June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Other Business:**

Motion by Vince Loeffelholz, seconded by Dwight Nelson to adjourn until September 1, 2009.  
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Annette Lolwing for Dwight Nelson