

GRANT COUNTY LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

October 6, 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, Craig Hollingsworth, John Patcle, Greg Cerven, Kevin Lange, and Annette Lolwing

Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Vince Loeffelholz that the Committee was in compliance with the Open Meeting Law. Motion carried.

Motion by Dwight Nelson, seconded by Marvin Kettler to approve the minutes from the September 1, 2009 meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by William Biefer, seconded by Don Splinter to approve the agenda with the change that Marlene Sorenson will be giving the NRCS report. Motion carried.

Bills: Annette Lolwing

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

Wildlife Damage Budget: Greg Cerven

Greg reported on the 2010 Wildlife Damage Budget. The 2010 Wildlife Damage Abatement budget increased the County Administration budget from \$600.00 to \$1,200.00. Greg Cerven's Mileage budget was increased from \$1,850.00 to \$2,000.00 for a total increase from \$15,550.00 to \$16,300.00. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Don Splinter to approve the 2010 WDACP Budget. Motion carried.

Greg reported that there were 27 applicants for the WDACP. This was an increase of applicants from 2008. Only one farmer reported that he did not get his quota of deer permits filled by September 15th.

County Board Chairman: John Patcle

John reported that they are still working on the 2010 budget.

The strategic planning that the UW-Platteville students were working on has become much more time involved in the research than anticipated. They have decided to work on one project a year. The first project will be the County Highway Department.

Cost Sharing: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda reported that Kerwin Killian, Ellenboro Twp., is requesting an extension until December 1, 2009 for an underground outlet. Motion by Marvin Kettler, seconded by William Biefer to grant Kerwin's request. Motion carried.

Lynda reported that LaVaun Foley, Mt. Ida Twp., requested to cancel her \$500.00 county cost sharing for a well decommissioning, they did not need to drill a new well. Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Dwight Nelson to approve the cancellation. Motion carried.

Lynda reported the Lyle Schauff, Beetown Twp., requested to cancel his \$2,800.00 county cost sharing for a grade stabilization structure, he stated that he is no longer interested in doing the project. Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Dwight Nelson to approve the cancellation. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing on a well decommissioning project for Larry Ames, Potosi Twp., \$40.94. Motion by Vince Loeffelholz, 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 well decommissioning project for Gerald Kressig, Potosi Twp., \$215.00. Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Dwight Nelson 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 John Ihm, North Lancaster Twp., \$500.00. Motion by William Biefer, 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 Joe Lolwing, South Lancaster Twp., \$304.88. 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 grade stabilization structure project for Joel Streich, Ellenboro, Twp., \$2,934.18. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Vince Loeffelholz to approve payment. Roll Call: 8 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing on a rock lined waterway project for Charles Kinyon, Cassville Twp., \$3,500.00 and DATCP cost sharing of \$4,433.63 for a total of \$7,933.63. Motion by William Biefer, seconded by Steve Adrian to approve the payments. Roll Call: 8 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for county cost sharing on a manure storage abandonment for Gary Becwar, Glen Haven Twp., \$2,625.00. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by William Biefer to approve Gary's request. Motion carried.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for county cost sharing on a well decommissioning project for Edward Eddy, Fennimore Twp., \$500.00. Motion by Vince Loeffelholz, seconded by Marvin Kettler to approve Edward's request. Motion carried.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for county cost sharing on a well decommissioning project for Len & Lou Vosberg, Clifton Twp., \$303.75. Motion by Vince Loeffelholz, seconded by Marvin Kettler to approve Len & Lou's request. Motion carried.

SWRM COST SHARING REQUESTS

Lynda reported that Bode Brothers, Paris Twp., is requesting to cancel their \$6,300.00 DATCP cost sharing for a grade stabilization structure. They were approved for the 2009 EQIP. Cost share money was cancelled on September 16, 2009. Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Dwight Nelson to approve the cancellation. Motion carried.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for DATCP cost sharing on a grade stabilization structure for Donald Brandt, Jamestown Twp., \$4,410.00. Motion by Vince Loeffelholz, seconded by Dwight Nelson to approve \$4,410.00 DATCP cost sharing for a grade stabilization structure. Motion carried.

Lynda reported that there are two DATCP cost share projects remaining to be constructed that were carried over from 2008.

LWCC SIZE DISCUSSION

Lynda and committee discussed the future of the LWCC size. Lynda handed out Chapter 92 that specifies the LCC make up as:

- At least 2 persons serving on the county's Agriculture and Extension Committee;
- One representative of the county USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) committee;
- Any number of county board members; and
- Up to 2 members that are not on the county board.

There was discussion of dropping 2 committee members. This topic will be addressed at the County Board Meeting on the evening of Tuesday, October 6th. Motion by Vince Loeffelholz, seconded by Dave Klar to postpone the discussion until the November meeting. Motion carried.

LWCC VEHICLE TO PUBLIC PROPERTY

Lynda asked for approval to send the 2000 Dodge Grand Caravan to Public Property. Lynda sent out a request for bids to the local dealerships and also sent letters to a small selection of Honda, & Toyota dealerships. Lynda handed out information on the new van quotes. Lynda stated that there is money in the budget to purchase a new vehicle. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by David Klar to pass on to Public Property to sell old van and to purchase one of the top 2, 2010 vans from the price quote sheet. Roll Call: 7 Yes, 1 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Land & Water Conservation Report:

Lynda reported on the DNR permitting issues. Senator Schultz suggested that Lynda get in contact with Gary Rhode. On September 17, 2009 she called Gary Rhode, Natural Resource Board, in regards to a letter that she had sent on August 5, 2009. Gary referred the issue to Todd Ambs, Division Administrator of Water, DNR; and told him to get in contact with Lynda. Mr. Ambs did not contact Lynda. Lynda called and left a message and emailed Mr. Ambs on September 17, 2009. After no response, she called and left another message on October 1, 2009. Lynda was encouraged to contact Tom Jackson, to Senator Schultz's aide.

Lynda reported on the 2009-2010 MALWEG Grant application. We did not get approved for the grant. There was only \$100,000 of grant money available and there was \$250,000 of applications. We were 3 points low of being approved.

Lynda reported on the hail damage. The County Clerk instructed us to go ahead and get the vehicles fixed. Lynda mentioned that the vehicles are not badly damaged. The most damage is the toppers and they do not leak. Lynda is to contact Linda Gebhard to see if we are required to fix the vehicles.

Lynda reported that the Southern Area Association will be holding their fall meeting on October 21, 2009 at 10:00 am at the Wildcat Lanes in Verona. We had no resolutions from our area to present at the meeting. We need to know today who plans on attending. Don Splinter, William Biefer, Dwight Nelson, Annette Lolwing and Lynda Schweikert plan to attend.

Lynda reported that the WLWCA Conference will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, December 9-10 in LaCrosse. Lynda plans on attending Thursday only. Need to know who plans on attending and for how many days at the November meeting. Don Splinter and Vince Loeffelholz plan to attend both days.

Lynda mentioned purchasing a digital recorder to assist Annette in taking minutes of numerous meetings.

Lynda requested to schedule a closed session of the department head evaluation at the end of the November meeting.

Lynda gave the employee training report. There was a Working Lands Initiative training in Richland Center; Kevin Lange, Al Neises and Lynda attended; it was from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm; \$11.00 per person = \$33.00; 100 miles in county vehicle; no lodging; meals included; no overtime, no compensatory time, and no replacement staff required.

Lynda mentioned that the NACD Dues are due and are budgeted for \$1,000.00, dues will be paid.

FSA Report: Jared Reuter

Jared reported that they had a building CAC meeting to review the small repairs that still need to be done to the building. Some of the big issues with the existing building are the heating and cooling system, windows, mold behind the wall (fix drywall in vestibule).

Jared reported that FSA will be having a full and open solicitation. It may be advertised next month along with LWCD. Some of the requirements of the solicitation is that the building must meet specifications and have at least 52 parking spots. Solicitors will have 60 days to make offers and all information is closed and will be looked at when it goes to Minnesota. Looking at a 10 year lease. Jared will present more information at the November LWCC meeting.

Jared reported that FSA county committee will be having their election. Ballots will be out the first week of November. Marvin Kettler is up for election.

Jared mentioned that the October payments are running slow as they received a new computer system. DCP, ACRE and CRP farm payments will be released for use on October 13, 2009.

Jared reported that they had 70 landowners that had the option to extend their CRP contracts or let them expire. There were 45 contracts that expired in October, and the remaining contracts were extended.

Jared reported that Representative Kohl & Feingold pushed \$290,000 through the appropriations committee for milk payments. FSA will be taking milk applications and will make payments in January.

Jared reported his staff stayed later to get the August milk payments issued, milk price of \$1.54. September payments will be sent out from the new system.

Jared reported that the funding for farm loans in 2008 – 2009 obligated \$3.8 – \$3.9 billion. They are purposing \$4.0 billion for 2010. Since Grant County was designated a disaster county producers may come in for emergency loans at 2.8 %.

NRCS Report: Marlene Sorenson

Marlene reported that she had spent one month as acting DC in Richland County.

Marlene reported that the CSP sign up ended on September 30, 2009. There were 525 applications state wide. Grant County had 7 applications. We had 4 applications for forest and 3 applications for cropland and pasture. Will be setting up a time to go through the Conservation Management Workbook. Enhancements must be completed to our standards and specifications. Payments are approximately \$18.00 per acre. Field visits will be conducted at the end of November.

Marlene reported that the NRCS payments were closed down for fiscal year 2009. After October 1, 2009 fiscal year 2010 will begin and payments will start to be issued again.

Marlene reported that the NRCS engineering reviews went well. They had 3 that were good, and 1 with a few problems.

Marlene reported that Karyl Fritsche will be back on Tuesday October 13, 2009.

FPP Report: Kevin Lange

Kevin reported that he has a Notice of Noncompliance with the Soil and Water Conservation Requirements for Earl Jansen, Jamestown Twp.

Kevin reported that he will be helping Al Brandt, Lafayette County, with the High School Land Judging contest. Contest will be held on October 15, 2009.

Kevin mentioned that he has been laying out some contour strips this fall.

Kevin reported that he has been working on CREP.

Kevin reported on the Working Lands Initiative meeting that was held in Richland Center on September 29, 2009. He discussed the highlights of the Ag. Enterprise Areas, Zoning, and Purchase Agriculture Conservation Easements (PACE). Discussing the differences between the old Farmland Preservation Program and the new version of FPP under this Working Lands Initiative which was signed into law June 29, 2009.

Poster Contest: Annette Lolwing

Annette presented the posters that were to be judged for 1st Place, 2nd Place and 3rd Place in the 7 different categories. The 1st Place posters will be taken on to the Area contest at the Southern Area Association Fall Meeting in October.

Other Business:

Motion by William Biefer, seconded by Dwight Nelson to adjourn until November 3, 2009. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by
Annette Lolwing for Dwight Nelson

