

GRANT COUNTY LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

January 2, 2010

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, Karyl Fritsche, Lynda Schweikert, Jared Reuter, John Patcle, Craig Hollingsworth, Kevin Lange, and Annette Lolwing.

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

Motion by Dwight Nelson, seconded by David Klar to approve the minutes from the December 1, 2009 meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Dwight Nelson, seconded by William Biefer to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried.

Bills: Annette Lolwing

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

County Board Chairman: John Patcle

John reported that 7 of the current county board members took out non candidacy papers. There was 1 new individual that had taken out candidacy papers. Time spent on upcoming meetings may tend to be a factor that the younger members are leaving the board. Deadline to turn in candidacy papers is January 5, 2010.

Cost Sharing: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda reviewed 2009 cost share and carryover amounts. She explained that \$4,222.52 was unallocated in 2009 and that \$57,646.25 is the amount allocated to projects that have not yet been constructed. This brings the 2009 carryover to \$61,868.77. The 2010 starting balance is \$46,570 budgeted plus the \$4,222.52 unallocated from 2009 brings the total starting balance to \$50,792.52.

Lynda reference the DATCP cost sharing packet. We will have \$13,119.75 carryover from 2009 to 2010; this money is for 4 practices that have not yet been installed. DATCP has not finalized the allocation of cost share. The preliminary allocation of \$62,926.00 was sent to the Land and Water Conservation Board.

Lynda reported that Alan Lumley, Jamestown Twp., \$3,500.00, is requesting an extension until December 1, 2010 for his grade stabilization structure. Project is near completion. Motion by William Biefer, seconded by Don Splinter to grant Alan's request. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing on a well decommissioning project for Jasen Millen, North Wyalusing Twp., \$236.50. Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by David Klar to approve payment. Roll Call: 8 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Building Lease

Lynda reported that NRCS will not be including us in their portion of the lease. LWCD billing cost is based on \$15.00/sq. ft. or \$1,500.00 per month or \$18,000.00 per year. Previous cost was \$12.50 sq. ft. Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Vince Loeffleholz to approve the LWCC to sign and continue with the month to month lease for the building. Roll Call: 8 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

WLWCA Conference Report

Lynda reported that Don and Vince attended the WLWCA Conference in Lacrosse. Some of the speakers did not make it because of the inclement weather. There was no quorum for the business meeting. We did receive a partial refund for Bill and Lynda who did not attend. Don Splinter received a 1:16 scale John Deere tractor donated from Sloan's, Cuba City for the WLWCA auction.

Lynda handed out a letter from Julian Zelazny, Executive Director of the WI Land & Water Conservation Association. Julian worked $\frac{3}{4}$ time in 2009, but will no longer be able to work for that in 2010. Julian has accomplished many good things for the Land and Water Conservation Departments. He was able to defeat each proposal to cut from the staffing grant allocated to the county LCD's. He saved our county \$18,000 for staff and support. For us to be able to keep Julian as the Executive Director, it has been requested for each county to pay an additional \$800.00 dues increase in 2010. Lynda was encouraged to look at our budget and come back to the February meeting with a recommendation on whether we can pay this increase.

High School Intern

Lynda reported that Chuck Rasmussen, Lancaster Ag Instructor had contacted her to inquire if the LWCD would be interested in having a student work from January 25, 2010 to May 28, 2010 (17 weeks) from 9:00 to 11:30 am everyday. There is no money in the budget to fund a student. Lynda is to contact Steve Bertjens to see if he has any money to fund a student. Lynda is to contact Chuck Rasmussen to discuss the format that he should consider if he has a student in the future that is interested in working in our office.

FPP Report: Kevin Lange

Kevin reported that he has a cancellation of Notice of Noncompliance with the Soil and Water Conservation Requirements for Menke Real Estate Partnership, Castle Rock Twp.

Kevin reported that he has sent out 6 Notice of Noncompliances with the Soil and Water Conservation Requirements to Carl Kite, Wingville Twp.; Daniel and Rita Kite, Wingville Twp.; Alfred Freymiller, Marion Twp.; James Bailey, Mount Ida Twp.; Dennis Crapp, Potosi and South Lancaster Twp.; and David Borntrager, Clifton Twp. These 6 landowners were spot checked in 2008 and were allowed 1 year to get a NMP or any other required practice completed in 2009 for them to stay in compliance with FPP. The landowners had received 3 letters in 2009 reminding them what they need to do to stay in compliance with FPP.

Kevin reported that he has 5 landowners that have voluntarily signed the Notice of NonParticipation with the Soil and Water Conservation Requirements from Dennis Cooley, South Lancaster Twp.; Van Bogart Trust and Van Bogart Credit Shelter Trust, Potosi Twp.; Theron Pretzsch, Ellenboro Twp.; David Gehrke, Fennimore Twp.; and Thomas Gildersleeve, Fennimore and Mount Ida Twp. These landowners were spot checked in 2009 and have voluntarily decided not to claim the tax credits under the Farmland Preservation Program. All spot checks were done on the farm with the landowner. FPP and the new Working Lands Initiative was explained to all of them.

Kevin reported that he has 1 landowner, Doug Needham, Clifton, Fennimore, Liberty and Wingville Twp. that has not allowed us to do an on the farm assessment, therefore a Notice of Noncompliance will be issued. Copies of all the Notice of Noncompliance documents get sent to the Internal Revenue Service, Sandy Weisensel, DATCP, and Terry Loeffelholz, the Zoning Administrator.

Lynda mentioned that a meeting is being planned in late April early May to invite the 792 landowners that are in FPP to explain the new Working Lands Initiative Program that is replacing the FPP. Working Lands Initiative Program has been law since July 1, 2009.

Lynda reported that there are 5 landowners/renters that are attending the farmer written NMP training sessions. Upcoming training sessions are December 17, 2009, Monday, January 11, and on Friday, January 15th 2010.

NRCS Report: Karyl Fritsche

Karyl passed around a sheet from Patti Jackson Kelly that summarizes what we had done in 2009. The sheet shows the dollar amount that NRCS has spent and the amount of money that the area received and the amount of money that the state has received.

Karyl reported that all organic will have a separate pool on money, but will be included in the regular EQIP this year.

Karyl reported that they have revamped the EQIP sign up this year. This year we will have a cropland pool, a pasture pool, a farmstead pool, and a forest pool of money. Forestland, farmstead and organic will be staying at the area office. Manure storage will be competing area wide rather than state wide. Hopefully the money will be distributed more evenly. Cropland and pasture will stay local so we still will have some control over what practices are eligible and what practices are not. Forestland is going to be an area wide eligible practice list. Karyl reviewed the local ranking questions worth 150 points for the cropland pool, and also reviewed the local ranking questions worth 150 points for the pastureland pool. Will still set stream crossings and rip rap at a low priority for one year, especially knowing that Frank Fetter is leaving. The official EQIP signup will open on January 15th through February 15th. NRCS will try to get all the contracting of funds done by April 1st. We have around 50 people signed up.

Karyl reported on the CSP Payments. NRCS will be doing payments at the end of February 2010.

Karyl reported that she has resigned from her position and has taken a part time position in Prairie Du Chien. She wanted to spend a little more time at home. Karyl will be here part time on Tuesdays and Thursdays until they fill her position.

FSA Report: Jared Reuter

Jared reported on DELP (Dairy Economic Loss Program) was like a dairy stimulus payment that was based on February, 2009 to July, 2009 milk pounds x 2 to come up with a yearly amount of pounds of milk. The DELP payment of \$.32 increased the dairy payments. Maximum payment in Grant County was \$19,200. On December 21st FSA paid out 2.2 million dollars to dairy producers. 57 million was issued in the state of Wisconsin. The National amount issued was \$290 million.

Jared congratulated Marvin Kettler who won the election; he will be with the FSA for another 3 years.

Jared reported that FSA is working on the November milk payment of \$.36. FSA may be done making milk payments.

Jared reported that they have started the disaster program for 2008 crop losses. They will start taking applications once the county committee sets some yields and some reports that are to be received from the crop insurance. This is not going to be based by farm, by crop, by unit, it is all you're your farming interest, all your crops lumped together for an average farm revenue.

Jared reported on the BCAP (Biomass Conversion Assistance Program) not a lot going on with this in Grant County. One phase pays for the storage and transportation and harvesting the woody biomass. Aggregator (renter) has a contract with the landowner, and takes the material off the land. FSA will match their payment with a maximum of \$45.00. There is now an approved facility in Cassville called DT&E Stolman (lower power plant). At this time they are able to accept logs and wood chips. The second phase of the program is to help establish renewable products like switchgrass.

Jared mentioned that they are looking for minority advisors for their county committee. There will be an open house on January 27, 2010. Minority advisor must have knowledge of the farming business.

Call for Agenda Items for Next Months Meeting

1. Wildlife Damage – Deer Damage

Other Business

Craig commented that the logging prices are still down.

Motion by Vince Loeffelholz, seconded by Marvin Kettler to adjourn until February 2, 2010. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by
Annette Lolwing for Dwight Nelson