

GRANT COUNTY LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

March 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 Paul Landon were, Donald 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, Terry Loeffelholz, Craig Hollingsworth, Kevin Lange, and Annette Lolwing.

Motion by Donald Splinter, 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 February 2, 2010 meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by William Biefer, seconded by David Klar to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried.

Bills: Annette Lolwing

Motion by Vince Loeffelholz, seconded by William Biefer to approve the bills. Motion carried.

County Board Chairman: John Patcle

John reported that they are anticipating the big election coming up in April. The ERC will be starting to look at what can be done with union negotiations that will be coming in towards the middle of the year.

County Cost Sharing: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing on a well decommissioning project for John Carmody, Mount Hope Twp., \$408.00. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Dwight Nelson to approve payment. Roll Call: 8 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for county cost sharing on a well decommissioning for Luebker Investment LLC, Woodman Twp., \$500.00. Motion by Vince Loeffelholz, seconded by William Biefer to approve Luebker Investment LLC's request. Motion carried.

SWRM Cost-Sharing Requests – Lynda Schweikert

No SWRM cost-sharing to report.

NR 151 Public Hearing

Lynda reported on the NR 151 revision of state wide performance standards. William Biefer and David Klar attended the public hearing on February 25, 2010. Lynda presented a packet of NR151 fact sheets and has developed some comments and concerns regarding those fact sheets for the committee to review and submit to the DNR. Motion by William Biefer, seconded by David Klar to send

Lynda's letter to serve as public comment in opposition for NR 151 from the Grant County Land and Water Conservation Committee. Committee recommended Lynda to send a copy of the letter along with the NR 151 comments and concerns to Phil Garthwaite, and Dale Schultz. Motion carried.

Working Lands Initiative

Lynda reported that there will be a WLI informational meeting on Wednesday March 10th, from 2-4 and again from 6 – 8 at the Youth & Ag. Building. It is highly recommended that all committee members attend the meeting. The County Board has approved to spend the money on developing the new Farmland Preservation Plan. The office will have an increase in workload with the Compliance Assessments. We will be spot checking the Farmland Preservation Participants first to make sure they are in compliance so they can continue receiving their tax credits. At that time the FPP participants will be required to incorporate a NMP to stay in compliance with the FPP/WLI program.

Lynda reported that there will be 115 landowners that will be spot checked in 2010. We have increased the amount of spot checks so we can get through all the FPP applicants by 2015.

Kevin mentioned that most of the FPP contracts will be expiring within the next few years. Therefore the staff will be concentrating on spot checking those landowners that are in the zoned townships first.

Terry Loeffelholz mentioned that the following 5 townships: Muscoda, Marion, Mt Ida, Beetown, and Glen Haven, have chosen not to do a comprehensive plan. One township, Mount Ida, is zoned exclusive ag. and has chosen not to do a comprehensive plan. The townships have had the last 5 years to have a comprehensive plan written and in place. Mount Ida has chosen to do a resolution to not write a comprehensive plan. As of January 1, 2011, there will be 88 participants in Mount Ida that will not be able to collect FPP tax credits.

Terry reported on the Ag enterprise areas. This is where at least 5 landowners with contiguous land sign up for an agriculture enterprise area and also sign up for a 15 year contract. If they do this, they are eligible for \$5.00 per acre back on their taxes. Garthwaite's office called and mentioned that they and the Department of Ag Trade and Consumer Protection had heard that Grant County has allocated the \$60,000 to write the comprehensive plan. Garthwaite said that it would look very favorable if they would put an agriculture enterprise area in Grant County. The state is accepting 15 agriculture enterprise areas in the next 2 years up to \$200,000 acres. After 2012 it jumps up to 1-2 million acres. If there are any landowners that are interested in starting an agriculture enterprise area they would need to bring it before the Land and Water Conservation Department first, then to the county zoning department and then will be sent on to DATCP in Madison for their approval or disapproval. A comprehensive revision is needed to have land annexed into the city and no conversion fee is charged.

Tree Sale: Kevin Lange

Kevin reported that the 2010 tree sale is up considerably this year. In 2009 we had 110 tree orders selling 9,275 trees. In 2010 we have 158 orders, selling 13,500 trees. We received 30 website orders, which is 19% of our total orders in 2010. The increase of the tree sales could possibly be the sale of smaller bundles.

FPP Report: Kevin Lange

Kevin mentioned that he and Lynda mailed out 716 FPP letters with self certification post cards enclosed. We received 315 post cards back. The 401 postcards that are not returned will be sent a Notice of Non Compliance.

Kevin reported that he has mailed the area schools letters to see if they are interested in Church Litanies for the Soil Stewardship week, Arbor Day Trees for the schools and activity books for the 4th graders.

Kevin reported that he has a voluntary Notice of Nonparticipation or Notice of Noncompliance with the Land and Water Conservation Requirements for James and Susan Weigel, Platteville Twp.

Kevin reported that he has a Cancellation of Notice of Noncompliance with Soil and Water Conservation Requirements: Dennis Crapp, Potosi and South Lancaster Twp. Dennis has met his requirements for the FPP Program.

Kevin reported that he has worked with Chris Baxter, UW-Platteville, to have 5 of his students go out and take soil samples and then write the NMP for those farms. We had 5 in office NMP written plans. There were also 4 with federal cost sharing and 1 with manure storage.

NRCS Report: Karyl Fritsche

Karyl reported that they are ranking EQIP applications at this time. At the April meeting we should know who is funded and who is not funded. EQIP contracts need to be signed by April 1, 2010.

Karyl reported that Patti Jackson Kelly will be here for the April meeting.

Advertisement for Karyl's position will close today, March 2, 2010. It will take about a month before an individual is hired. Pattie has allowed Lynda to be on the interview panel

Forestry Update: Craig Hollingsworth

Craig presented a powerpoint presentation regarding what is happening with Woody Biofuel Harvesting. There was a field day in the Tomah area that showed photos of slash being harvested. It showed how the contractors go in to an area of trees and chip the dead slash from the forest lands. Grant County does have a place to take the slash wood. The slash may be taken to the lower power plant in Cassville, called the Stohlmann plant.

FSA Report: Jared Reuter

Jared introduced John Beam as the new county office trainee at the FSA for the next 3 months.

Jared reported that there will be a general Nationwide CRP signup this summer right during the crop certification period. The cropping history years will be changing to 2002 – 2007. There has not been a general CRP sign up in the last 3 years. There are a lot of landowners with a quite a few acres expiring from CRP.

Jared reported that the deadline to sign up for DCP is June 1, 2010.

Jared reported that the crop disaster program for 2008 is moving forward and they are making payments. One of the big requirements for that program is to have crop insurance. If you have crops that need crop insurance the deadline to sign up for crop insurance is March 15, 2010 to be eligible for disaster payments if Grant County is declared a secretarial disaster in 2011. Payments were based on crop insurance and yields, what your losses were, and have a 10% production loss on your major crop.

Jared reported on the leasing issue. They said they would be advertising by March 1, 2010, but are still waiting to have our packet approved by GSA. Once GSA approves the packet, Jared and Lynda will get together and discussed how they are going to advertise.

Call for Agenda Items for Next Months Meeting

WLI

Other Business

Lynda reported that we had a compliment from a county board member in Lafayette County stating that he had seen our Annual Report and thought that is was really nice. He requested 7 more copies to show to their LWCC.

Motion by Dwight Nelson, seconded by Marvin Kettler to adjourn until April 6, 2010. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by
Annette Lolwing for Dwight Nelson