

GRANT COUNTY LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

May 4, 2010
9:00 a.m.
Ag Services Building
Lancaster, Wisconsin

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vince Loeffelholz at 9:00 a.m. Present in addition to Chairman Vince Loeffelholz were, Donald Splinter, Lester Jantzen, Steve Adrian, Mark Stead, Marvin Kettler, and Grant Loy. Others present were, Karyl Fritsche, John Patcle, Kevin Lange, Jared Reuter, Craig Hollingsworth, Lynda Schweikert and Annette Lolwing.

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

Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Lester Jantzen to approve the minutes from the April 6, 2010 meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Marvin Kettler to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried.

Bills: Annette Lolwing

Motion by Grant Loy, seconded by Don Splinter to approve the bills. Motion carried.

County Board Chairman: John Patcle

John reported that he had called JoAnn Millhouse to inquire how well she is recovering from her automobile accident. She has a broken ankle and some broken ribs. She is planning on getting home this week. She wants to be back to work by the second week of June.

John reported that they have the committee's divided up. There will be a hearing on May 11, at 8:15 a.m. for Julia Clark and Dwight Nelson to see who will win the election for district 12. Todd Infield will be representing the County. This issue has not happened before, this is a learning experience for everyone.

County Cost Sharing: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda reported that the LWCD is co-located with the NRCS, Federal, office and they do the same thing as the LWCD. LWCD has 3 different pots of cost share money: 1. The larger cost share practices are guided toward the NRCS EQIP funding as it is a larger pot of money. 2. The next pot of money is DATCP funds that come from the state, and the county allocates that money. This year we received around \$62,926 from DATCP for 2010 cost sharing. 3. The next pot of money is funds that the county allocates for cost sharing as well. This year we received \$46,570 from county. Lynda reviewed the county cost share policy, the general cost share rates, and the county cost sharing priorities and rankings.

Lynda reported on the final approval request procedure for those landowners that have completed their projects. The producer pays the contractor, and provides us with a paid receipt. Lynda then brings it to the committee for final approval at the next month's meeting. Lynda shows a power point presentation of the before and after construction photos of the project. Photos show what the practices are and what is going on out on the land.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing on a streambank protection (rip rap) project for Chris Neises, Patch Grove Twp., \$3,307.50. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Grant Loy to approve payment. Roll Call: 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Lynda presented tentative approval requests for county cost sharing on well decommissioning projects for Dan & Judy VanNatta, Smelser Twp., \$448.88; Doug Scott, Bloomington Twp., \$135.00; Wilfred Budack, Liberty Twp., \$500.00; and Bernard Keller, Liberty Twp., \$337.50. Motion by Lester Jantzen, seconded by Mark Stead to approve all 4 tentative approval requests. Motion carried.

The next tentative approval requests for county cost sharing are those applications that were postponed from the April meeting to be brought back to the May meeting. DATCP and county cost sharing are allowed to double up or piggyback so they are allowed to receive state and county cost sharing as long as they don't go over the maximum of 70%. We do have a cap of \$7,500.00 for the DATCP portion of cost sharing and a maximum of \$3,500.00 for the county portion of the cost sharing. It was decided at the April meeting to decrease the DATCP cost sharing down to \$7,000.00 for the higher priority practices. The remaining \$12,686.00 in DATCP funds will be divided equally among 3 producers. Roger Lane is asking for the \$3,500.00 county cost sharing and will only use \$3,500.00 DATCP cost sharing from the \$12,686.00 DATCP balance as he reached his maximum of 70% cost sharing. The \$9,186.00 remaining DATCP cost sharing will be divided equally between 2 landowners. Each of the 2 landowners will receive \$4,593.00 of DATCP cost sharing for their rip rap projects.

Lynda presented tentative approval requests for county cost sharing on a streambank (rip rap) project for John Ragatz, Beetown Twp., \$3,500.00. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Marvin Kettler to approve John's request. Motion carried.

Lynda presented tentative approval requests for county cost sharing on a streambank (rip rap) projects for Roger Lane, Little Grant Twp., \$3,500.00; and DATCP cost sharing of \$3,500.00 for a total of \$7,000.00. Also, James Murray, East Beetown Twp., \$3,500.00 county cost sharing and DATCP cost sharing of \$4,593.00 for a total of \$8,093.00. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Marvin Kettler to approve Roger and James' cost share requests. Motion carried.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for county cost sharing for a grade stabilization structure (dam) repair for Mike Schauff, Waterloo Twp., \$2,100.00. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Marvin Kettler to approve Mike's request. Motion carried.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for DATCP cost sharing on a streambank (rip rap) project for Dennis Beadle, Jamestown Twp., \$4,593.00. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Marvin Kettler to approve Dennis's request. Motion carried.

Introduction to LWCC: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda welcomed the new LWCC members. She handed out binders for the new LWCC members to explain the roles and responsibilities of the LWCC members. The 2009 annual reports were also handed out to explain and to show what our office is all about. We had an introduction to include all the office staff that was available in the office.

2010 Joint DATCP/DNR Grant Application: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda reported that the state approved the 2010 DATCP/DNR grant application. We will be receiving \$105,409 for staff and support. We will be receiving \$62,926 of bonded money to be used for structural cost sharing practices such as dams, waterways and manure storage. We will be receiving \$5,301 of segregated funds on management practices such as contour strip cropping, no till, and nutrient management plans. The \$5,301 will be used for nutrient management plans. We will be able to pay for 189.0 acres; \$7.00 per acre for 4 years, however DATCP pays for all 4 years at one time resulting in \$28.00 per acre. Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Lester Jantzen to accept the 2010 joint DATCP/DNR grant application. Motion carried.

County Board Presentation in June: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda reported that she is scheduled to present a 10 minute presentation on the LWCD to the County Board in June.

SAA Representation: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda reported that a committee member will need to be appointed as a representative for the Southern Area Association. The Southern Area is the association of the LWCC's and County Conservationists of 10 counties. The SAA typically meets 3 times a year and has an annual conference to attend. Anyone can attend but we still need to have a representative that will be the voting person at the meetings. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Mark Stead to nominate Vince Loeffelholz to be the representative of the SAA. Motion carried. Vince Loeffelholz, Grant Loy and Lynda plan to attend the SAA meeting on May 26th.

RC & D Representative: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda reported that a committee member will need to be appointed as the representative for the Southwest Badger RC & D (Resource Conservation and Development). RC & D is located in this building with Steve Bertjens being the coordinator. RC & D meetings are usually held in Richland Center and meet 4 times a year. Motion by Mark Stead, seconded by Marvin Kettler to nominate Don Splinter as the representative. Motion carried. Motion by Marvin Kettler, seconded by Mark Stead to nominate Grant Loy as the alternate. Motion carried.

NRCS Interview Panel: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda reported that Karyl Fritsche is stepping down from the District Conservationists position. Lynda has been asked to sit in on the interview panel. Patti Jackson Kelly stated that she would allow a representative from the LWCC to sit in on the NRCS interview panel. Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Steve Adrian to nominate Vince Loeffelholz to sit on the interview panel. Motion carried.

FPP Report: Kevin Lange

Kevin reported that he has been in the field marking out contour buffer strips, contour strips, and contour lines for the first part of April. Then towards the middle of the month he started working on the public awareness events during Earth Week and Arbor Day. Kevin delivered 2,930 church litanies with conservation messages to 16 churches that took advantage of our offer to insert them in their bulletins. On April 28th Annette and Kevin delivered 609 conservation themed activity books to 11 schools for their 4th or 5th graders. There were 22 schools that received a Red Maple Tree for their Arbor Day festivities. On April 23rd we had our tree sale. It was the second largest we have had since 1996. We had 158 orders, selling 13,460 trees this year. In 2009 we had 110 orders, selling 9,300 trees. In 2006 was our largest tree sale with 159 orders, selling 14,700 trees. 2006 was the last year that we were able to publish the order from in our annual report. The nurseries required the final tree orders to be in prior to publishing the annual report.

Lynda presented a Thank You card from the Holy Ghost-Immaculate Conception School thanking us for providing them with the Red Maple tree for their Arbor Day celebration.

Kevin reported that he and Lynda sent out a couple of different letters. One letter was sent out to those landowners that will be receiving a spot check for 2010 this summer. The second letter was sent out to those who were spot checked last summer and need to make a decision whether they want to do a nutrient management plan to stay in compliance with the FPP (Farmland Preservation Program).

Kevin reported that he has 2 Voluntary Notice of Nonparticipation or Notice of Noncompliance with the Land and Water Conservation Requirements for Ruth Palmer, Clifton Twp., and Robert Collins Jr., Mount Ida Twp. Motion by Steve Adrian, second by Lester Jantzen to approve the 2 Notices of Noncompliance. Motion carried.

NRCS Report: Karyl Fritsche

Karyl gave a little over view of the things that the NRCS office does. There is an EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) which is cost sharing program to help install manure storage, grade stabilization structures (dams), rip rap, and waterways. This year NRCS has allocated over \$750,000 of EQIP money in Grant County. Another program that NRCS has is the CSP (Conservation Security Program). There is currently a sign up available now until May 14th. CSP is a program for producers to get a yearly payment for conservation that they

are currently doing. This is a nationwide sign up, is not watershed specific anymore. The previous sign up, 2 landowners were eligible and were funded. At this time we have 4 signed up. Should be a press release coming out soon to announce the CSP sign up. NRCS is the technical agency that works with the cover crops for the CRP (Conservation Reserve Program), and FSA is the lead agency. NRCS is also responsible for the HEL (Highly Erodible Land) compliance and wetland compliance issues with all the farm bill participation people.

Karyl reported that Todd Cockroft accepted a transfer to Richland County within the last month. We did gain Dennis Pezega from Crawford County. Dennis will be working part-time in Grant County and part-time in Crawford County. Dennis will focus on the conservation issues north of Hwy18.

FSA Report: Jared Reuter

Jared introduced himself to the new committee. He also gave a little overview of what the FSA office does. FSA works with the crops that are in the ground, they are the lead agency with the CRP. Jared deals with the leasing issues of the USDA building. Jared has been in Grant County for almost a year. He grew up in the Darlington area, attended the Southwest Technical College and UW-Platteville.

Jared stated that once you are getting close to being housed in the same building for 20 years, FSA must go through a full open solicitation to give everybody a fair chance to bid. If Dave, the landlord, gets the bid, there will be some changes to the building to meet the new requirements. State Office claims that we are still 2-3 months away from advertising the solicitation. LWCD has a month to month lease in place. Jared stressed the importance of keeping the LWCD, NRCS, and FSA to stay co-located. The LWCD is on the NRCS computer system, NRCS IT people take care of the computer systems. There are a few changes that will need to be addressed if we stay in this building; ceiling tile replaced, heating and cooling systems addressed, doors and windows, and general updates. The FSA loan department will be getting the work load from Iowa County and will need to have some remodeling and new offices brought in to this existing building.

Jared did report that they will be having a general CRP sign up toward late June to early July, right during crop reporting. Will be a short 2 week sign up, and the crop history to become eligible has changed from 1996 to 2001 to 2002 to 2007. 2 out of the last 6 years must be in a row crop, or to show a row crop rotation. Washington is looking for 5 million acres in the United States to be enrolled in CRP. CRP rental rates are very reflective of the cropland rental rates.

Jared reported that June 1st is the DCP sign up deadline. July 15th is the deadline for crop reporting.

Call for Agenda Items for Next Months Meeting

NONE

Other Business

Craig reported on the work duties that he is involved with. He works with the insect and disease problems in the woods. He works with a conservation technician on the EQIP forestry practices. Graig hosts field days and workshops. He is having a timber sale workshop at the Southwest Technical College on May 4th at 6:00 p.m. Craig also has a DNR cost sharing program with very little money available. He works with the Timber Stand Improvements, he oversees the state land management in Millville Township, and he spends much of his time working with the MFL; a tax reduction program.

Motion by Mark Stead, seconded by Marvin Kettler to adjourn until June 1, 2010. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by
Annette Lolwing for Grant Loy

