

GRANT COUNTY LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

June 1, 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, Greg Cerven, Lynda Schweikert, Sue Rojemann and Annette Lolwing.

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

Motion by Marvin Kettler, seconded by Grant Loy to approve the minutes from the May 4, 2010 meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Mark Stead, seconded by Steve Adrian to approve the agenda with a change to move Greg Cerven's report below the County Cost Sharing report. Motion carried.

Bills: Annette Lolwing

Motion by Donald Splinter, seconded by Mark Stead to approve the bills. Motion carried.

County Board Chairman: John Patcle

John reported that Dwight Nelson has won the election in district 12.

John reported that the American Flag was taken down from the top of the courthouse dome last fall. He has had some requests to have the American Flag put back up on the dome. John will take this request to Public Property.

County Cost Sharing: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda reported that Al Neises, Patch Grove Twp., \$3,500.00 for streambank protection is requesting to cancel his county cost sharing request. EQIP cost sharing paid for 70%, therefore he did not need to utilize any of the county cost sharing. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Mark Stead to approve Al's cancellation request. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing on a grassed waterway project for Gary Schier, Patch Grove Twp., \$712.18. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Donald Splinter to approve payment. Roll Call: 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing on a grade stabilization structure repair for Mike Schauff, Waterloo Twp., \$984.00. Motion by Grant Loy, seconded by Lester Jantzen to approve payment. Roll Call: 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing on a stream crossing for Brian Conley, Mt Hope Twp., \$1,662.50. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Marvin Kettler to approve payment. Roll call vote: 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried. This motion was recinded by Steve Adrian, seconded by Marvin Kettler. Motion carried. Motion by Steve, seconded by Marvin Kettler to subtract the cost sharing funds from the DATCP cost sharing account, vs. the county cost sharing account, for the contracted amount of \$1,050.00. Roll call: 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for county cost sharing on a lined waterway project for Fred Borsdorf, Ellenboro Twp., \$2,800.00. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Lester Jantzen to postpone this project until the July meeting to see if he may get approved through EQIP. Motion carried.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for county cost sharing on a rock crossing, tiling, and a rock lined waterway for Streich Capital, Ellenboro Twp., \$1,560.00. Motion by Steve Adrain, seconded by Marvin Kettler to approve Streich Capital's projects. Motion carried.

Grant County 5-Year WDACP Plan of Administration & Service Contract: Greg Cerven

Greg reported that every 5 years the County and the WDNR have a contract to review and sign which outlines the relationships and duties of the County and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). There were no changes from the original contract. Motion by Donald Splinter, seconded by Steve Adrian to approve the county to administer the WDACP for 5 years. Motion carried.

Greg also presented his 1 year service contract agreement between himself and Grant County. Motion by Donald Splinter, seconded by Lester Jantzen to change the service contract agreement between Greg Cerven and Grant County to a 5 year service agreement. Motion carried. Steve Adrian. Abstained.

Job Approval for Well Decommissioning: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda reported that Todd Cockroft, NRCS technician, used to approve all the well decommissioning construction plans. Lynda applied for well decommissioning job approval from the state. Lynda did receive state approval. She now would like the committee to concur with the state of granting Lynda job approval for well decommissioning construction plans. Motion by Marvin Kettler, seconded by Don Splinter to concur with the state to grant Lynda well decommissioning construct plan approval. Motion carried.

2000 Ford Ranger Repair: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda reported that the 2000 Ford Ranger Truck went in for an oil change at Pink's Automotive. Pink's came back with over \$1,000.00 cost estimate of numerous other repairs that were needed. Took the truck to Paul Rojemann's Auto Maintenance to receive a second opinion. Paul did concur with replacing the brakes at a cost estimate of \$165.10 and possible alignment. Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Mark Stead to have the brakes replaced at Rojemann's Auto Maintenance. Motion carried.

SAA Meeting: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda reported that Vince Loeffelholz, Grant Loy and she attended the Southern Area Association meeting that was held on May 26th.

FPP Report: Kevin Lange

Kevin reported that he and Lynda sent out a second mailing of around 330 self certification postcards and letters for the FPP. There were a little over 100 that have come back. Last year there were around 70 to 80 spot checks for FPP and around 48 NRCS spot checks.

Kevin reported that he has 2 Voluntary Notice of Noncompliance with the Soil and Water Conservation Requirements for farmland preservation (FPP) for Sam Hutchinson, Hickory Grove Twp., and Cletus F. & Audrey Karasek, Fennimore Twp., Mount Ida Twp.

Kevin reported that he has 14 Notices of Noncompliance with Soil and Water Conservation Requirements for FPP. These landowners have failed to provide us with a NMP from their 2009 FPP spot checks. Landowners were given 1 year to work towards their compliance. Landowners include: Michael & Connie Miles, South Lancaster, Twp., Steve & Carol Yoose, Potosi and South Lancaster Twp., David Edge, Potosi Twp., Bruce & Carol Adrian, Potosi Twp., Cletus & Janet Vondra, Platteville Twp., Ronald & Christine Wetter, Mount Ida Twp., Jack & Robin McLimans, Mount Ida Twp., James Gay, Mount Ida Twp., Ronald Austin, Lima Twp., Dennis Spurley, Liberty Twp., Dennis Schuppener, Liberty Twp., Donald & Michelle Gehrke, Fennimore Twp., John Jr. & Lila June Yanna, Castle Rock, Twp., and Linda Bottomly, Ellenboro Twp. These individuals that received notice of noncompliance notices will be turned over to the Department of Revenue, DATCP and Terry Loeffelholz to notify them so those landowners will not be able to claim FPP credits. If they want to get back into the Working Lands Initiative Program they will need to be 100% in compliance.

Kevin reported that he and Annette have started the Transect Survey. They usually start the first week of June, however this year they started at the end of May as the corn has really grown. It usually takes about 4-5 days to complete the route. The Transect Survey is a road side survey required by DATCP to judge where we are in conservation. Transect survey stops every ½ mile, to look at the residue, crop and tillage on 672 points.

Sue Rojemann – stepped in to finish taking minutes at 10:15.

NRCS Report: Karyl Fritsche

Karyl reported that there will be interviews today starting at 1:00 for the District Conservationist position. Three individuals will be interviewed. Karyl Fritsche, Patti Jackson-Kelly, Lynda Schweikert and Vince Loeffelholz will be on the interview panel.

Karyl reported that NRCS is in the middle of a CSP sign up. At this time there are 8 CSP applications. We are almost at the \$800,000 mark on the Federal side for EQIP funds in Grant County. This amount is up from the last couple of years.

Karyl explained that Patti Jackson-Kelly and Dennis Pozega have agreed for Dennis to work mostly north of Hwy 18 to help streamline the work.

Karyl reported that there is a new pilot project for the energy initiative audit program in 2010. This project is for conservation in a “Go Green” kind of way. Energy audits would be completed for their headquarters and of their cropland. You will need to hire a service provider to do the energy audit for you. The audit is just for making recommendations, will not require you to do anything. There is cost sharing to help pay for the audit.

Karyl reported that they are in the middle of compliance checks. There is more sobbusting happening this year that is not getting reported.

FSA Report: Jared Reuter

Jared reported that today, June 1, 2010 is the deadline to sign up for DCP/ACRE program. June 1, is the definite deadline date. Will probably have a couple hundred farms come in and find out that they will not be eligible. Late DCP/ACRE will not be accepted after June 1st. No reason why the farmers have not been in the FSA office. Deadline was published in the numerous newsletters, making personal phone call reminders, and post cards were also sent out.

Jared reported that he had on the radio that if people have leases for DCP and/or for the ACRE program they need to have them post marked to the FSA office by June 1, and if not post marked by June 1st, FSA will still accept the leases but will then need to send it on to the state office to get concurrence to approve and may delay their advance payments.

Jared reported that they are still waiting for a CRP sign up.

Jared reported that can now start taking nominations for the FSA County Committee election for the areas of Glen Haven, Beetown, Cassville, Waterloo, Wyalusing, Patch Grove, Millville, Woodman, Mount Hope, Potosi, Little Grant, and Bloomington. Dave Knoke is finishing out his last term. You are able to run for 3 – 3 year terms. Looking for individuals and they must be participating in the FSA programs, and must be within the areas. FSA committee meetings usually meet on the first Wednesday of the month.

Jared mentioned that his county office trainee is back for the month and will be covering conservation and compliance. They will be going out to look at some CRP fields. The trainee will also sit with Lynda and Karyl to learn about the work that they and the technicians do.

Jared reported that the lease on the building is in a stand still.

Call for Agenda Items for Next Months Meeting

NONE

Other Business

Motion by Mark Stead, seconded by Grant Loy to adjourn until July 6, 2010. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by
Annette Lolwing and Sue Rojemann for Grant Loy