

GRANT COUNTY LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

July 6, 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, Craig Hollingsworth, Karyl Fritsche, John Patcle, Kevin Lange, Lynda Schweikert, and Annette Lolwing.

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

Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Lester Jantzen to approve the minutes from the June 8, 2010 meeting. Motion carried.

Lynda reported a change to the agenda. There will be no one here to give the NRCS report. Karyl has provided a written report which will be handed out.

Bills: Annette Lolwing

Motion by Donald Splinter, seconded by Marvin Kettler to approve the bills. Motion carried.

RC&D Update: Steve Bertjens

Steve Bertjens works for the NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service). Steve's job with NRCS is to work with the Southwest Badger RC&D (Resource Conservation & Development Council), which is a nonprofit council that covers 9 counties; Crawford, Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland, LaCrosse, Sauk, and Vernon Counties in Southwest Wisconsin. RC&D's job is to work in a regional area and to focus on rural economical development and natural resource issues, conservation, manage growth, and sustainable rural economic development in our area. Steve gave a presentation on the Switchgrass project in Grant County. RC&D counties that are members of the council, have a county board member representative. Grant County's representative is Donald Splinter. There is also an at large member, called a citizen representative from the county; John Schindler is the at large member. John Schindler is also the new treasurer. Steve mentioned that they have about 25 to 30 projects going on at the same time. Council employee, Angie Wright, is the administrator coordinator of the council. Angie works with a lot of communities on trail projects. She was able to secure the \$1 million grant for the Platteville/Belmont trail.

Purchase of ATV by DNR Forester: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda reported that the DNR Forester, Craig Hollingsworth, was asking about the possibility of purchasing the ATV. Craig may be getting a 4 wheeler from another department; therefore he is not interested in purchasing the ATV from the county. Should this question come up again, Lynda wanted to know what the LWCC thought of it. They were open to the idea of selling at fair market value, but have no problem with continuing to rent it to DNR & RC&D.

County Storage of Tree Planting Equipment: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda mentioned that a while back there was some discussion of storing the tree planting equipment in county buildings. Steve and Vince will check with their committees at the Youth & Ag and County Farm and will have more discussion at the August meeting.

County Board Chairman: John Patcle

John reported that the Wyalusing boat landing is at a standstill. The water is too high in the area that is to be blacktopped.

John reported that they are getting ready with the executive committee for the contract negotiations. Andy Phillips is the new attorney in the county that will be working with the contract negotiations. He is also associated with the Wisconsin Counties Association. John will have more to report after the executive meeting on Tuesday, July 13th.

John reported that the American Flag is still under discussion. Sounds like it will be a very costly project.

County Cost Sharing: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda reported that Alan Jentz, Ellenboro Twp., \$3,500.00, county cost sharing is requesting an extension until December, 2010 for his grade stabilization structure. Dennis Beadle, Jamestown Twp., \$3,500.00, county cost sharing is also requesting an extension until December, 2010 for his streambank protection project. Motion by Mark Stead, seconded by Grant Loy to approve Alan and Dennis's extension requests. Motion carried.

Lynda presented a cancellation for Mike Mooney, Liberty Twp., \$500.00, county cost sharing for a crossing repair. He was told that if the crossing had not been repaired by the end of his extension that his project would be cancelled. Mike could apply for cost sharing again if there is any cost sharing available. Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Steve Adrian to approve the cancellation. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing on a well decommissioning project for Francis Vosberg, Harrison Twp., \$443.10. Motion by Mark Stead, 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 well decommissioning project for Dan & Judy VanNatta, Smelser Twp., \$500.00. Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Grant Loy to approve payment. Roll Call: 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing on a well decommissioning project for Majestic View Dairy/County Farm, South Lancaster Twp., \$489.62. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Marvin Kettler to approve payment. 7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent. Motion carried.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for county cost sharing on a well decommissioning project for Robert Achenbach, Beetown Twp., \$354.38., Burr Oak Farms/Ivan Bendorf, Liberty Twp., has 3 well decommissioning projects; #1 \$101.50, #2 \$500.00, and #3 \$500.00, Brad Ragatz, Beetown Twp., \$210.00, Ronald McKelvey, South Lancaster Twp., \$500.00 (emergency plan), and Bill Hageman, Mt. Ida Twp., \$455.00. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Mark Stead to approve the 7 well decommissioning projects. Motion carried.

Lynda mentioned that another request for a well decommissioning project came in for Roger Martin, East Beetown Twp. Al Wepking brought in the information that the well was already filled. Motion by Lester Jantzen, seconded by Marvin Kettler to deny his request of county cost sharing, as per county policy, as the application has come in after the fact and the project has already been completed. Motion carried.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for county cost sharing on a turf lined waterway for Fred Borsdorf, Ellenboro Twp., \$2,800.00. Motion by Donald Splinter, seconded by Lester Jantzen to approve Fred's request after being postponed from the July meeting. Motion carried.

Lynda mentioned that there are no 2009 DATCP cost share requests at this time. Still waiting for the NMP for Gary Klein and a grade stabilization structure for Alan Lumley to be completed. There are no 2010 DATCP cost share requests at this time.

TRM Grant Watersheds: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda mentioned that the last meeting questions about TRM grants were brought up. Lynda had contacted the water resource management specialist for our area, Jim Amrhein. Vince Loeffelholz had also contacted Bob Hansis of the DNR on his own. TRM is a targeted runoff management grant from the DNR. Competitive grants that you have to apply for in the spring of the year for the following year. In order to be competitive they need to be in a watershed that has a TMDL (total maximum daily load). The DNR has done surveys on these 3 watersheds in Grant County to see the maximum load of pollution that can go through these watersheds and still sustain the population of fish that they feel should be there. In the past we have done TRM grants in the Snowden and McPherson Watersheds. We have treated it like a watershed program that everyone would be eligible for cost sharing. After receiving the grant, we would go out to ask landowners if they were interested in doing some conservation projects. In the past we were able to work with the EQIP program to piggyback cost sharing to provide 90% cost sharing. The TRM grant program has changed since we done those watersheds. If we were to apply for a TRM grant now, it would be pointed toward the farmers that have a bad resource concern and they would be forced to do something. Jim Amrhein plans to attend the September LWCC meeting to present information only; no landowner survey is to be done.

SAA Meeting: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda reported that Columbia County is hosting the SAA Summer tour on July 28, 2010.

Letter to WLWCB: Lynda Schweikert

Lynda shared a letter that she had sent to the WALCE/WLWCA for taking the time to host the Forum on Conservation Funding. The LWCC is in favor and approve the "Position Statement" of the County Staffing Grant through the SWRM Program. The WALCE/WLWCB was trying to find more money to come into the state to put towards conservation.

FPP Report: Kevin Lange

Kevin reported that he has 4 Voluntary Notice of Noncompliance with the Soil and Water Conservation Requirements for farmland preservation (FPP) for Joe Martin, Wingville Twp., Dorothy Macke, South Lancaster Twp., Joe Hoffman, Mt. Hope Twp., and Ralph Alcorn, South Lancaster Twp. Kevin also has a cancellation of a Notice of Noncompliance for Donald Gehrke, Fennimore Twp. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Grant Loy to accept those 4 landowners that have voluntarily opted out of FPP and also the cancellation of a Notice of Noncompliance. Motion carried.

Kevin reported that he has 60 Notices of Noncompliance with Soil and Water Conservation Requirements for FPP. In February, Kevin and Lynda sent about 700 letters and self certification postcards to the FPP landowners, and in May they sent out a second mailing of around 300 letters and self certification postcards. We now have 60 landowners that failed to self certify their compliance and were sent a Notice of Noncompliance. These 60 landowners that received noncompliance notices will be turned over to the Department of Revenue, DATCP and Terry Loeffelholz, Zoning Administrator. When the landowner tries to

file for their 2010 FPP tax credits, the DOR will send up a red flag notifying them that they are out of compliance and will not receive any FPP tax credits for 2010 taxes. If they want to get back into the Working Lands Initiative Program they will need to be 100% in compliance.

Farmer Written NMP Training will start in September.

DATCP requested that we forward our FPP list of who is claiming credits to them. DATCP has 169 additional producer names on their list than what we do. DATCP sent out a letter encouraging landowners to contact our office in reference to the FPP. Majority of the landowners that did contact our office referencing the DATCP letter did not own any land in Grant County. We don't know why those landowners were on Grant County's list.

Lynda explained the FPP workload. There are 775 FPP that need to be spot check by the year 2015. We are down to around 580 FPP landowners in zoned townships. The NRCS and LWCD staff likes to meet with the landowner and present them all the information possible. The landowners are given a year to decide if they want to do a NMP to stay in compliance or opt out of the FPP all together.

Kevin reported that he has been working on CREP contracts. He has 2 CREP contracts completed, and 3 more existing CRP contracts to roll over to the CREP by September 30th. Kevin is still working on his spot checks as well.

NRCS Report: Karyl Fritsche

Lynda handed out a paper copy to everyone of Karyl's NRCS report. Report attached.

FSA Report: Jared Reuter – No Report

Call for Agenda Items for Next Months Meeting

NONE

Other Business

Motion by Mark Stead, seconded by Steve Adrian to adjourn until August 3, 2010. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by
Annette Lolwing for Grant Loy