



MONROE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

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Climate Change Task Force

Wednesday, November 13th

9:00 a.m.

Monroe County Board Assembly Room

(South Side/Oak Street Entrance)

112 S. Court Street

Sparta, WI 54656

1. Call to Order/Introductions

CCTF Members Present: *A. Elliot, C. Koperski, A. McCoy, D. Pierce, W. Habegger, R. Anderson, T. Osterberg, B. Micheel, D. Pintarro, T. Townsell, J. Noble, R. Luethe,*

Absent: *B. Halfman, J. Herricks, J. Schroeder, D. Ohnstad*

Others Present: *J. Esterline, M. Von Ruden, G. Wavrunek (Tammy Baldwin-Rep), T. Welch (Village of Wilton President), A. Rudie*

2. Subgroup report on Monitoring Devices and Warning Systems – Type/Location/Cost

➤ Monitoring stations narrowed down to two options:

- **Davis Instruments Vantage Pro2** – Cabled \$625 or Wireless \$685
 - Connection options are via Wi-Fi (\$250) or Cellular (\$800)
 - Capability to add soil moisture sensor
- **Onset HOBO Micro-RX Water Level and Rain Gauge Station:**
 - Station setups range from \$1,200-\$2,000, depending on number of add-on sensors
 - Stations only have cellular connections. Cellular plans run from \$150 - \$350 / year
 - Water level sensor and soil moisture sensors are available

➤ Data Services / Capabilities of two options:

- **Davis Instruments**
 - Data is served online or via mobile application
 - Subscription service plans are available and Both options run their data through apps and/or online. Subscriptions for data plans are \$4 – 9 / month for data sharing and downloading capabilities.
 - Compatible with Weather Underground.
 - Does not appear to have notification capability.
- **Onset HOBO**
 - Data is served via software and can be viewed on any device. Cellular plan service rates apply (see costs above)

- Data downloading/exporting capability
 - Text and email notifications settings based on condition thresholds. Multiple alarm settings available.
 - Compatible with Weather Underground and Google Maps
 - Additional option for flood warning system:
 - Water Detection Warning System by ELTEC
 - Water level sensor can be mounted to bridges and flashing road beacons warn people when high water level is reached.
 - Price quote needs to be obtained.
- Kickapoo River/Little La Crosse River Watersheds
 - Total cost for Kickapoo watershed project \$10,900, \$200/annually
 - Total cost for La Crosse watershed project is \$22,900, \$12,000/annually (includes USGS Gaging Station)
 - We could apply for grants, municipalities or private parties could “Adopt” these weather stations or donate money towards them, and there is some CCTF budget money available as well for funding these items.

3. Current Shoreland Zoning & Floodplain Rules/Ordinance in Monroe County (A. Elliott)

- All the ordinances for the different types of zoning near waterways overlap at times, but all of them must be followed, so you have to look at the exact location of the project and see which ordinance(s) it falls under.
- 1980 – First floodplain maps and ordinance in Monroe County, they digitized these maps in 2010. Some counties in Wisconsin do not have digitized maps yet.
- Shoreland Zoning:
 - Regulates structures to be at least 75’ min. from water.
 - Vegetation removal around the body of water.
 - Filling, grading, and excavating including stump removal around bodies of water.
 - Changed law in 2016 to state you could rebuild or improve a structure in the EXACT footprint of the original structure.
- Floodplain:
 - Zone AE – studied areas
 - Zone A – unstudied areas
 - You can build here only if you get a letter of Map Amendment from FEMA or they can do a Hydraulic and Hydrologic Study which costs approx. \$6,000 - \$10,000 for individual projects.
 - If a non-conforming structure is damaged over 50% it can be brought up to code in the flood fringe but if it is in the floodway it needs to be removed completely.
- Wetland:
 - Strict regulations on grading, filling and improvements. Requires State and Federal permits.
- Current/Future Projects for the Zoning Department:

- Acquire and demolish 9 properties within the floodplain of the Little La Crosse Watershed. Working on getting grant money from FEMA for this.
 - DNR Flood Control Grant, due in March, can overlap the FEMA grant. Can cover some properties below the flood control lines, will cover 50% of this.
 - Winter project is to inventory structures in the flood plain along with stream crossings/bridges, starting with the Kickapoo and the Little La Crosse Watersheds and target structures for potential removal.
 - Need to list all properties and determine values for these properties/structures.
 - CCTF can help enforce the 35ft minimum vegetative buffer area by offering landowners opportunity to enroll into the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Row crops in the stream corridor were affected the most during flood events.
4. Future Topics/Presentations: Iowa Flood Center & development of climate change component of the comprehensive plans in Monroe County.
- The Iowa Watershed Approach:
 - Iowa received \$97 million from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. They are focusing on 9 watersheds across their state to reduce flooding and have established hydrologic stations and stream gauge sensors to collect real-time data. USGS and NWS also participate in program and have established additional stations that also collect water level and rain data. Together, the data collected is being used to update their flood maps, flood forecasting, and zoning. This project started January 2016 and will end in 2021.
 - December 11th the project leaders of this approach will be here to do a presentation for Monroe County and our govt. agency and political representatives and describe how this model could potentially be applied at a regional level and possibly a state-wide level. They will also be available for questions after their presentation.
 - CCTF is reaching out to Vernon and La Crosse Counties and other agency and political representatives for participation in this meeting.
 - Ask for details from their presenters about data from emergency management, how many lives have been saved? How much money has been saved, and damage avoided from the warnings ahead of time?
 - Comprehensive Planning:
 - Comprehensive plans are normally updated every 10 years.
 - Develop a climate change template for policies or guidelines for the townships to incorporate into their comprehensive plans.
 - Present proposed climate change template to group of town representatives and have discussion.

- Bobbi-Jo Fischer could come in to provide a presentation about the culverts and bridges in January. She works for the DNR.
 - AI wants paper copies of the meeting notes and agendas.
 - Developing a link on the Land Conservation website for the CCTF info and events.
 - Talk about manure spreading and overflow of storage issues in the county.
 - Potentially put a roof on the holding facilities so it could try and eliminate some of the overflow from rain/snow.
 - Ag implications within Monroe County.
5. Set future meeting dates – Wednesday, December 11th, 9:00 AM at the Monroe County Board Assembly Room.
6. Adjournment

PLEASE NOTE: A quorum of the Monroe County Board or other committees may be present at this meeting. No business of the County Board or other committees will be conducted at this meeting, only the business noted above.