

Monroe County Land Conservation, Forestry & Parks Committee Minutes

Date and Place:

Tuesday January 20, 2015 at the Monroe County Ag Services Center, Sparta, WI

Call to Order:

Chairman Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Present were: J Rasmussen; N Van Wychen; D Wegner; B. Micheel, LCD; B. Richardson, LCD; J Wilk, LCD; C Ziegler, Monroe Co. Forestry; V Blount NRCS; C. Walroth DNR; M Modjeski DNR; S Brownell, L Revels. **D Olson Absent**

Minutes Approval 12/16/14 meeting:

Motion by Van Wychen second by Rasmussen to approve the December 16, 2014 minutes as presented. Motion carried 4-0-1.

Public Comment Period:

None

Review Land Conservation Bills:

Micheel reviewed monthly Land Conservation bills.

Tri-Creek cropland rental bids:

2 bids were received by the January 9th deadline. Chairman Chapman opened each bid and read aloud the results. Hawk High Dairy \$226.00 per acre, Nicholas Fries \$101.00 per acre.

Motion by Rasmussen, second by Wegner to accept the bid from Hawk High Dairy in the amount of \$226.00 per acre. Motion carried 4-0-1.

Land and Water Resource Management Plan Extension:

Micheel passed out a Management Plan Summary and reviewed. Also requested approval authority to sign various DATCP documents related to the plan.

Motion by Van Wychen, second by Wegner to approve applying for plan extension and to grant signature authority to County Conservationist. Motion carried 4-0-1.

Discussion of Mark Roberts Property Sale Adjoining Tri-Creek

Micheel and Ziegler discussed phone conversation with Mr. Roberts including various options and average cost per acre of similar property. Landowner was willing to drop asking price, but it was suggested more time is needed for both parties to evaluate options and continue negotiations.

County Conservationist Report:

Micheel reported on:

WLWCA annual membership, Farmland Preservation informational meeting with townships interested in forming an Ag Enterprise Area, upcoming presentations on TMDLS and Phosphorus Trading and Department Goals for 2015. Goals include reestablishing County Conservation Farmer of the Year, LCC Mission Statement, RCPP funding, Establish new Farmland Preservation Ag Enterprise Area, continue school programs, develop information and education materials for county wide display, encourage supervisor/employee dialog on county issues.

Soil and Water Conservationist Report:

Wilk and Richardson discussed planning for 2015, bidding projects, Nonmetallic mining annual fees, and Soil Health meeting attendance.

Cost Share Approvals:

15 Projects totaling \$64,000 were extended into 2015.

Martha Esterline, Grassed Waterway \$1400

Gid Miller Streambank Riprap

Lester Kempf Streambank Riprap. \$14,000 combined.

Motion by Wegner, second by Rasmussen to approve the cost share approvals presented. Motion carried 4-0-1.

NRCS Report:

Blount discussed EQIP rankings, CRP signup, and programs currently available.

DNR Private Lands Report:

Walroth discussed trends in harvest activities, tree planting interest and assisting Jackson County with private forestland work. Office relocation could occur by the end of February.

Forestry & Parks Update:

Ziegler reported that there may be a need for tree planter rentals in Jackson County this year. Monroe County may have a few extra planters and Ziegler was planning on renting a planter or two to Jackson County landowners if the need arises. The committee agreed as long as Monroe County landowners have first priority.

The Forestry Department had its three year state forestry audit. Everything was in order; the DNR had one recommendation to make sure all of the sale folders had complete information (one folder was missing the cruise sheets; it was a sale that the DNR set up).

There is one active timber sale on the county forest. The 2014 timber sale revenue was approximately \$97,000.000.

Ziegler handed out "Forest Economy Monroe County" to the committee and briefly explained the information and the importance of the forest industry to the county. Members recommended that this information be distributed to the county board at some point in the future.

Review Forestry & Park Bills:

Ziegler reviewed the December bills.

Golden Sands RC&D Presentation:

Amy Thorstenson gave a power point presentation on the Golden Sands RC&D; its history, purpose and role in central Wisconsin.

Camping Reservation Systems:

Ziegler explained several different camping reservation systems used by other county campgrounds (Jackson, Vernon, and Chippewa). Questions were answered and Ziegler discussed some possible future direction for the park: a county park ranger position, a second shelter building, shower facility, etc. Ziegler will perform more research and report back to the committee.

Set next Meeting Date:

The next meeting will be on February 17, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. in the Monroe County Ag Services Center.

Adjourn:

Motion by Rasmussen, second by Wagner to adjourn at 11:00 a.m. Motion carried 4-0-1.