

Monroe County Land Conservation, Forestry & Parks Committee Minutes

Date and Place:

Tuesday March 17, 2015 at the Monroe County Ag Services Center, Sparta, WI

Call to Order:

Chairman Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. Present were: J Rasmussen; D Wegner; B. Micheel, LCD; B. Richardson, LCD; J Wilk, LCD; C Ziegler, Monroe Co. Forestry; C Walroth, DNR; K Antwi, DNR; M. Modjeski, DNR; and public. **N VanWychen, D Olson Absent**

Minutes Approval 2/17/15 meeting:

Motion by Rasmussen second by Wegner to approve the February 17, 2015 minutes as presented. Motion carried 3-0-2.

Public Comment Period:

None

Review Land Conservation Bills:

Olson arrived 8:05 a.m.

Micheel previewed bills.

Nonmetallic Mining-Hi Crush Reclamation Permit Amendment:

Richardson discussed changes to reclamation plan including new parcels and increased financial assurance. Hi-Crush representatives answered questions from LCC.

Motion by Wegner, second by Olson to approve Reclamation Permit Amendment.

Motion carried 4-0-1.

County Conservationist Report:

Micheel reported on:

Youth summer camp scholarships, County farm conservation practices planned & resolution allocating County CREP funds, Perch Lake habitat, Phosphorus Trading Presentations, Status of Ag Enterprise Area establishment in Portland, Jefferson and Wells Townships, RCPP meeting, WLWCA conference and budget implications to the LCD. Micheel will draft a joint letter (LCD/LCC) to our area representatives outlining budget implications to Monroe County conservation efforts.

Ag Enterprise Area (Scenic Ridge and Valley) Resolution:

Micheel discussed proposed resolution where the county is supporting a petition to DATCP for an Ag Enterprise Area in the township of Jefferson, Portland and Wells.

Motion by Rasmussen, second by Wegner to approve Ag Enterprise Area Resolution.

Motion carried 4-0-1.

A meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 23rd from 1-3 pm at the Jefferson Town Hall. DATCP official will be present to discuss the Farmland Preservation Program and Exclusive Ag Zoning.

RC and D membership discussion:

Micheel explained, currently Monroe County is associated with the Golden Sands RC&D and would like the Land Conservation Committee to explore the idea of joining SW Badger RC&D. Discussed boundary and associated Counties with each council and the potential benefits to each. The committee agreed to have a representative from SW Badger attend a meeting and present programs they have to offer.

Staff and Supervisor Open Discussion:

Munis Meeting and PTO. No discussion occurred.

Soil and Water Conservationist Report:

Wilk reviewed WLWCA conference and updated committee on projects he's working on. Richardson discussed nonmetallic issues, WLWCA conference, and project status.

NRCS Report:

Handout explaining Quality Assurance Appraisal in April, EQIP, and Conservation Plan development on Highly Erodible Lands.

DNR Private Lands Report:

Modjeski reminded the committee of the upcoming Spring Conservation Hearings at Tomah High School at 7 p.m. on Monday April 13th.

Walroth discussed Tree Farm Committee meeting.

Forestry & Parks Updates:

Ziegler is in the process of hiring LTEs to work at McMullen Park for the summer. The annual spring cleanup is April 25th.

Forty five acres of jack pine was aerial seeded this month with the use of a DNR plane. The WCFA Spring Meeting is taking place this week Thursday and Friday. The Forestry Dept. will be bidding out 4 timber sales this year; the cutting notices are being finalized.

Approval of Emergency Fire Wardens:

Ron Schneider passed out a list of the Emergency Fire Wardens (Granger's Small Engine, Bill's Heating, Rosco's Live Bait, Schnitzler's Sports Store, Smitty's Overtime Inn and Cataract Mart) and a brochure on burning permits. He explained the process of obtaining a permit and some of the regulations associated with burning.

Motion by Olson, second by Rasmussen to approve the Emergency Fire Wardens. Motion carried 4-0-1.

Resolution in Support of Restoring Funding for the County Forest Administration Grant:

Ziegler explained that the Governor's budget proposal is eliminating funding for the County Forest Administration Grant and Knowles Nelson Stewardship Funding. The funding reduction (for Monroe County) of the Forest Administrators Grant will amount to about \$38,000.00 (20% of each budget). Discussion occurred.

Motion by Wegner, second by Rasmussen to approve the Resolution. Motion carried 3-1-1. Olson

Camping Reservation System:

Ziegler presented information regarding campsitereports.com and DMI Studios. DMI Studios would cost about \$13,000.00 for the first year and \$1,600.00/yr (if the county used their web hosting services). Campsitereports.com would have zero up-front costs

and no annual fees; they pass the costs on to the campers by charging a reservation fee. The only charges would occur if pay pal had charges for organizations. Discussion occurred regarding the positives and negatives of taking reservations. The committee decided that all of the sites at McMullen Park should remain first-come-first-served at this time.

Resolution Amending Forestry & Parks Ordinances:

A resolution was not completed. Ziegler reviewed the changes and information that was revised or deleted. The committee directed Ziegler to bring back a resolution at the next meeting for committee approval.

Review Forestry & Park Bills:

Ziegler reviewed the past months bills.

Set next Meeting Date:

The next meeting will be on April 21, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. in the Monroe County Ag Services Center.

Adjourn:

Motion by Wegner, second by Olson to adjourn at 10:47 a.m. Motion carried 4-0-1.