

Monroe County Land Conservation, Forestry & Parks Committee Minutes

Date and Place:

Tuesday May 19, 2015 at the Monroe County Ag Services Center, Sparta, WI

Call to Order:

Chairman Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. Present were: J Rasmussen; D Olson; N VanWycken; B. Micheel, LCD; B. Richardson, LCD; J Wilk, LCD; C Ziegler, Monroe Co. Forestry; G. Wheeler, NRCS; K. Traastad, NRCS; K Antwi, DNR; M. Modjeski, DNR; and public. **D Wegner Absent**

Minutes Approval 4/21/15 meeting:

Motion by Olson second by Rasmussen to approve the April 21, 2015 minutes as presented. Motion carried 4-0-1.

Public Comment Period:

None

Review Land Conservation Bills:

Micheel previewed bills.

County Conservationist Report:

Micheel reported on:

Tri-Creek land purchase update, Tri Creek fencing, Inspection of Tri Creek Dam PL 566, Kennel Ave. road repair, staffing grant funding, Ag Enterprise Area update, Summer Camp recipients, wolf resolution and possible addition of Administrative Assistant position. **Wegner arrived at 8:17 a.m.**

Staff and Supervisor Open Discussion:

None

Soil and Water Conservationist Report:

Wilk updated committee on construction and design activities that are occurring.

Richardson updated committee on nonmetallic mining items, construction and design activities.

Cost Share Approval:

Richardson and Micheel requested cost share approval for three projects.

M. Eckleberg - Diversion

C. Paschke - Grassed Waterway

B. & M. Henze – Storage/Barnyard – DNR-NOD funding approved (\$ 130,000)

Motion by Rasmussen, Second by Wegner to approve cost sharing for the 3 projects discussed. Motion carried 5-0.

NRCS Report:

Wheeler discussed EQIP deadline and applicants, conservation compliance handout, expected staff changes between Monroe and La Crosse County.

MLRA Soil Survey Update:

K. Traastad (NRCS Soil Scientist) - presented an overview of the soil mapping process that NRCS has completed; field offices will utilize this information for conservation planning.

DNR Private Lands Report:

Modjeski reported on stormwater violations issued to a CAFO in Jefferson Township.

Antwi reported on tree delivery, program audit, and continued support of Jackson Co private forestry program.

Forestry & Parks Updates:

Sale 134 in the Town of New Lyme is being hauled; all cutting skidding are complete. McMullen Park is preparing for the busy weekend; all the regular sites are occupied.

Time frame for opening county forest gates:

Ziegler explained that a request was made to review the gate open/closure policy on the county forest. Members from the public were present; two neighbors: Troy Lambert and John Castle and the president of the Sparta Rod & Gun Club (Bill Teoli).

Ziegler explained that in the past most of the roads were open all year for vehicular access. Gates were installed about six years ago. There are many reasons why the gates were installed: road destruction and maintenance costs, fire protection, dumping/littering, spreading invasive species, damage to public property, safety concerns and wildlife disturbance/poaching.

Comments from the public:

There have been issues of people trespassing, destroying private gates and dumping dead deer on neighboring private lands. Comment was also made to keep the vehicle access to the county forest the same as it is now to promote access to the public.

Committee discussion occurred. Majority of the committee felt that public access to the county forest should be walk-in access only.

Motion by Rasmussen, Second by Wegner to keep the county forest gates closed all year. Motion carried 5-0.

Resolution amending Forestry & Parks ordinances:

Ziegler explained that he and Corporation Counsel are working on these ordinances to determine which should be ordinances and which should be park policy. The ordinances should be items that would be less likely to change and rules that citations would be written out for if they were not followed.

Ziegler handed out a draft of the ordinance and park policy and explained. The committee will review and discuss next month.

Review Forestry & Park Bills:

Ziegler reviewed the past months bills.

Set next Meeting Date:

The next meeting will be on June 16, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. in the Monroe County Ag Services Center.

Adjourn:

Motion by Olson, second by VanWychen to adjourn at 10:20 a.m. Motion carried 5-0.