

## **Monroe County Land Conservation, Forestry & Parks Committee Minutes**

### **Date and Place:**

Tuesday August 18, 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; D Wegner; B. Micheel, LCD; B. Richardson, LCD; J Wilk, LCD; C Ziegler, Monroe Co. Forestry; Walroth DNR; Modjeski DNR; and public. **Olson and VanWychen absent.**

### **Minutes Approval 6/16/15 meeting:**

**Motion by Wegner, second by Rasmussen to approve the July 20<sup>th</sup> minutes as presented. Motion carried 3-0-2.**

### **Public Comment Period:**

None

### **Review Land Conservation Bills:**

Micheel reviewed bills incurred in July.

### **Budget Adjustment:**

Micheel explained the budget adjustment for the State Cost Share Program. There was an increase of \$69,300 due to DATCP funding the Ziese NOD barnyard project near Kendall.

Micheel explained the budget adjustment for the Tri-Creek Dam Valve repair. Total adjustment was \$7,350. None of these adjustments involve county levy.

**Motion by Rasmussen, second by Wegner to approve both budget adjustments. Motion carried 3-0-2.**

### **2016 Land Conservation Budget Review:**

Micheel reviewed proposed 2016 annual budget with the committee. Committee agreed budget looks good.

### **County Conservationist Report:**

Micheel reported on:

Farmland Preservation contracts, CREP rental rates, mowing of PL 566 dams, completion of streambank project for L. Kempf, Farm tours (Herricks & Petersheim) attended and upcoming presentations.

Soil and Water Conservationist Report:

Olson arrived at 8:30.

Wilk discussed completed and ongoing projects.

Richardson discussed completed and pending projects, nonmetallic mining audit, and upcoming mining field day and Nutrient Management agreements.

Richardson and Wilk presented the following projects for approval.

S. Olson – Dam, H. Menn – Dam, A. Zirk, E. Zirk, R. Sullivan and D. Uppena -

178 combined acres of Nutrient Management.

**Motion by Wegner, second by Rasmussen to approve Cost Share Approvals.**

**Motion carried 4-0-1.**

Staff and Supervisor Open Discussion:

Dept. Head meeting. Reported on decreasing Workman's Comp claims within the county.

NRCS Report:

Written report by acting DC – J. Field announced new Technician John Armstrong and new District Conservationist Michele Komisky were recently hired and will be stationed at the Sparta field office. Both are long time NRCS employees. 10 CRP contracts in need of renewal. Reported on Local Work Group meeting.

DNR Private Lands Report:

Modjeski reported on completion of Warden Training and Lake Tomah Phosphorus Study.

Walroth reported on State Tree Farm Field Day at the Kann Farm, DMAP assistance, and FSA CRP compliance checks.

Forestry & Parks Updates:

Ziegler reported that the parks manager position has been approved by the Personnel Committee and Finance Committee; it will be on the county board agenda on August 18<sup>th</sup>.

The 2015 Park Revenue is approximately \$93,000.00; the expenses are approximately \$56,000.00.

Randy Schwemmer Enterprises is harvesting sale 139 in the Town of New Lyme. The 2015 Forestry Revenue is approximately \$62,000.00; the expenses are approximately \$27,000.00.

Ron Schneider with the WDNR has transferred into the recently vacant county forest liaison position.

Boat Launch Project: Approve Invoice:

Ziegler explained that Hansen Construction had completed the boat launch project in July. The original concrete for the launch approach was about 4 feet thick (it was expected to be 12-15" thick). Demolition costs were \$1,500.00 more than expected. Ziegler asked the committee if they would approve the additional \$1,500.00 for the bid for a total project cost of \$3,835.00. Ziegler explained that \$5,000.00 was budgeted for the project and this amount was still about \$1,400.00 less than the next lowest bid.

**Motion by Rasmussen, second by Olson to approve the additional \$1,500.00. Motion carried 4-0-1.**

Forestry & Parks Budget Review:

Ziegler reviewed the Forestry & Parks 2016 budgets. These budgets were developed assuming that the county board will approve the hiring of a full time Park Manager. The total park expenditures are \$140,644 and the total financing proposal is \$154,640.00. The total forestry expenditures are \$60,685 and the total financing proposal is \$41,250 plus \$20,000.00 for the County Forest Administrator Grant.

Discussion occurred regarding the Park Contracted Services line item; Ziegler explained the line item in detail. Discussion occurred regarding \$750.00 being spent towards half of the shuttle bus fee for the Warrens Cranberry Festival. Olson and Rasmussen felt that Warrens Cranberry Festival, Inc. should pay for the entire cost of the shuttle.

**Motion by Olson, second by Rasmussen to remove \$750.00 from the Contracted Services line item for the Cranfest shuttle. Motion carried 4-0-1.**

Land Use Agreement ATC:

Ziegler informed the committee about the ATC transmission line project that will be affecting county forest land in the Town of Lincoln. The contractors may need to do resistance boring on CFL lands and may be acquiring an easement for half of the right of way. They would possibly pay the county up to \$500.00 for allowing boring & surveying access plus an easement would be purchased if needed.

Lincoln Access Discussion (Weiland):

Ziegler explained that Don Weiland has completed negotiations and has an easement across the neighboring property up to the county forest. He is now ready to negotiate access through the county forest parcel. This is the same parcel where the transmission line will be located. Discussion occurred regarding the value of the easement. Don offered to trade 6 acres of land-locked land (that is adjacent to land-locked county forest) for the easement. Discussion occurred. The committee recommended that we wait until after the transmission line easement has been completed.

Review Forestry & Park Bills:

Ziegler reviewed the past months bills.

Set next Meeting Date:

The next meeting will be on September 15, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. in the Monroe County Ag Services Center.

Adjourn:

**Motion by Wagner, second by Rasmussen to adjourn at 10:15 a.m. Motion carried 4-0-1.**