

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

### **Date and Place:**

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

### **Call to Order:**

Chairman Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. Present were: J Rasmussen; D Wegner; B Micheel, LCD; J Wilk, LCD; C Ziegler, Monroe Co. Forestry; C. Walroth DNR; Phil Peterson, USDA; M Komiskey, NRCS; **Olson and Van Wychen absent.**

### **Minutes Approval 9/15/15 meeting:**

***Motion by Wegner, second by Rasmussen to approve the September 15<sup>th</sup> minutes as presented. Motion carried 3-0-2.***

### **Public Comment Period:**

None

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

Micheel reviewed monthly bills.

### **Wildlife Damage Program – Approve 2016 Budget:**

Peterson explained the 2016 budget for the wildlife damage program in Monroe County is \$26,690.27; a reduction of about \$2,600.00 from last year.

***Motion by Rasmussen, second by Wegner to approve the 2016 budget for Monroe County's wildlife damage program. Motion carried 3-0-2.***

### **County Conservationist Report:**

Micheel reported on:

Issued 2 manure storage permits: Randy Brueggen and Brian & Melissa Henze.

Stream Habitat construction has been completed on the La Crosse River in the city of Sparta and on the following farms: Neal Green, Leroy Baldwin, and Atlee Miller.

PL 566 Dams have been mowed and the inspection/repair to the Tri-Creek dam will most likely occur at the end of the month.

The phone system update is almost complete.

Micheel gave a presentation on water quality at the Garden Club meeting in Sparta.

Farmland Preservation signup is ongoing.

The Land Conservation Budget will go through as submitted to the County Administrator.

Soil and Water Conservationist Report:

Wilk discussed completed and ongoing projects. A handout was presented on behalf of Richardson report.

Cost Share Approvals:

Stream bank erosion - Bill Wadepuhl in the amount of \$500; well closure - Jim Gehring in the amount of \$1,050; dam - Terry Tiber in the amount of \$10,500 and a diversion - Neal Green in the amount of \$1,250.

**Motion by Wegner, Second by Rasmussen to approve the above cost shared projects. Motion carried 3-0-2.**

Staff and Supervisor Open Discussion:

Micheel reported that all county employees are attending a mandatory Harassment Training.

NRCS Report:

Michelle Komiskey introduced herself to the committee. She started October 5th as the District Conservationist for Monroe and La Crosse County NRCS. Her current tasks are screening the new EQIP applications and familiarizing herself with both the Monroe and La Crosse County offices to develop an organized work plan. She announced that Mic Armstrong was hired on as a full time soil conservation technician for the NRCS and Veronica Blount (Soil Conservationist - Monroe County) will be working part-time in La Crosse County filling in for the current vacancies.

DNR Private Lands Report:

Walroth reported the DNR foresters were mainly working on processing the 2016 MFL entries and training.

Forestry & Parks:

Ziegler reported that the Cranfest weekend went well again this year; nine day revenue around the festival was approximately \$16,000.00. Park workers have been winterizing the outdoor water facilities, cutting firewood and remodeling the counters in the fish cleaning station.

There is one active timber sale on the county forest; sale 139. Ziegler has been performing field recon and updating wisfirs and timber sale set up. This week he will be

working on developing a turn around, cleaning up some logging roads and abandonment of a concrete cistern.

Land Use Agreement ATC:

No new information at this time.

Approve Annual Work Plan and Resolution:

Ziegler explained the 2016 Annual Work Plan for the County Forest.

**Motion by Wegner, Second by Rasmussen to approve the above cost shared projects. Motion carried 3-0-2.**

Review Forestry & Park Bills:

Ziegler reviewed the past months bills.

Set next Meeting Date:

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

Adjourn:

**Motion by Wegner, Second by Rasmussen to adjourn at 9:05 a.m. Motion carried 3-0-2.**