

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

### Date and Place:

Tuesday December 16, 2014 at the Monroe County Ag Services Center, Sparta, WI

### Call to Order:

Chairman Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. Present were: J Rasmussen; N Van Wychen (8:05); D Olson; D Wegner; B. Micheel, LCD; B. Richardson, LCD; J Wilk, LCD; C Ziegler, Monroe Co. Forestry; G Wheeler, NRCS; C. Walroth, DNR; J Noble, Ft McCoy.

### Minutes Approval 10/18 meeting:

**Motion by Olson second by Rasmussen to approve the October 21st minutes as presented. Motion carried 4-0-1.**

### Public Comment Period:

None

### Review Land Conservation Bills:

Micheel reviewed monthly Land Conservation bills and discussed new spreadsheet format. Van Wychen arrived at 8:05.

### Wildlife Damage: Set 90% Harvest Date:

Committee set 90% harvest date as 12/16/2014.

**Motion by Wegner, second by Rasmussen to approve December 16, 2014 as the date of 90% harvest. Motion carried 5-0**

### Tri-Creek cropland rental bid deadline:

Micheel discussed soil samples, field layout and advertising schedule for Tri-Creek cropland rental. Advertising and bid deadline of January 8<sup>th</sup> will coincide with the county farm rental. The bid opening will be during the LCC meeting held on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

### Discussion of Mark Roberts Property Sale Adjoining Tri-Creek

Micheel discussed negotiating procedures and financing options after meeting with Corporation Council – A.Kaftan. The LCC committee appointed Micheel and Ziegler to negotiate with the landowner.

**Motion by Van Wychen, second by Rasmussen to appoint Micheel and Ziegler as negotiators for property adjoining Tri-Creek. Motion carried 5-0.**

### County Conservationist Report:

Micheel reported on:

Jack and Patricia Herricks winning the Leopold Award.

Farmland Preservation Program flyer enclosed in the property tax bills of the recently designated Ag Enterprise Area (AEA); which include the townships of Wilton, Clifton, Wellington, & Glendale.

Farmers from 3-4 townships will be attending a meeting on 12/30 at 1 p.m. at the Monroe County Ag Service Center to discuss items related to applying for an AEA.

Trout Unlimited is working with landowners in the townships of Adrian and Tomah regarding flood shadowing.

Micheel, Richardson and Wilk attended the UWEX Soil and Water Annual meeting in Sparta.

Monroe County Deer Committee met last week. Goals were set to maintain population in the Central Farmland Zone and increase the deer population in the Central Forested Zone.

Soil and Water Conservationist Report:

Wilk and Richardson discussed current projects, projects completed, and future surveys.

Cost Share Approvals:

Steve Vlasak Grade Stabilization Structure and Grassed Waterway \$15,000

Tim Sullivan Grassed Waterway \$7,000.

**Motion by Rasmussen, second by Wegner to approve the cost share amount for projects presented. Motion carried 5-0.**

Fort McCoy Presentation:

John Noble from Fort McCoy discussed various aspects of resource management at Ft. McCoy. John discussed the programs as well as how they co-exist with an active military training. John addressed committee questions.

NRCS Report:

Wheeler presented a summary of jobs completed in 2014

DNR Private Lands Report:

Walroth mentioned the tree farm field day will be held on Saturday August 15, 2015 at the Gerald Kahn Tree Farm. Gerald is the 2014 Wisconsin Tree Farmer of the Year. Staff continues to conduct property walkovers with landowners and provide assistance to Jackson County.

Forestry & Parks Update:

Ziegler reported that the facilities at McMullen Park are winterized and community service is splitting/stacking firewood for next year. Park revenue is currently at \$133,000.00, expenses at approximately \$85,000.00.

There are currently two active timber sales on the county forest. Current timber sale revenue is \$89,000.000 (223% of budget). Ziegler is also working on field work for the 2015 timber sales. Rasmussen left at 10:20am.

Review Forestry & Park Bills:

Ziegler reviewed the December bills.

Set next Meeting Date:

The next meeting will be on January 20, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. in the Monroe County Ag Services Center.

Adjourn:

**Motion by Wagner, second by Van Wychen to adjourn at 10:34 a.m. Motion carried 4-0-1.**

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

Date and Place:

Tuesday November 18, 2014 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; N Van Wychen; D Olson 8:15; B. Micheel, LCD; B. Richardson, LCD; J Wilk, LCD; C Ziegler, Monroe Co. Forestry; M. Modjeski DNR; C. Walroth DNR; K Antwi, DNR; R. Luethe; **Wegner**

**Absent**

Minutes Approval 10/21 meeting:

***Motion by Rasmussen second by Chapman to approve the October 21st minutes as presented. Motion carried 3-0-2.***

Public Comment Period:

None

Review Land Conservation Bills:

Micheel reviewed monthly Land Conservation bills and discussed new software used for paying bills.

Wildlife Damage: Set 2014 Crop price and 90% Harvest Date:

Micheel presented quarterly average crop prices for Corn, Soybeans, Specialty Apples, Wholesale Apples and Sweet Corn (Roadside). The LCC postponed setting the 90% harvest date due to the volume of crops still in the field. **Olson arrived 8:15 a.m.**

**Motion by Van Wychen, second by Rasmussen to approve the Corn Price at \$4.00 per bu, and Soybeans \$11.00 per bu. Motion carried 3-1-1.**

**Motion by Van Wychen, second by Rasmussen to approve the Specialty Apples at \$82.77 per bu., Wholesale Apples at \$63.75 per bu. and Roadside Sweet Corn at \$4.50 per dozen. Motion carried 3-1-1.**

County Conservationist Report:

Micheel reported on the Ag Enterprise Area recently approved by DATCP. Landowners will be eligible to apply starting Jan 1, 2015. A flyer promoting the Farmland Preservation Program was developed and will be mailed with the annual tax bill to all residents of the 4 townships in the Ag Enterprise Area.

The Conservation Aids application was approved. A total of \$5,000 will be used for fish habitat improvement on the La Crosse River in Sparta.

The two Tri-Creek recreational area parking lots were surfaced with breaker-run last month. Micheel discussed bringing in presenters to the LCC meeting representing various agencies/groups/etc. This would update the committee on their conservation efforts and potential resources they could bring to Monroe County.

TriCreek (Kastberg Farm) cropland rental contract expiring:

Micheel explained and answered questions regarding the bidding procedure, acres offered, public notification and tentative bid deadline of this site. It was agreed that advertising for bids would be in conjunction with the county farm next month. Bids would be opened at the January LCC meeting.

Soil and Water Conservationist Report:

Wilk and Richardson discussed current projects, projects completed, and future surveys. Discussion of Poster Contest mailing, history and deadline for entries.

Cost Share Approvals:

Steve Horstman 236 ac. for Nutrient Management \$6,608 in cost sharing.

Michelle and Brian Rasmussen for a Spring Development project \$2,240 in cost sharing.

**Motion by Rasmussen, second by VanWychen to approve the cost share approvals presented. Motion carried 3-1-1.**

Discussion of Mark Roberts Property Sale Adjoining Tri-Creek

Micheel presented tax info and sales info as directed at the October meeting. Discussion regarding funding, negotiations, and viewing of the site. Committee directed Micheel to discuss these items with Corporation Council.

NRCS Report:

Wheeler reported on Pollinator initiative in EQIP, minor accident with technicians work truck, soil conservationist's maternity leave, and status of intermittent employee.

DNR Private Lands Report:

Walroth provided information on the 2015 Tree Order Form which is now available. They continue to assist Jackson Co., and relocation to the new office has been delayed until late Jan/early Feb.

Modjeski updated the committee on requirements and enforcement issues regarding nonmetallic mining test drilling.

Forestry Line Item Transfer:

Ziegler hired Al Hoff as an LTE to complete some site preparation work on the county forest. To pay the LTE salary the committee will have to transfer \$450.00 from the Site Conversion/Planting line item to the Salaries line.

**Motion by Van Wychen, second by Rasmussen to approve the line item transfer.**

**Motion carried 4-0.**

Forestry & Parks Update:

A water line project was recently completed at McMullen Park, adding 9 water pedestals to the west loop of the campground. LTEs are working on mulching leaves, cutting firewood and winterizing facilities.

There are 3 active timber sales on the county forest, one in the Town of New Lyme and two in the Town of Lincoln.

A person has requested a permit to drive their ATV on the county forest during the 9-day gun deer season. This person has a disability and has difficulty walking. The county has an ordinance that does not allow the public to operate ATVs on the county forest. Ziegler spoke with corporation counsel about the request; he does not have the authority to issue a permit; however, he can choose not to write a citation for the violation. Corporation Counsel suggested writing him a letter notifying him that he wouldn't cite the individual if he were in violation of the ordinance.

Review Forestry & Park Bills:

Ziegler reviewed the November bills.

Set next Meeting Date:

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

Adjourn:

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

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

Date and Place:

Tuesday October 21, 2014 at the Monroe County Ag Services Center, Sparta, WI

Call to Order:

Chairman Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m. Present were: D. Wegner; J Rasmussen; B. Micheel, LCD; B. Richardson, LCD; J Wilk, LCD; C Ziegler, Monroe Co. Forestry; M. Modjeski DNR; R Luethe; L Revels; Norman Peska. **VanWychen and Olson Absent**

Minutes Approval 9/16 meeting:

**Motion by Rasmussen second by Wegner to approve the September 16th minutes as presented. Motion carried 3-0-2.**

Public Comment Period:

None

Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Plans submitted by Gerke Excavating for Approval: (Item moved ahead on the agenda for public in attendance.)

Richardson reviewed summary of reclamation plan for Gerke Byron Sand Mine. Gerke employees answered questions by committee members.

**Motion by Rasmussen, second by Wegner to approve the Byron Sand Mine Application pending receipt of \$54,400 financial assurance. Motion carried 3-0-2.**

Richardson reviewed summary of reclamation plan for Jeffers Borrow Site.

**Motion by Wegner, second by Rasmussen to approve Jeffers Borrow Site application pending approval from Lafayette Township. Motion carried 3-0-2.**

Richardson reviewed summary of reclamation plan for Greeno Borrow Site.

**Motion by Wegner, second by Rasmussen to approve Greeno Borrow Site. Motion carried 3-0-2.**

Payment of Land Conservation Bills:

Micheel reviewed monthly Land Conservation bills.

**Motion by Wegner, second by Rasmussen to approve the bills as presented in the amount of \$30,578.71. Motion Carried 3-0-2.**

Line Item Transfer:

Micheel discussed line item transfer in the amount of \$3000 to cover retirement costs for former County Conservationist.

**Motion by Rasmussen, second by Wegner to approve the line item transfer in the amount of \$3000. Motion carried 3-0-2.**

Conservation Aids Program Resolution:

Micheel discussed resolution authorizing application and reimbursement of Conservation Aids funds. Discussion that County share was coming from budgeted LCD funds not to exceed \$2500.

**Motion by Wegner, second by Rasmussen to approve Conservation Aids resolution. Motion carried 3-0-2.**

Discussion of Mark Roberts Property Sale Adjoining Tri-Creek

Micheel discussed phone conversation with owner Mark Roberts, and presented photos of the site for the committee.

Committee discussed funding, Co. Bd reaction, odd parcels to sell to use to purchase Roberts property.

R. Luethe spoke on behalf of the Tri-Creek Advisory Committee and stated the City and Township were in favor of the County owning this property, with the only concern being the loss of taxes to the township.

Committee instructed Micheel to check into land sales around Norwalk to determine a cost per acre rate.

County Conservationist Report:

Micheel reported on Ag Enterprise Area petition is open. Status of county Drainage Districts, and upcoming Deer Advisory Committee meeting.

Soil and Water Conservationist Report:

Wilk and Richardson discussed current projects, projects completed, future surveys and summary of Technical Committee Tour. Micheel mentioned resurrecting the County Poster Contest.

Cost Share Approvals:

None

NRCS Report:

None

DNR Private Lands Report:

Walroth provided a handout showing aid received to Monroe County in lieu of taxes on properties in MFL.

Modjeski updated the committee on the ongoing Timber Wolf hunt

County Forest Land Transaction – Town of Lincoln:

Norm Pestka from Norman Pestka Construction, Inc. gave the committee a presentation regarding his proposal to explore for industrial sand on county forest land in sections 5 and 6 in the Town of Lincoln. Mr. Pestka would like to get permission from the county to test drill on the county forest land. This particular site may be a feasible site for a sand mine due to its proximity to the railway. He explained that he would be able to find exchange lands for the acreage that would be involved and would pay the county a royalty for each ton of sand from the property that was sold.

The committee asked questions and discussed the proposal. Ziegler informed the committee that Oneida County hired an expert in metallic mineral exploration to draft documents for them so they could bid out the mineral exploration and mineral rights on their county forest. Their board didn't follow through with the bidding process; however, if Monroe County is interested in sand mining on the county forest; it may be worth looking into.

It was brought up that the Mark Roberts property next to Tri-Creek would be a good parcel to use as exchange lands. The committee directed Ziegler to have an open discussion about industrial sand mining on county forest lands at a county board meeting to determine if the board is in favor or not in favor of having a sand mine on county forest land.

Forestry & Parks Update:

The September month end park revenue is \$130,399.00 which is a 13% increase from 2013. Ziegler informed the committee that F&M Bank is closing the Warrens branch. The park makes several deposits per week at the bank; so the procedures will have to be reevaluated for 2015. Yearend activities at the park are cutting firewood, water line addition and mulching leaves.

The county forest has two active timber sales; one in the town of Lincoln (Lambert Forest Products) and one in the town of New Lyme (Joseph L. Bollig & Sons).

Increase Credit Card Limit:

Chad explained that his credit card has a limit of \$1,000.00; he is requesting that it be increased to \$2,000.00 because there are times when purchasing supplies/equipment for projects that the card is close to the limit and expenditures are delayed until the following month.

**Motion by Rasmussen, second by Wegner to approve the credit limit increase to \$2,000. Motion carried 3-0-2.**

Payment of Forestry & Parks bills:

Ziegler reviewed monthly Forestry & Parks bills.

**Motion by Rasmussen, second by Wegner to approve the monthly bills as presented in the amount of \$4,936.96**

Adjourn:

**Motion by Wegner, second by Rasmussen to adjourn at 10:47am. Motion carried 3-0-2.**

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

Date and Place:

Tuesday September 16, 2014 at the Monroe County Ag Services Center, Sparta, WI

Call to Order:

Chairman Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. Present were: D. Wegner; N Van Wychen; J Rasmussen; B. Micheel, LCD; B. Richardson, LCD; J Wilk, LCD; Ziegler, Monroe Co. Forestry; G Wheeler NRCS; C Walroth, DNR; P Peterson APHIS; Ron Luethe; L Revels; I Epstein. D Olson absent.

Minutes Approval 8/19 meeting:

***Motion by Wegner second by Chapman to approve the August 19th minutes as presented. Motion carried 4-0-1.***

Public Comment Period:

None

Payment of Land Conservation Bills:

Micheel reviewed monthly Land Conservation bills.

***Motion by Van Wychen, second by Rasmussen to approve the bills as presented in the amount of \$3478.19. Motion Carried 4-0-1.***

Wildlife Damage Program:

Peterson discussed budget adjustment for DNR fence project with Rodriguez and Mosely. \$28,000 total budget adjustment.

***Motion by Rasmussen, second by Van Wychen to approve the budget adjustment for 2 DNR fencing projects for a total adjustment of \$28,000. Motion Carried 4-0-1.***

Peterson discussed Venison Donation Agreement

***Motion by Rasmussen, second by Wegner to approve participation in the Venison Donation Program. Motion Carried 4-0-1***

Peterson discussed 2015 Wildlife Damage Budget in the amount of \$36,898.81 with \$29,350.97 billable to Monroe County.

***Motion by Van Wychen, second by Rasmussen to approve the Wildlife Damage Budget in the amount of \$36,898.81 Motion Carried 4-0-1.***

Micheel discussed County Budget Adjustment for Rodriguez fence project. Budget increase of \$18,712.70. Budget increased to \$53,712.74.

***Motion by Van Wychen, second by Rasmussen to approve the Budget Adjustment in the amount of \$18,712.70 for the Rodriguez fence. Motion Carried 4-0-1.***

Discussion of Mark Roberts Property Sale Adjoining Tri-Creek

Micheel and Ziegler discussed Tri-Creek History, property boundaries, and purchasing options.

R. Luethe spoke on behalf of the Tri-Creek Advisory Committee and stressed the importance of joining Site 1 to Site 3 parcels and create a better public access.

Committee instructed Micheel and Ziegler to pursue purchasing options and present at October meeting.

County Conservationist Report:

Micheel reported on the status of ongoing construction projects, manure storage projects, Phosphorus trading criteria with the City of Sparta, County Farm Rental info, PL566 dam maintenance, and reviving the County Farmer of the Year award in 2015.

Office Lease Agreement:

Micheel explained status of office lease. Rent will increase \$73/mo. on 1/1/15 to a monthly total of \$1531.25.

**Motion by Rasmussen, second by Wegner to approve increase in monthly rent.**

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

Soil and Water Conservationist Report:

Wilk and Richardson discussed ongoing projects as well as upcoming projects.

Cost Share Approvals:

Chimney Acres LLC for a Grade Stabilization Structure and Grassed Waterway. Estimated cost share amount of \$7000.00.

Richard Smith for 600' of Streambank Riprap and stream habitat. Cost share amount of \$8937.50 (50% of total)

Jonas Kaufman Grade Stabilization Structure . Cost Share amount estimated at \$7400.00

**Motion by Van Wychen, second by Rasmussen to approve cost share approvals for**

**Chimney Acres LLC, Richard Smith and Jonas Kaufman. Motion carried 4-0-1.**

NRCS Report:

Wheeler discussed 2014 EQIP. 36 Contracts signed. 2015 EQIP Signup, 20 applications so far. Rankings due by Oct. 3 2014.

DNR Report:

Walroth reported on timber sales and an increased value in pine. Continues to assist Jackson County with Forestry Duties.

Forestry & Parks Update:

The 2014 park revenue has almost reached the budgeted amount. The Warrens Cranberry Festival is coming up at the end of the month and should put the park revenues well over budget.

Currently, there is one active timber sale on the county forest in the Town of New Lyme; this sale should bring in the amount of revenue needed to reach the budgeted county forest revenues. Site preparation work is taking place on a couple of sites on the county forest.

Timber sale contract discussion:

Ziegler passed out copies of an existing timber sale contract and explained the process that the county uses for selling timber sales. The committee reviewed the contract and asked questions.

Approve the 2015 Annual Work Plan Resolution:

Ziegler presented the work plan to the committee and answered questions.

**Motion by Wegner, second by Rasmussen to approve the resolution as presented.**

**Motion carried 4-0.**

WCFA Annual Meeting:



Ziegler presented the agenda and asked if any committee members were interested in attending.

**Motion by Van Wychen, second by Wegner to approve the meeting attendance for any committee member. Motion carried 4-0.**

Payment of Forestry & Parks bills:

Ziegler reviewed monthly Forestry & Parks bills.

**Motion by Van Wychen, second by Wegner to approve the bills as presented in the amount of \$3,920.47. Motion Carried 4-0.**

County Forest Land Transaction: Town of Lincoln:

Ziegler explained that Norman Pestka Construction, Inc. has made an inquiry regarding 280 acres of County Forest Land in the Town of Lincoln along the railroad tracks and near McMullen Park. Ziegler summarized a four phase process that was outlined by the company. The company made a preliminary offer for prospecting and mining and are seeking permission to do some surface exploration.

**Motion by Wegner, second by Rasmussen to go into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes 19.85 (1) (e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. Motion carried 4-0.**

Discussion regarding the offer occurred.

**Motion by Van Wychen, second by Rasmussen to go back into open session. Motion carried 4-0.**

The committee directed Ziegler to pursue more information and a more serious offer.

Adjourn:

**Motion by Wegner, second by Rasmussen to adjourn at 11:09 am. Motion Carried 4-0.**

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

Date and Place:

Tuesday August 19, 2014 at the Monroe County Ag Services Center, Sparta, WI

Call to Order:

Chairman Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:14 a.m. Present were: D. Wegner; D Olson; B. Micheel, LCD; B. Richardson, LCD; J Wilk, LCD; Ziegler, Monroe Co. Forestry C Walroth, DNR; M Modjeski DNR; K Antwi, DNR; Ron Luethe; L Revels.

Minutes Approval 7/15 meeting:

**Motion by Olson second by Wegner to approve the July 15th minutes as presented. Motion carried 3-0.**

Public Comment Period:

None

Payment of Land Conservation Bills:

Micheel reviewed monthly Land Conservation bills.

**Motion by Olson, second by Wegner to approve the bills as presented in the amount of \$25,241.00 Motion Carried 3-0.**

Review 2015 Land Conservation Budget:

Micheel discussed 2015 budget items including increases and decreases from 2014.

County Conservationist Report:

Micheel reported on the status of the Ag Enterprise Area in the Southeast corner of the county as well as interest from Lincoln, Scott, Grant and Byron townships.

Micheel will be presenting information on the stream-bank restoration program with the city of Sparta at the Area Wastewater Treatment Operators meeting later this morning.

Micheel discussed construction project status, provided field day info and updated status of the Sauk County Baraboo River Watershed RCPP proposal.

Micheel will represent the Monroe County Land Conservation Department on the newly formed Deer Advisory Council. First meeting scheduled for September.

Micheel informed the committee the PL-566 dams were mowed in late July by the Monroe County Snowmobile Trails Club. Only one mowing will be completed this year due to the timing. The remaining maintenance funds will be used to remove trees encroaching on few of the structures and pipe inlets.

Soil and Water Conservationist Report:

Wilk and Richardson discussed ongoing projects as well as upcoming projects.

Discussion – Mark Roberts property sale adjoining Tri-Creek:

Micheel and Ziegler discussed Tri-Creek history and the land which is up for sale. Ziegler discussed various funding options if committee was interested in purchasing the property. Stewardship Grants and Project Loans were two options discussed. Pro's and Con's of ownership were discussed. It was suggested this topic be addressed at the next meeting when all members are present.

Cost Share Approvals:

Melanie Faust for a Diversion and Critical Area Shaping. Estimated cost share amount of \$2,100.00.

Louis Geiger for a Diversion, Waterway and Toe Wall structure. Estimated cost share amount of \$3,500.

**Motion by Wegner, second by Olson to approve cost share approval for Faust and Geiger. Motion carried 3-0.**

NRCS Report:

Micheel submitted for Wheeler, a summary of the Local Work Group Meeting held on August 13<sup>th</sup>. Discussed funding percentages, resource concerns and practice priorities.

DNR Report:

Walroth reported on Emerald Ash Borer discovery in Monroe County, DMAP Landowner meetings, site visits, and staff filling in for Jackson County DNR Private Lands Forester which is vacant due to retirement.

Set next meeting date:

Next meeting is at 8 a.m. on September 16, 2014.

Forestry & Parks Update:

The 2014 park revenue is approximately 17% higher than last year at this time. Annual maintenance of park facilities and some other park projects are occurring. There was an incidence at the park last month where a camper was escorted out of the park by the Monroe County Sheriff's Department for vandalizing personal property.

Currently, there are no active timber sales on the county forest. Activities taking place are 2015 timber sale set up, invasive species work and site prep planning for this fall. The Fort McCoy Training exercise finished up earlier this month; no remediation is necessary on the

county forest. Ziegler announced that he will be Monroe County's Forestry representative on the County Deer Advisory Council.

Timber sale contract discussion:

This topic will be placed on next month's agenda when more committee members are present.

Resolution to enroll tax delinquent land into County Forest Law:

Ziegler presented the resolution to the committee with a map of the 7 acre tax delinquent parcel. Enrolling this 7 acre parcel into the CFL will ensure that it will provide county forest access for management and recreational activities in the future. The committee discussed whether or not this should be discussed by the whole committee. It was decided that the members not present were aware of the circumstances and are on board with proceeding.

**Motion by Wegner, second by Olson to approve the resolution as presented.**

**Motion carried 3-0.**

Payment of Forestry & Parks bills:

Ziegler reviewed monthly Forestry & Parks bills and explained that the previous meeting's interdepartmental transfer for fuel was double the normal amount due to the fact that two months were entered into one month by mistake.

**Motion by Olson, second by Wegner to approve the bills as presented in the amount of \$43,791.99. Motion Carried 3-0.**

Olson left the meeting at approximately 10:30 am.

2015 annual partnership meeting discussion:

Kobby explained that the County Forestry Department and the WDNR held the annual partnership meeting a few weeks ago. The WDNR was able to meet all of the county forest time standard hours for the fiscal year 2014. He explained some of the projects that are planned for fiscal year 2015 and that the county forest is in compliance with the County Forest Law. Ziegler announced that the committee would approve the annual work plan resolution at the next meeting.

Adjourn:

**Motion by Wegner, second by Chapman to adjourn at 10:51 am. Motion Carried 2-0.**

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

Date and Place:

Tuesday July 15, 2014 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 N. Van Wychen; D. Wegner; J. Rasmussen; D Olson; B. Micheel, LCD; B. Richardson, LCD; J Wilk, LCD; C Walroth, DNR; R Lichtie, DNR; M Modjeski DNR; K Antwi, DNR; G Wheeler, NRCS; P Peterson, APHIS; and M Amundson.

Minutes Approval 5/20 meeting:

**Motion by VanWychen, second by Wegner to approve the June 17th minutes with conditions highlighted for Milestone Materials Wilton Quarry. Motion carried 5-0.**

Public Comment Period:

None

Payment of Land Conservation Bills:

Micheel reviewed monthly Land Conservation bills.

**Motion by Wegner, second by Rasmussen to approve the bills as presented in the amount of \$1,995.04. Motion Carried 5-0.**

Approve permanent fence (Rodriguez) budget amendment for Wildlife Abatement:

Peterson explained basics of damage program and budget amendment in the amount of \$13,000 for a permanent fence installation at an apple orchard owned by Domingo Rodriguez. Construction is anticipated to be completed in the fall of 2014. Peterson also answered questions on various damage complaints in the county he has been working on.

**Motion by Olson, second by Rasmussen to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$13,000 for the Rodriguez abatement fence. Motion carried 5-0.**

County Conservationist Report:

Micheel reported on the Western Area meeting. No volunteers for representing LCC came forth; Ben Wojhan from Vernon Co will represent county employees.

Micheel noted that the Phosphorus trading plan with the city has agreed to fund projects outside of the Sparta City limits at their discretion.

Micheel discussed on-going construction and planned dairy expansion with East Town Dairy; which requested a Manure Storage Permit.

Soil and Water Conservationist Report:

Wilk introduced himself and gave a brief background. He also discussed assisting with maps for FPP and dam construction.

Richardson discussed design progress, site showings, permit status and nonmetallic mining.

Transect Summary:

Richardson explained transect survey process and results of 2014 survey. Handout showed comparisons from 2000-2014. Answered questions relating to soil loss, T value and soil productivity.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Proposal:

Micheel reported on the proposal by Sauk County to target the Baraboo River Watershed. Monroe County would be included in funding for the small portion of the watershed located in the county. NRCS requires a local match of 50%. More will be known in coming months.

Fishing Easement:

Micheel presented fishing easements for Arnold Hurtz and Robert Gruen. Discussion regarding a listing of all easements available to the public.

**Motion by Rasmussen, second by Olson to approve fishing easements for A Hurtz and R Gruen. Motion carried 5-0.**

Cost Share Approvals:

None

NRCS Report:

Wheeler reported that the Work Group meeting will be held on August 13<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-12:30 at the Necedah Wildlife Refuge.

Wheeler discussed ongoing EQIP projects being conducted by NRCS staff.

DNR Private Lands Report:

Lichtie reported on the local Deer Advisory Committee meeting on September 17<sup>th</sup> at Tomah High School. Also discussed the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) and the role Wildlife and Forestry staff will have in the program.

Wolroth reported on localized tree damage due to the recent storms and Forestry Staff attended a training session for DMAP.

Forestry & Parks Updates:

Attendance at McMullen Park has been good; as of June 30<sup>th</sup> half of the revenue budget has been collected. The three busiest months of the season are still to come.

The county forest has no logging activity at this time; sale 133 was completed approximately a month ago.

Fort McCoy Training Agreement:

Ziegler explained the history of this agreement between Fort McCoy and the county. Fort McCoy would like to use two roads for access points onto the installation; one off of Camp Ave. and the other via a logging road off of Birch Rd. The access points will be used during battle simulation to transport troops; vehicles will be 4x4 pickup trucks, HMMWVs, or commercial passenger vans. There will be a pre-training inspection and post training inspection of the roads. Damages will be repaired as needed.

**Motion by Rasmussen, second by Olson to approve the training request. Motion carried 5-0.**

Private Land Access (Weiland): Town of Lincoln:

Ziegler explained the history and gave the committee an update on this topic. The committee would like Mr. Weiland to get his easement through the private property figured out before more discussion occurs.

Parcel 185-00190-0000:

Ziegler explained that the Property & Purchasing Committee was planning to sell the timber on this parcel with the adjacent county forest sale. The Property & Purchasing Committee asked for a value estimate from the contractor; it was explained that the timber sale would have to be delineated for the estimate to be accurate; he isn't sure what is going to happen at this time. The committee directed Ziegler to develop a resolution to enroll the west 7 acres more or less into the county forest.

Payment of Forestry & Parks Bills:

The committee reviewed the monthly expenditures.

**Motion made by Rasmussen, second by Olson to approve the expenditures in the amount of \$4533.12. Motion carried 5-0.**

Set next meeting date:

Next meeting is scheduled for 8 a.m. on August 19, 2014.

Adjourn:

**Motion made by Olson, second by Van Wychen to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0.**

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

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

Date and Place:

Tuesday June 17, 2014 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 N. Van Wychen; D. Wegner; J. Rasmussen; D Olson; B. Micheel, LCD; B. Richardson, LCD; C Walroth, DNR; G Wheeler, NRCS; Steve Stuhr and Andrew Baker Mathy Construction; Ron Luethe; Larry Ross and Larry Revels.

Minutes Approval 5/20 meeting:

**Motion by VanWychen, second by Wegner to approve the May 20th minutes as printed. Motion carried 5-0.**

Public Comment Period:

None

Payment of Land Conservation Bills:

Micheel reviewed monthly Land Conservation bills.

**Motion by Olson, second by VanWychen to approve the bills as presented in the amount of \$2,242.86. Motion Carried 5-0.**

Public Informational Hearing: Milestone Materials, Wilton Quarry:

Hearing was opened at 8:30 a.m. Larry Ross expressed concerns about the proposed quarry. His concerns were more operational than reclamation based and he was advised to voice his concerns at the township meeting as well as Monroe County Zoning CUP hearing. Representatives from Mathy Construction answered questions from the board members in regards to reclaiming parts of the mine as they mine other areas. The representatives stated that they intend to reclaim areas as they go to reduce the amount of open acres, which will reduce the annual fee and financial assurance bond amount.

**Motion by Olson, second by Rasmussen to approve Reclamation Plan Application for the Wilton Quarry with the following conditions.**

- 1. Receipt of Financial Assurance**
- 2. Proof of property ownership by the operator, or current owner certification signatures.**

**Motion carried 5-0.**

County Conservationist Report:

Micheel inquired about Western Area WLWCA representative. Rasmussen agreed to be rep, but will not be in attendance at the upcoming meeting. Micheel noted that the AEA application for SE Monroe Co. has been reviewed with positive results. Some additional information will be needed. Micheel discussed reauthorization of CREP, modification of Farmland Preservation contract, and status of construction projects.

New Soil and Water Conservationist:

Micheel stated that Jesse Wilk has been hired as the new Soil and Water Conservationist and will start on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Sparta Water Quality Trading Plan:

Micheel mentioned that DNR has approved Sparta's Phosphorus Trading Plan, and it was the first in the state to be approved. He discussed what will be done to reduce phosphorus levels within the city limits of Sparta, as well as the reasons behind phosphorus trading.

Fishing Easement:

Micheel discussed DNR Fishing Easement Program. May have interested parties to discuss at next meeting.

Cost Share Approvals:

Micheel requested approval for Arnold Marx. Cost sharing on a grade stabilization structure in the amount of \$2,500.00

**Motion by Rasmussen, second by VanWychen to approve cost share approval request. Motion carried 5-0.**

Soil and Water Conservationist Report:

Richardson discussed design progress, nonmetallic mining, farmland preservation plan review results, and Threatened and Endangered Species certification.

NRCS Report:

Wheeler reported on NRCS plans to consolidate Local Work Groups with adjoining counties. Also mentioned that the Work Group meeting will be held on August 13<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-12:30 at the Necedah Wildlife Refuge.

Wheeler discussed the Wetland Reserve Easement Program as a whole and explained the one site in Monroe County that is interested in applying. Wheeler answered questions about the site and the program.

DNR Private Lands Report:

Walroth reported that they were doing tree planting checks, landowner contacts dealing with harvest schedules and disease issues. They also have conducted school programs and attended Deer Management training. Four Monroe County landowners have applied for the Deer Management program so far.

Forestry and Parks Bills:

Micheel presented the monthly bills for Forestry and Parks.

**Motion by VanWychen, second by Rasmussen to approve the bills as presented in the amount of \$3561.17. Motion carried 5-0.**

Set next meeting date:

Next meeting is at 8 a.m. on July 15, 2014.

Adjourn:

**Motion by Wegner, second by VanWychen to adjourn. Motioned carried 5-0.  
Meeting adjourned at 9:37 a.m.**

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

Date and Place:

Tuesday May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at the Monroe County Ag Services Center, Sparta, WI

Call to Order:

Chairman Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. Present: N. Van Wychen; D. Wegner; J. Rasmussen; B. Micheel, LCD; B. Richardson, LCD; C Ziegler, F&P; C Walroth, DNR; G Wheeler, NRCS; Stan Brownell and Larry Revels. Absent: D Olson.

Minutes Approval 4/15 and 4/23 meetings:

**Motion by Van Wychen, second by Rasmussen to approve April 15<sup>th</sup> and April 23<sup>rd</sup> minutes as printed. Motion carried 4-0.**

Public Comment Period:

None

Election of Vice Chair:

Chairman Chapman asked if anyone was interested in Vice Chair position. J Rasmussen expressed interest.

***Chairman Chapman asked for any opposition. Hearing none, move to approve J Rasmussen as LCC vice Chair. Passed 4-0.***

Payment of Land Conservation Bills:

Micheel reviewed monthly Land Conservation bills.

***Motion by Van Wychen, second by Rasmussen to approve the bills as presented in the amount of \$15,181.88. Motion Carried 4-0.***

Wisconsin Conservation Congress Convention Report:

Stan Brownell gave an update of Conservation Congress Convention. Monroe County is represented on Trout, Deer and Elk, Turkey, Bear and Wolf Committees. Attendance at the April Spring Conservation Hearings was up 1000 attendees statewide.

County Conservationist Report:

Micheel handed out LCD program review and discussed various State Statutes relating to LCC/LCD operations. Discussed DNR dam safety training workshop that he attended. Also discussed education efforts at Sparta and Brookwood schools. Updated the committee on the phosphorous trading plan with the city of Sparta and the potential role of the LCD.

Two inquires for manure storage permits pertaining to a new poultry operation and dairy expansion near Cashton.

30 plus applications received for the Soil & Water Conservationist position opening that closed on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Plan to screen applicants an interview in the next couple weeks.

Western Area Land and Water Conservation Assoc. Appointment:

Discussed Western Area LWCA duties and committee composition. J Rasmussen is interested in being the Monroe County LCC representative if schedule allows. He will decide in a few days. Micheel will represent the LCD.

Soil and Water Conservationist Report:

Richardson discussed design progress, nonmetallic mining and school program activities.

Nonmetallic Mining Discussion/Action on Kory Revels and Larry Revels Non-metallic Mining Permit Revisions:

Richardson explained the reason for the revision. Additional parcels needed to be added to the existing reclamation permit. No increase in mining or financial assurance needed.

***Motion by Van Wychen, second by Wegner to approve revisions to K. Revels and L. Revels Quarries as described. Motion carried 4-0.***

Farmland Preservation Plan Update:



Richardson explained the process for plan approval. Open House held on 5/19/14. Draft plan will be sent to DATCP for review.

Cost Share Approvals:

None

NRCS Report:

Wheeler reported on NRCS plans to consolidate Local Work Groups with adjoining counties. Committee questioned how this would affect Monroe Co., Wheeler stated we may come out ahead as we have a larger EQIP influence than the adjoining counties.

DNR Private Lands Report:

Walroth reported that trees were delivered on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Logging has slowed due to Oak Wilt Cutting Restrictions from April 1 thru July 15<sup>th</sup>. Walroth mentioned concerns about the prevalence of invasive plants and County road weight restrictions and its effect on logging operations.

Forestry & Parks update:

The county parks are up and running and preparing for the first holiday weekend of the year.

The county forest has one active timber sale (a pine thinning) occurring in the Town of New Lyme.

The WCFA Summer Tour will be in Chippewa County this year on June 26 & 27; Chad will be leaving on vacation on the 27<sup>th</sup> and isn't sure how much of the meeting he will be able to attend.

Private Land Access (WEILAND): Town of Lincoln:

Chad gave the committee an update on this topic. He explained that the six acres that Mr. Weiland owns isn't very valuable to the county because the county doesn't have legal access to that land or the county forest that is adjacent to it. Dennis Schaetzka owns a thin strip of land east of Arm road that could block county forest access; it may be possible for Mr. Weiland to acquire this land and include it with the six acres to trade to Monroe County. The value of the one acre of county forest was discussed. The committee directed Chad to look into the details of a transaction that would be revoked if the land use changed to a use other than outdoor recreation. The committee doesn't want the county to sell/trade the land for a few thousand dollars and then the land be sold for a use other than recreation.

Parcel 185-00190-0000:

The Property & Purchasing Committee (May meeting) rejected the bid on 19 acres more or less for \$15,180.00 and asked the Forestry Department to sell the timber on it; clear cutting the north portion of the tract and performing a more selective harvest on the south end to maintain some aesthetics.

Chad informed the LCC that the intent of Property & Purchasing is to sell the east 19 acres after the timber is harvested. The committee has a couple options: 1) approve a resolution enrolling the west 7 acres more or less into the county forest 2) forward a resolution to enroll the entire parcel or a portion of the east half. Discussion occurred. Chad explained that the topography of the land is not desirable for development (especially commercial development). If more development occurs on that parcel; the most likely area would be on a few acres along Aspen Avenue.

The committee directed Chad to develop a resolution to enroll the west 7 acres more or less into the county forest.

Payment of Forestry & Park Bills:

The committee reviewed the monthly expenditures.

*A motion was made by Dean Wagner, seconded by James Rasmussen to approve the expenditures in the amount of \$657.03. Motion carried 4-0.*

2014 Meeting Schedule/Set next meeting date:

The committee moved to change the LCC meeting start times from 8:30am to 8:00am on the third Tuesday of the month. The next Land Conservation Committee meeting is scheduled for June 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am.

Adjourn:

*Motion by James Rasmussen, second by Dean Wagner to adjourn at 11:20am. Motion carried 4-0*

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Bryce Richardson & Chad Ziegler, recorders

**MONROE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION, FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**DATE & PLACE:**

Tuesday April 15, 2014 at the Monroe County Ag Services Center, Sparta, WI

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Present were J. Kuhn, D. Wegner; J. Rasmussen; N. VanWychen; A. Hoff, LCD; B. Richardson, LCD; B. Micheel, LCD; C. Ziegler, F&P; K. Antwi, DNR; P. Peterson, APHIS; C. Walroth, DNR; G. Wheeler, NRCS; Ron Luethe; Larry Revels.

**MINUTES APPROVAL –2/18/14**

*Motion by Van Kuhn, second by Rasmussen to approve the 3/18/14 minutes as printed. Motion carried 5-0.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

Ron Luethe introduced himself to the committee and explained his purpose for attending the LCC meetings. He is interested in Tri-Creek issues and as a retired NRCS employee is interested in keeping up on what is going on.

**PAYMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION BILLS:**

Hoff reviewed the monthly Land Conservation bills.

*Motion by VanWychen, second by Wegner to approve the bills as presented in the amount of \$1,945.79. Motion carried 5-0.*

**APPROVE BUDGET AMMENDMENT FOR WILDLIFE DAMAGE – MOSELY FENCE:**

Phil Peterson explained the budget amendment that is needed for the 2014 Monroe County Wildlife Damage program. The amendment with DNR is needed to cover the cost of a fence, originally planned to be completed in 2013. The amendment is for a \$25,100 increase and does not result in any expense to Monroe County. The completed fence will eliminate any deer damage claims from this point forward, although Mosely is eligible for damage done before the fence completion.

*Motion by Van Wychen, second by Kuhn to approve the Wildlife Damage program budget amendment in the amount of a \$25,100 increase. Motion carried 5-0.*

#### **LAND CONSERVATION STAFF REPORTS:**

Richardson and Micheel reported they are working on 2014 conservation practice designs.

Micheel has participated in several school programs including a career day at the Sparta Middle School. He also spoke at a Trout Unlimited workshop and participated in a ravine workshop along with 2 Monroe County landowners.

Richardson has participated in environmental days for a kindergarten class and one for 4<sup>th</sup> grade Scouts. He reported on the status of the Farmland Preservation Plan revision. He reported on the recent workshop for conservation contractors. He also reported that he has received calls about a couple new mines.

#### **UPDATE ON AG ENTERPRISE AREA PETITION:**

Hoff updated the committee on the progress of an Ag Enterprise Area petition from landowners in Wellington, Wilton, Clifton, and Glendale townships. The petition was submitted to DATCP by the March 31 deadline and will be reviewed to determine completeness. A decision will be made later this summer on whether the AEA is designated.

#### **2014 COST-SHARE APPROVALS:**

Richardson discussed the following 2014 Land and Water cost-share agreements: K. Brummund, N. Abbott, K. LaValley, and G. Klinker.

*Motion by Rasmussen, second by Kuhn to approve 2014 cost-share agreements for Kirt Brummund, Nick Abbott, Brian La Valley, and Gerald Klinkner. Motion carried 5-0.*

#### **NRCS REPORT:**

Wheeler reported on the progress of the 2014 Farm Bill. He passed out a handout on conservation compliance provisions required for participation in federal programs and discussed how the compliance checks are carried out.

#### **DNR REPORT:**

Walroth reported that trees from the DNR nursery will be arriving on April 23. This will be the fewest trees ever ordered from Monroe County landowners. She reported that she expects 28 new applications for the Managed Forest Law.

#### **FORESTRY AND PARKS UPDATES:**

The county hired two park employees; Lanny Deters and Jim Braxler; they started work on 4/11/14. Mike Roddick will also be returning for the summer. Spring cleanup will be on April 26<sup>th</sup>, the park is looking for a camp host for the month of May.

Chad attended the spring WCFA meeting in March. Topics discussed were conservation easements, forest certification, stewardship funding, state budget impacts, elk reintroduction efforts, invasive species, etc.

The WCFA Summer Tour will be in Chippewa County this year on June 26 & 27; Chad will be leaving on vacation on the 27<sup>th</sup> and isn't sure how much of the meeting he will be able to attend.

Timber sale bids were opened on 4/14/14; results were reviewed, questions asked. A special meeting will be held before the county board meeting on April 23 to accept the high bids that were received by the deadline

#### **PRIVATE LAND ACCESS (WEILAND): TOWN OF LINCOLN**

Chad gave the committee an update on this topic. Don Weiland owns property in the Town of Lincoln that is landlocked by private land and county forest land. Don was proposing to trade six acres of land south of the interstate for approximately one acre of land along the north I-94 ROW to gain access to his parcel. The six acres is adjacent to 27 acres of county forest that is landlocked by the interstate, railroad and private land. Don spoke with the committee to offer his point of view regarding his access situation and the fairness of the proposed trade. Discussion occurred. The committee directed Chad to do more research and report back to the committee next month. The committee will discuss details of a potential transaction.

#### **PARCEL 185-00190-0000:**

The east 19 acres of this parcel was offered for sale by the Property & Purchasing Committee; one bid was received from Ron Stanek (Game Craze) for \$15,180.00 (approx. \$800/acre). The Property & Purchasing Committee (March meeting) considered the offer and decided to revisit the bid at their next meeting. The Property & Purchasing Committee (April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting) approved the resolution to sell this parcel to Ron Stanek for \$15,180.00.

Chad conservatively estimates the value of the timber to be about \$9,800.00 on this parcel. The county could probably harvest the property in a manner to maintain most of the aesthetics of the parcel, receive about \$5,000 to \$6,000.00 for the timber and sell it for \$1500.00/acre. A 45 acre parcel nearby sold for about \$1,600.00/acre in 2010. It was mentioned that the Game Craze has been for sale since June of 2011.

Discussion occurred regarding pulling the resolution from the county board agenda. The following concerns were expressed: 1) Two of the supervisors who voted yes to the resolution are no longer on the county board. 2) Parcel 185-00190-0000 should be split into two separate parcels before the sale occurs. 3) A survey may have to occur due to its size (under 20 acres).

*A motion was made by James Kuhn, seconded by Dean Wagner to contact and advise the county board chairman that the Land Conservation, Forestry & Parks Committee is not in favor of the passage of this resolution. Motion carried 5-0*

#### **COUNTY FOREST STEWARDSHIP MOA:**

The county entered into this MOA with the WDNR in 2012. Several revisions have been made regarding funding, application deadlines, ranking criteria, term of agreement and format adjustments. These revisions are causing the WDNR to requiring an updated MOA. Approving this MOA will speed up the application process in the future if the county decides to apply for any stewardship funding.

*A motion was made by Nodji Van Wychen, seconded by James Rasmussen to approve the resolution. Motion carried 5-0*

**PAYMENT OF FORESTRY & PARKS BILLS:**

The committee reviewed the monthly expenditures.

*A motion was made by James Kuhn, seconded by James Rasmussen to approve the expenditures in the amount of \$413.56. Motion carried 5-0.*

**SET NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next Land Conservation Committee meeting was scheduled for May 20 at 8:30 a.m.

**ADJOURN:**

*Motion by Wegner, second by Kuhn to adjourn at 11:10 a.m. Motion carried 5-0.*

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Al Hoff & Chad Ziegler, recorders

**MONROE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION, FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**DATE & PLACE:**

Tuesday March 18, 2014 at the Monroe County Ag Services Center, Sparta, WI

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Present were J. Kuhn, D. Wegner; J. Rasmussen; N. VanWychen; A. Hoff, LCD; B. Richardson, LCD; B. Micheel, LCD; C. Ziegler, F&P; K. Antwi, DNR; M. Modjeski, DNR; C. Walroth, DNR; G. Wheeler, NRCS; Ron Luethe; Randy Henkel, H. James & Sons.

**MINUTES APPROVAL –2/18/14**

*Motion by Van Wychen, second by Kuhn to approve the 2/18/14 minutes as printed. Motion carried 5-0.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

There were no comments from the public.

**PAYMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION BILLS:**

Hoff reviewed the monthly Land Conservation bills.

*Motion by Wegner, second by Rasmussen to approve the bills as presented in the amount of \$6,668.91. Motion carried 5-0.*

**ACT ON NONMETALLIC MINING RECLAMATION PERMIT APPLICATION FOR BORNTREGER HWY 33 BORROW SITE, H. JAMES & SONS, OPERATOR:**

Richardson reviewed the nonmetallic mining reclamation permit application from H. James & Sons for a borrow site for the Hwy 33 reconstruction project. The proposed site is located in Section 35 of Jefferson Township. The material being mined will be sand and fill material for Hwy 33. Post-mining land use will be a building site and pasture. Reclamation will consist of shaping and seeding disturbed areas and establishing vegetation. Financial assurance in the amount of \$4,500 is required. Randy Henkel from H. James & Sons responded to questions about the site.

*Motion by Kuhn, second by Rasmussen to approve the submitted reclamation plan from H. James & Sons for the Borntreger Hwy 33 Borrow Site. Motion carried 5-0.*

**LAND CONSERVATION STAFF REPORTS:**

Richardson and Micheel reported on sessions from the WLWCA conference. They attended sessions on adaptive management, heavy hauling, nutrient management, farmland preservation, and sand mine local ordinances.

Richardson reported on the status of the Monroe County Farmland Preservation Plan revision. He invited the committee to attend the contractor workshop on 3/21.

Micheel told the committee that he has assisted with the installation of fish habitat structures in Perch Lake. He participated in a job shadow request from a Sparta High School student and will be participating in career day at Sparta Schools. He discussed issues with obtaining permits from Army Corps in a timely manner.

**APPROVE RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AG ENTERPRISE AREA IN SE MONROE COUNTY:**

Hoff updated the committee on the progress of an Ag Enterprise Area petition from landowners in Wellington, Wilton, Clifton, and Glendale townships. The petition needs to be submitted by March 31, and must include support resolutions from all municipalities involved. The four townships have all passed resolutions.

*Motion by Van Wychen, second by Kuhn to send a resolution to County Board in support of The Headwaters Ag Enterprise Area of Southeast Monroe County. Motion carried 5-0.*

**NRCS REPORT:**

Wheeler handed out a notice for a meeting sponsored by Legacy Seeds on cover crops. He also passed out information and discussed how NRCS is involved in protecting pollinators.

**DNR REPORT:**

Modjeski told the committee that he will be involved in career day at Sparta schools, and will also be involved with a learn to turkey hunt program. He reminded the committee of the upcoming spring fish and game hearings.

Walroth discussed the new web based database for forest tax law programs.

**FORESTRY AND PARKS UPDATES:**

The county is in the process of advertising the camp host position and LTE positions for McMullen Park.

The radio tower in the Town of New Lyme appears to be on hold for now; there is a new state law that is changing the regulatory authority over all towers in the state. Local government may not have authority to regulate towers in the future. This topic will resurface once the county revitalizes their tower ordinance.

Chad met with the Tri Creek Advisory Committee on March 6, 2014 to give the committee an overview of the Ridgeville county forest parcel, the Tri Creek Property and to answer any questions regarding County Forest Law. The Tri Creek Advisory Committee gave the town board an update on

March 10. Ron Luethe briefly discussed the update and informed the LCC that the town would like to keep the lines of communication open regarding this property in the future.

**FORESTRY/PARKS LINE ITEM TRANSFER:**

The following line item transfers were presented:

Park Salaries to Motor Vehicle Operation/Maint: \$15.00, Park Salaries to Supplies: \$15.00.

*A motion was made by James Rasmussen, seconded by James Kuhn to approve the line item transfers. Motion carried 5-0.*

**WCFA SPRING CONFERENCE:**

Chad will be attending this conference March 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> and was wondering if any committee members were interested in attending. The committee members aren't available to attend.

**PARCEL 185-00190-0000:**

The east 19 acres of this parcel was offered for sale by the Property & Purchasing Committee; one bid was received from Ron Stanek (Game Craze) for \$15,180.00. The Property & Purchasing Committee considered the offer and decided to consider the bid at their next meeting.

*A motion was made by James Rasmussen, seconded by Dean Wagner to contact the Property & Purchasing Committee and request that a representative of their committee attend the April Land Conservation, Forestry & Parks Committee meeting to discuss this parcel and the committee's intentions for it. Motion carried 5-0*

**PAYMENT OF FORESTRY & PARKS BILLS:**

The committee reviewed the March bills.

*A motion was made by Nodji Van Wychen, seconded by James Rasmussen to approve the bills for March in the amount of \$280.71. Motion carried 5-0.*

**SET NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next Land Conservation Committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, April 15 at 8:30 a.m.

**ADJOURN:**

*Motion by Rasmussen, second by Kuhn to adjourn at 10:20 a.m. Motion carried 5-0.*

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Al Hoff & Chad Ziegler, recorders

**MONROE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION, FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**DATE & PLACE:**

Tuesday February 18, 2014 at the Monroe County Ag Services Center, Sparta, WI

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Present were J. Kuhn, D. Wegner; J. Rasmussen; N. VanWychen (8:35); A. Hoff, LCD; B. Richardson, LCD; B. Micheel, LCD; C. Ziegler, F&P; K. Antwi, DNR; M. Modjeski, DNR; G. Wheeler, NRCS; Ron Luethe; Jeff Ozanne.

**MINUTES APPROVAL –1/21/14**

*Motion by Wegner, second by Rasmussen to approve the 1/21/14 minutes as printed. Motion carried 4-0 (VanWychen not present).*

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

There were no comments from the public.

**PAYMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION BILLS:**

Hoff reviewed the monthly Land Conservation bills

*Motion by Kuhn, second by Rasmussen to approve the bills as presented in the amount of \$2,051.14. Motion carried 5-0.*

**LAND CONSERVATION STAFF REPORTS:**

Micheel and Richardson are working on 2014 conservation practice signup and designs.

Micheel reported on the Driftless Area Symposium that he recently attended. He discussed sessions that he attended relating to stream improvement work and issues with Karst topography.

Richardson discussed the contractor workshop scheduled for March 21. He also told the committee there will be a nonmetallic mine permit application to consider for the March meeting.

**UPDATE ON FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLANNING AND POSSIBLE AG ENTERPRISE AREA:**

Hoff updated the committee on the progress of the revision to the Monroe County Farmland Preservation Plan. The revision is required by the State in order for landowners to have the opportunity to participate in Farmland Preservation. The plan details the county plans to protect farmland. A parcel based county-wide map is being prepared showing parcels that are eligible for farmland preservation and those that are in uses not related to agriculture. Maps have been sent to townships for input. The plan is being developed by Land Conservation and Zoning staff.

Hoff reported that a landowner is obtaining signatures on a petition for a potential Ag Enterprise Area covering Clifton, Glendale, Wilton, and Wellington Townships. The application is due March 31. The Monroe County Board would need to approve the application if it goes forward.

**NRCS REPORT:**

Wheeler reported on the burn workshop that was held recently in Sparta. The workshop was for landowners who plan to do prescribed burns. He also discussed the future of the Conservation Reserve Program and the impact that the recently passed Farm Bill will have on the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

**DNR REPORT:**

Antwi discussed Managed Forest Law issues with the Committee.

**FORESTRY & PARKS UPDATES:**

Parcel 185-00190-0000 was reviewed at the Property & Purchasing Committee, Garry Spohn had the Real Property Lister develop the legal description for the eastern parcel. No action was taken.

Chad Ziegler informed the committee that the frac sand mining issue will most likely be surfacing again in the Town of Grant.



Lambert Forest Products is using a county forest road to access a timber sale on an adjoining landowner's property.

**APPROVE 2014 WDNR EMERGENCY FIRE WARDENS:**

The proposed 2014 emergency fire wardens are:

Granger's Small Engine, Town of Oakdale  
Bill's Heating, Town of Lincoln  
Rosco's Live Bait, Town of Tomah  
Schnitzler's Sports Store, Town of Angelo  
Smitty's Overtime Inn, Town of Byron  
Cataract Mart, Town of Little Falls

*A motion was made by James Kuhn, seconded by Dean Wegner to approve the 2014 WDNR Emergency Fire Wardens. Motion carried 5-0*

**RADIO TOWER: TOWN OF NEW LYME:**

Jeff Ozanne, General Manager, Prayz Network gave the committee a presentation regarding the possibility of constructing a 500 foot radio tower on county forest land in the Town of New Lyme south of Birch Rd. The new tower would greatly expand the signal range of the station. The land around the tower and guy wires would have to be withdrawn from the county forest law and sold or leased to Prayz Network. The committee discussed the possibility of the tower diminishing the quality of the scenery, the possibility of the county using the tower for communication equipment, different locations for the tower, etc.

*A motion was made by Nodji Van Wychen, seconded by James Kuhn to collect more information and report back to the committee. Motion carried 5-0.*

**FORESTRY & PARKS LINE ITEM TRANSFERS:**

The following line item transfer was presented:

Park Salaries to Postage: \$51.00.

*A motion was made by James Kuhn, seconded by Nodji VanWychen to approve the line item transfer. Motion carried 5-0.*

**STEWARDSHIP FUNDING: RIDGEVILLE PROPERTY AND TRI-CREEK:**

Chad explained that the county could modify their stewardship application to provide funding for the land fill county forest parcel in the Town of Ridgeville which would reimburse the county for half of the cost of the parcel (\$54,500) plus half the costs of signing. The county would have to add a county forest blocking boundary around the county forest parcel and the Tri-Creek Watershed property and enroll 80 acres of county owned land into the County Forest Law.

It was suggested that the county enroll all of the Tri-Creek property into the County Forest Law. Chad explained that a few years ago the committee was pursuing the enrollment of about 500 acres into the county forest; members of the township including the Town Board Chairman weren't in favor of enrolling the property in the county forest. The town mentioned that the county should give the land to the town or possibly sell it to private individuals to put it back on the tax roll.

Ron Luethe (Ridgeville resident) commented that he believes that the town prefers Tri-Creek to be public land and due to the close proximity to the Elroy-Sparta Bike Trail there may be possibilities to promote recreation on the property by developing trails and other facilities. He believes the town may

have been apprehensive about the County Forest Law because they need more information. Chad explained that the main objectives of the county forest are to promote forestry, wildlife and recreation. There are 29 county forests in the state (2.4 million acres) which are the most intensively managed forest lands and recreational lands in the state.

Chad explained that the Tri-Creek property was originally purchased to install two flood control structures in the valley; one dam was installed, the second one was not. The Tri-Creek property is the head waters of the watershed, has unique qualities and should be maintained in public ownership. Al Hoff commented that even though the dam wasn't constructed that the current use and management of the property still promotes flood control; Chad commented that the current uses may be more efficient means of flood control than the dam construction would have been.

Gail Chapman directed Chad to pursue stewardship funding for the land fill county forest parcel and enrolling some of the Tri-Creek property into the County Forest Law.

**PAYMENT OF FORESTRY & PARKS BILLS:**

The committee reviewed the February bills.

*A motion was made by James Kuhn, seconded by James Rasmussen to approve the bills for February in the amount of \$37,702.75. Motion carried 5-0.*

**SET NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next Land Conservation Committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 18 at 8:30 a.m.

**ADJOURN:**

*Motion by VanWychen, second by Rasmussen to adjourn at 11:00 a.m. Motion carried 5-0.*

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Al Hoff & Chad Ziegler, recorders

**MONROE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION, FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**DATE & PLACE:**

Tuesday January 21, 2014 at the Monroe County Ag Services Center, Sparta, WI

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. Present were J. Kuhn, D. Wegner; J. Rasmussen; A. Hoff, LCD; B. Richardson, LCD; B. Micheel, LCD; C. Ziegler, F&P; C. Walroth, DNR; M. Modjeski, DNR; P. Peterson, APHIS; G. Wheeler, NRCS; P. Jackson Kelly, NRCS; L. Revels; representatives from The Kraemer Co. N. VanWychen was absent.

**MINUTES APPROVAL –12/17/13**

*Motion by Kuhn, second by Rasmussen to approve the 12/17/13 minutes as printed. Motion carried 4-0.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

There were no comments from the public.

**PAYMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION BILLS:**

Hoff reviewed the monthly Land Conservation bills

*Motion by Wegner, second by Rasmussen to approve the bills as presented in the amount of \$8,741.06. Motion carried 4-0.*

**WILDLIFE DAMAGE PROGRAM – APPROVE 2013 CLAIMS:**

Phil Peterson reviewed the following wildlife damage claims for 2013:

- Gene Brueggeman, \$938 assessed damage, \$438 payable claim
- Rexford Moseley, \$46,611.57 assessed damage, \$10,000 payable claim
- Alan Ruedy, \$2,738.94 assessed damage, \$2,238.94 payable claim
- Robert Sutton, \$864.38 assessed damage, \$364.38 payable claim

The total assessed damage for the 4 claimants is \$51,152.89 with the payable claims totaling \$13,041.32. All the damage was from deer.

*Motion by Rasmussen, second by Wegner to approve the wildlife damage claims as presented. Motion carried 4-0.*

**ACT ON NONMETALLIC MINING RECLAMATION PERMIT APPLICATION FOR PURPUS QUARRY, THE KRAEMER COMPANY, OPERATOR:**

Richardson reviewed the Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation permit application from The Kraemer Company. The request is for a limestone quarry in Section 27 of Wellington Township. This is an old quarry on land owned by the operator. The initial active acres will be 6 acres, the initial financial assurance amount will be \$18,000. Post-mining land use will be green space. Richardson noted that the reclamation plan had been properly noticed, and that adjacent landowners had been notified. Richardson received no concerns from the public.

Kraemer Company representatives answered several questions from LCC members concerning their operation of this quarry.

*Motion by Kuhn, second by Rasmussen to approve the nonmetallic mining reclamation plan for the Purpus Quarry as submitted by the Kraemer Company, contingent on Monroe County receiving the proper financial assurance. Motion carried 4-0.*

**LAND CONSERVATION STAFF REPORTS:**

Micheel and Richardson are working on 2014 designs, surveys, and EQIP applications. Micheel said he is working with about 30 landowners on 2014 projects. This includes obtaining public fishing easements on some streams in order for landowners to rank higher in the EQIP application process. Micheel noted that he will be a presenter at the upcoming Driftless Symposium in LaCrosse.

Richardson said 2014 annual report and fee notices have been send to mine operators, with fees due by January 31. He told the committee that the winning bidder for the Highway 33 project between Cashton and Ontario contacted him about a reclamation permit for a borrow area.

**NRCS REPORT:**

Wheeler introduced Patti Jackson Kelly, Assistant State Conservationist-FO for the NRCS Richland Center Area office (SW area, which includes Monroe County). He informed the Committee that NRCS will be hosting a prescribed burning workshop in Sparta on February 7<sup>th</sup>. He also handed out information on the 2014 statewide signup for the EQIP signup. Monroe County received 89 signups for the 2014 program.

**DNR REPORT:**

Modjeski told the committee that he has been involved with an inspection of a wolf-dog hybrid facility in Little Falls Township. Walroth discussed the Managed Forest Law program entries for 2015.

**FORESTRY & PARKS UPDATES:**

Timber sale 137 on the county forest was recently completed and is in the process of being closed out. The 2014 timber sales are being set up for the spring bid opening

**EVENT REQUEST AT MCMULLEN PARK:**

A couple from Warrens is getting married on June 28, 2014 and would like to have the ceremony along the lake at McMullen Park. The ceremony and set up would take one to two hours in the afternoon. Committee discussed potential traffic congestion and other issues; no members objected to the event.

**FORESTRY & PARKS LINE ITEM TRANSFERS:**

The following line item transfers were presented:

Forest road maintenance (\$973.95) to site conversion/planting (\$690.50) and conferences/seminars (\$283.45). This transfer is needed due to an error (posting into 2012) of an earlier transfer that was completed to pay the taxes on the Habelman parcel in the Town of New Lyme.

Bldg. Repair/Maintenance (\$1,290.00) to contracted services (\$590.00) and park supplies (\$700.00). Replaced a pressure washer and increased ice and garbage disposal costs. Plumbing repairs to dump station.

*A motion was made by James Rasmussen, seconded by Dean Wegner to approve the line item transfers. Motion carried 4-0.*

**CRP CONTRACT ON COUNTY FOREST (TOWN OF RIDGEVILLE):**

Two CRP contracts were broken when the county purchased land from Fred Wagner in the Town of Ridgeville. Fred is asking the county to accept responsibility for the contracts so he doesn't have to pay back this year's CRP payments. The county is not taking over the CRP contracts.

**PRIVATE LAND ACCESS (WEILAND): TOWN OF LINCOLN:**

Don Weiland owns property in the Town of Lincoln that is landlocked by private land and county forest land. His realtor contacted Chad to proceed with a process to acquire legal access across the county forest land. Don was proposing to trade six acres of land south of the interstate for approximately one acre of land along the north I-94 ROW to gain access to his parcel. The six acres is adjacent to 27 acres of county forest that is landlocked by the interstate, railroad and private land. Discussion occurred regarding an easement (which the County Forest Law doesn't allow), a land trade and the county buying his land.

The committee agreed to enter into a 5 year access permit (temporary access agreements are the only ones allowed by the County Forest Law) with Mr. Weiland for his access. If sold the permit would expire and the new owner would have to obtain one. Other options would be to offer the land to the county or make an offer to purchase the parcel of land under the current driveway.

**STEWARDSHIP FUNDING: RIDGEVILLE PROPERTY AND TRI-CREEK:**

The committee decided to discuss this further at the next meeting when all members are present.

**DUSCUSSION/ACTION OF PARCEL #185-00190-0000:**

This Village of Warrens parcel is 26 acres m/l that has been taken by the county in tax foreclosure. A group of owners who own a parcel (185-00190-5000) that is completely surrounded by this county owned parcel have expressed some interest in purchasing it from the county. The Property & Purchasing Committee asked Chad to update the Land Conservation Committee regarding the parcel.

Chad explained that the county needs to keep access across this property to have direct road access to 70 acres of landlocked county forest. Ownership and easement options were discussed. Potential tax benefits to the Village of Warrens were discussed and ways for an owner to defer or avoid the taxation (such as pasturing, tax law programs, etc.) Discussion occurred regarding the obligation of the county to provide access to this parcel for county business and for the use of the public.

*A motion was made by James Kuhn to approve the "Resolution Enrolling Tax Foreclosed Parcel No. 185-00190-0000 into the County Forest Law" which was drafted in October of 2012. Motion lacked a second.*

The Land Conservation Committee directed Chad to contact the Property and Purchasing Committee and request that at a minimum the west half (7 acres m/l) of parcel 185-00190-0000 be retained by the county for forestry and public access. The committee also requests that ownership of the full parcel be retained by the county for forestry and recreation uses if no substantial offers to purchase are received.

**PAYMENT OF FORESTRY & PARKS BILLS:**

The committee reviewed the January bills.

*A motion was made by James Kuhn, seconded by James Rasmussen to approve the bills for January. Motion carried 4-0.*

**SET NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next Land Conservation Committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, February 18 at 8:30 a.m.

**ADJOURN:**

*Motion by Wegner, second by Kuhn to adjourn at 11:25 a.m. Motion carried 4-0.*

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Al Hoff & Chad Ziegler, recorders