

MONROE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION, FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE & PLACE:

December 18, 2012 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; N. VanWychen (arrived at 9:40); D. Wegner; J. Rasmussen; G. Chapman; A. Hoff, LCD; B. Richardson, LCD; B. Micheel, LCD; C. Walroth, DNR; G. Wheeler, NRCS; members of public.

MINUTES APPROVAL – 11/16/12:

Motion by Kuhn, second by Rasmussen to approve the November 16, 2012 minutes as printed. Motion carried 4-0-1 (VanWychen absent).

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Chairman Chapman asked if any members of the public had comments. There were none.

OPEN TRI-CREEK CROPLAND BIDS AND AWARD LEASE:

Chairman Chapman opened 4 sealed bids that were received for the Tri-Creek cropland.

1. Hawk High Dairy - \$276.00/ac.
2. Mike Wegner - \$186.00/ac.
3. Jeffrey Schmitz - \$180.00/ac.
4. Ray Nauman and Chris Kuderer - \$161.50/ac.

Motion by Kuhn, second by Rasmussen to accept the bid of Hawk High Dairy for a 5 year lease on 50 acres of cropland at Tri-Creek. Motion carried 4-0-1 (Van Wychen absent).

9:00 A.M. – PUBLIC HEARING ON REVISION TO RECLAMATION PLAN FOR MACK QUARRY:

Chairman Chapman opened the public hearing on the Mack Quarry plan revision at 9:00 a.m.

1. Review Mack Quarry reclamation plan – Bryce Richardson reviewed the nonmetallic mining reclamation permit for the Mack Quarry. This is a limestone quarry that currently has an approved reclamation permit. Mr. Mack has made application to add 3 parcels (016-00047-0000, 016-00060-0000, 016-00061-0000) to the permit coverage. The reclamation plan calls for a post-mining land use of woods and pasture. Richardson reviewed the well data that he received from DNR for the area adjacent to the mine. Well depth ranges from 80- 420 ft. Mining will not occur in groundwater.
2. Questions and answers:
 - John Goodman asked about the geologic composition of the area and questioned exactly what type of material would be removed. Mine operator Jeff Antony responded that the site has been tested and that there is about 130 ft. of quality limestone material. Staff noted that the reclamation standards would need to be met regardless of the material composition.
 - Mr. Goodman asked how the material would be removed from the site. Mr. Antony explained what roads would be used to haul the material.
 - Mr. Goodman said he felt the well list was not all inclusive and that no mention was made of the springs in the area. Staff responded that it is possible some older wells are not inventoried and that there is no inventory of springs.
 - Alex Goodman asked if additional permits would be needed if more roads were constructed. Staff responded that any roads would have to be reclaimed, storm water permits would cover any construction activity, and any applicable County and

Township access permits would be required.

3. Public comments for the record:

- John Goodman expressed concern about how mining on this site would affect his well, which is a spring fed well. He feels that removing the top of the ridge in the mining process would reduce the hydraulic pressure and impact the flow and quality of his water source.

ACT ON REVISION REQUEST FOR MACK QUARRY RECLAMATION PLAN:

Rasmussen asked for clarification on what is being accomplished by this request since the owners do not appear to be ready to mine this acreage. Richardson responded that he is not clear on what the long term plans are, but the application has been made and the committee is required to act on it. LCC members reiterated that they only have jurisdiction over the reclamation process and that many of the issues talked about in the public hearing would be addressed if the township had zoning. Van Wychen said her opinion is that the application and plan meets the law and should be approved as such.

Motion by Van Wychen, second by Kuhn to approve the revision to the Mack Quarry reclamation plan. Motion carried 5-0.

STAFF REPORTS:

Richardson and Micheel have started work on 2013 conservation practices.

Richardson said he has completed yearly inspections of most nonmetallic mine sites. He will be meeting with the operators of the frac sand sites to determine adequacy of financial assurance amounts currently on file.

APPROVE 2012 COST-SHARE AGREEMENTS:

Micheel and Richardson discussed 2 cost-share agreements for 2012 that will be carried over to 2013. One is for Paul Schendel/Beck Farms for a nutrient management plan, and one is for Rueben Borntreger for streambank improvement.

Motion by Kuhn, second by Wegner to approve 2012 cost-share agreements for Paul Schendel and Rueben Borntreger. Motion carried 5-0.

CREP CONTRACT EXTENSION:

Hoff explained that Monroe County has a contract with the State of Wisconsin to implement the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) in Monroe County. This contract has an end date of January 31, 2013. An amendment would need to be signed in order to continue offering the CREP program, which is designed to pay farmers to set aside land along streams and waterways for filter strips.

Motion by Van Wychen, second by Kuhn to approve an amendment to the CREP contract between Monroe County and the State of Wisconsin. Motion carried 5-0.

DNR REPORT:

Walroth said that recent publicity over public access to Managed Forest Law (MFL) properties has increased public awareness of the issue and led to an increase in inquiries. A couple landowners have changed the terms of their contract from open hunting to closed hunting.

Walroth said prices for pulpwood have been decreasing lately.

NRCS REPORT:

Wheeler reviewed Monroe County staff activity and the status of Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) signups. Monroe County has 22 applications so far, and the signup deadline is January 18.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

1. Land Conservation – Hoff reviewed the monthly bills.
Motion by VanWychen, second by Rasmussen to approve the monthly Land Conservation bills in the amount of \$24, 127.63. Motion carried 5-0.
2. Forestry and Parks – Chad Ziegler was not able to make the meeting so Hoff reviewed the monthly bill for Forestry and Parks.
Motion by Kuhn, second by Rasmussen to approve the monthly bills for Forestry and Parks in the amount of \$3068.78. Motion carried 5-0.

CONSIDER RESOLUTION TO CARRY OVER EXCESS TIMBER SALE REVENUE TO 2013:

Hoff told the committee that Monroe County has a need to upgrade their gps equipment since it is out of date. None of our units are supported any longer and parts are no longer available. GPS equipment gets considerable use by resource departments in the county. According to Ziegler, timber sale revenues from County Forest timber sales are \$35,000 over the original budgeted revenue. He is proposing carrying over \$10,000 to the 2013 Forestry Capital Budget for the purpose of purchasing gps equipment and software that can be used by multiple county departments.

Motion by Kuhn, second by Van Wychen to approve a resolution to carry over \$10,000 from County Forest timber sale revenue to the 2013 Forestry Capital Budget for the purpose of purchasing gps equipment. Motion carried 5-0.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next LCC meeting was scheduled for January 15, 2013 at 8:30 a.m.

ADJOURN:

Motion by VanWychen , second by Rasmsussen to adjourn at 10:15 a.m. Motion carried.

Al Hoff, recorder

MONROE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION, FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE & PLACE:

November 16, 2012 at the Monroe County Ag Services Center, Sparta, WI

CALL TO ORDER:

Vice Chairman Kuhn called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. Present were J. Kuhn; N. VanWychen; D. Wegner; J. Rasmussen; A. Hoff, LCD; C. Ziegler, Forestry & Parks; B. Richardson, LCD; B. Micheel, LCD; C. Walroth, DNR; K. Schilling, DNR; G. Wheeler, NRCS; members of public. G. Chapman was absent.

MINUTES APPROVAL – 10/16/12:

Motion by Rasmussen, second by Wegner to approve the October 16, 2012 minutes as printed. Motion carried 4-0.

PAYMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION BILLS:

Hoff reviewed the monthly Land Conservation bills.

Motion by Wegner, second by Rasmussen to approve the bills in the amount of \$6,252.78 Motion carried 4-0.

WILDLIFE DAMAGE PROGRAM ISSUES:

1. Set 90% harvest date: Phil Peterson explained the requirement that counties must establish a date where 90% of the crops are harvested in the county. This establishes a cutoff date for claims assessments.

Motion by VanWychen, second by Wegner to set November 16 as the 2012 90% harvest date for Monroe County. Motion carried 4-0.

2. Approve 2012 crop prices for wildlife damage: Peterson explained that counties must establish crop prices for 2012 wildlife damage claims. He said Monroe County will only have a few claims and they will be for corn and soybeans. Peterson summarized crop prices set by neighboring counties.

Motion by Rasmussen, second by VanWychen to set 2012 Monroe County crop prices for wildlife damage claims at \$7.25/bu. for corn and \$14.50/bu. for soybeans. Motion carried 4-0.

STAFF REPORTS:

Richardson and Micheel have started work on 2013 conservation practices. Micheel reported that lack of soil moisture delayed installation of some 2012 practices. Richardson will be conducting annual inspections for nonmetallic mines during the next month.

Richardson told the committee that a public hearing will be held in December for a revision to the Dave Mack nonmetallic mining reclamation permit.

ACTION ON EXPIRING CROPLAND LEASE AT TRI-CREEK PROPERTY:

Hoff told the committee that 2 cropland leases at the Tri-Creek property are expiring after the 2012 crop season. The total acreage involved is approximately 55 acres. Hoff explained that one 6 acre field has good access to a neighboring landowner, but would need some access improvement to be available to others.

Motion by Rasmussen, second by Wegner to advertise 49 acres of cropland available for bids on a 5 year lease with the bids due by the December LCC meeting. A decision on the 6 acre parcel will be made after bids are received on the 49 acres and terms are discussed with the neighboring landowner. Motion carried 4-0.

DNR REPORT:

Walroth discussed the web mapping tool that DNR has implemented in response to criticism that open lands in forestry tax law programs are difficult to access. She said their office has been receiving increased public requests for information on open lands in the tax law programs.

NRCS REPORT:

Wheeler reviewed USDA policy on civil rights and discrimination, and procedures available for the public to file complaints. He told the committee that Monroe County has a memorandum of understanding with USDA that addresses these issues.

FORESTRY & PARKS UPDATES:

McMullen Park will be closed for the season after the 9 day gun hunting season at the end of November. Park revenues are up, at approximately \$110,000.00 to date. This is a record year for park revenue.

Cutting and hauling is complete on one timber sale, and the other remains active pending only hauling. Once the remaining sale is complete there will be no active timber sales.

Juveniles were confronted without incident while riding ATV's on county lands. The teens were instructed to leave and no further action was taken.

2012 PROPERTY TAX: HABELMAN PARCEL:

Since the trade for the Habelman parcel was finalized after the first of this year, taxes must be assessed for the entire year. The county will owe approximately \$2600.00 for taxes. Chad will research options for payment and report to the committee during the next meeting.

COUNTY FOREST LAND TRANSACTION, TOWN OF GRANT:

Chad updated the committee on communications with U.S. Silica. U.S. Silica is still collecting information regarding mining feasibility and layout and will be preparing a response to information previously presented by the county. Some public commentary was received and discussed.

PAYMENT OF FORESTRY AND PARKS BILLS:

The committee reviewed the monthly bills.

A motion was made by James Rasmussen, seconded by Nodji Van Wychen to approve the bills in the amount of \$4,291.59. Motion carried 4-0.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next LCC meeting was scheduled for December 18, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.

ADJOURN:

Motion by Van Wychen, second by Wegner to adjourn at 9:30 a.m. Motion carried.

Al Hoff & Chad Ziegler, recorders

MONROE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION, FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE & PLACE:

October 16, 2012 at the Monroe County Ag Services Center, Sparta, WI

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Gail Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Present were G. Chapman; J. Kuhn; N. VanWychen; D. Wegner; J. Rasmussen; A. Hoff, LCD; C. Ziegler, Forestry & Parks; B. Richardson, LCD; B. Micheel, LCD; C. Walroth, DNR; K. Schilling, DNR; M. Modjeski, DNR; G. Wheeler, NRCS; G. Treu, R. Dickenson; members of public.

MINUTES APPROVAL – 9/18/12:

Motion by VanWychen, second by Wegner to approve the September 18, 2012 minutes as printed. Motion carried 5-0.

PAYMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION BILLS:

Hoff reviewed the monthly Land Conservation bills.

Motion by VanWychen, second by Kuhn to approve the bills in the amount of \$5,227.83 Motion carried 5-0.

STAFF REPORTS:

Micheel reported on jobs he is working on including the Village of Norwalk riprap, Travis Brooks waterway, Dave Peterson manure storage closure, and Ray Nauman barnyard. He told the committee he participated in a career day at Sparta High School.

Richardson reported on jobs he is working on including Brian Schroeder waterway, and 2 riprap projects in the Lake Tomah watershed.

APPROVE 2013 WILDLIFE DAMAGE ABATEMENT AND CLAIMS BUDGET:

Hoff presented the 2013 Monroe County Wildlife Damage and Claims budget which was discussed with Phil Peterson at the September LCC meeting. The proposed budget for Monroe County is \$25,094.71. These are non-levied dollars.

Motion by Kuhn, second by VanWychen to approve the 2013 Wildlife Damage and Claims budget as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

2012 COST-SHARE APPROVALS:

There were no cost-share requests this month.

APPROVE 2012 BUDGET ADJUSTMENT FOR WILDLIFE ABATEMENT:

Hoff reviewed the details concerning the budget adjustment that was discussed last month with Phil Peterson. A wildlife abatement fence has been approved by DNR for Crimson Bogs which was approved by the committee last month. This will require a budget adjustment. The additional funds are non-levy dollars.

Motion by Kuhn, second by VanWychen to approve a 2012 budget adjustment for wildlife abatement revenue and expenditure accounts in the amount of \$8,510. Motion carried 5-0.

APPROVE LINE ITEM TRANSFER:

Hoff told the committee that the LCD was not put on the new county phone system until mid-year, resulting in higher cost in the telephone line item.

Motion by VanWychen, second by Rasmussen to approve a line item transfer in the amount of \$300 from account 10.741.56940.331 to account 10.741.56940.225. Motion carried.

Hoff explained to the committee that the LCD receives money from DATCP for cost-sharing nutrient management plans with landowners. DATCP allows the funds to be transferred between counties. Jackson County has requested some money to complete a cost-share agreement they are working on. Monroe County has some uncommitted money in an amount that will assist Jackson County.

Motion by Kuhn, second by Wegner to approve the transfer of \$1,708 in SEG funds to Jackson County. Motion carried 5-0.

DNR REPORT:

Walroth reported that Monroe County will be receiving \$20,551 from DNR for a resource aid payment, a payment made to counties with over 40,000 acres enrolled in Forest Crop and Managed Forest programs.

Warden Modjeski discussed a stormwater violation at the Smart Sands sand plant. He also reported on the wolf season.

NRCS REPORT:

Wheeler told the committee that a volunteer from Bangor High School has been working in the NRCS office. He discussed the delay in the passage of the Farm Bill.

FORESTRY & PARKS UPDATES:

There are two active timber sales at the present time; both in the town of Lincoln. Cutting/skidding will be completed on both sales within the next week or two.

The Warrens Cranberry festival weekend went well again this year bringing in about \$12,000.00 in park revenue. The electrical project at the park was completed last week.

RESOLUTION ENROLLING TAX DELINQUENT PARCEL NUMBER 185-00190-0000 INTO THE COUNTY FOREST LAW:

Chad and Gene Treu explained some background information on the parcel.

A motion was made to go into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes 19.85 (1) (e) by Wagner, seconded by Rasmussen. Role call vote: Gail Chapman-no, Jim Kuhn-no, Jim Rasmussen-yes, Dean Wagner-yes, Nodji Van Wychen-yes. Also present: Chad Ziegler (Forestry & Parks), Gene Treu and Rick Dickenson (Property & Purchasing Committee).

A motion was made to exit out of closed session by Van Wychen, seconded by Kuhn. Role call vote: Gail Chapman-yes, Jim Kuhn-yes, Jim Rasmussen-yes, Dean Wagner-yes, Nodji Van Wychen-yes. Also present: Chad Ziegler (Forestry & Parks), Gene Treu and Rick Dickenson (Property & Purchasing Committee).

A motion was made by Kuhn, seconded by Wagner to postpone the resolution for a non-specified length of time. Motion carried 5-0.

COUNTY FOREST LAND TRANSACTION; TOWN OF GRANT:

Chad presented some background information to the committee. He presented U.S Silica with the preferred structure of any transaction that could take place and is waiting for a response.

A motion was made to go into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes 19.85 (1) (e) by Van Wychen, seconded by Rasmussen. Role call vote: Gail Chapman-yes, Jim Kuhn-yes, Jim Rasmussen-yes, Dean Wagner-yes, Nodji Van Wychen-yes. Also present: Chad Ziegler (Forestry & Parks).

A motion was made to exit out of closed session by Kuhn, seconded by Rasmussen. Role call vote: Gail Chapman-yes, Jim Kuhn-yes, Jim Rasmussen-yes, Dean Wagner-yes, Nodji Van Wychen-yes. Also present: Chad Ziegler (Forestry & Parks).

The committee was presented with the information that Chad delivered to U.S. Silica.

Some public comment was received regarding studying the potential impacts that sand mines could have on the environment and society.

PAYMENT OF FORESTRY AND PARKS BILLS:

The committee reviewed the monthly bills.

A motion was made by Nodji Van Wychen, seconded by Dean Wagner to approve the bills in the amount of \$16,347.40. Motion carried 5-0.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next LCC meeting was scheduled for November 16, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.

ADJOURN:

Motion by Rasmussen, second by Wegner to adjourn at 10:45 a.m. Motion carried.

Al Hoff & Chad Ziegler, recorders

MONROE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION, FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE & PLACE:

September 18, 2012 at the Monroe County Ag Services Center, Sparta, WI

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Gail Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. Present were G. Chapman; J. Kuhn; N. VanWychen; D. Wegner; A. Hoff, LCD; C. Ziegler, Forestry & Parks; B. Richardson, LCD; C. Walroth, DNR; K. Schilling, DNR; P. Peterson, Wildlife Services; G. Wheeler, NRCS; L. Revels. J. Rasmussen was absent.

MINUTES APPROVAL – 8/21/12:

Motion by VanWychen, second by Kuhn to approve the August 21, 2012 minutes as printed. Motion carried 4-0.

PAYMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION BILLS:

Hoff reviewed the monthly Land Conservation bills.

*Motion by Kuhn, second by Wegner to approve the bills in the amount of \$11,456.18
Motion carried 4-0.*

WILDLIFE DAMAGE PROGRAM ISSUES:

1. Budget amendment for permanent fence – Crimson Bogs. Peterson told the committee that he is recommending a permanent fence for Crimson Bogs for the purpose of keeping deer out of the cranberry bogs. This will require a budget amendment in the amount of \$34, 800 for 12,800 ft. of fence. This is paid for through the Wildlife Damage Program.

Motion by Van Wychen, second by Kuhn to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$34,800 for the Monroe County Wildlife Abatement Program for the purpose of installing a permanent fence at Crimson Bogs. Motion carried 4-0.

2. Preliminary 2013 Wildlife Damage budget. Peterson said he expects the workload to continue to increase in Monroe County, one reason being the healthy population of wolves. The 2013 budget is not ready to be presented due to agency discussions on line item amounts. The bottom line is expected to be \$34,445 for Monroe County. After discussing the budget, the Committee instructed Peterson to send the final budget sheet to Hoff for him to present to the committee for approval.

ACTION ON NONMETALLIC MINING RECLAMATION PLAN REVISION FOR MACK QUARRY:

Richardson told the committee that a nonmetallic mining reclamation plan was approved for the Mack Quarry earlier this year. This application is for a revision to add an additional parcel to the plan. The plan is not changing at this point except for the added acreage (approximately 40 acres). This quarry is a limestone quarry operated by Antony Excavating.

Motion by VanWychen, second by Wegner to approve a revision to the nonmetallic mining reclamation plan for the Mack Quarry to include parcel #016000620000. Motion carried 4-0.

STAFF REPORTS:

Richardson reported that dry conditions this summer have resulted in dry soil conditions, resulting in a delay in building some conservation projects. Earthen dams need moist soils that will compact properly, so dams that are scheduled are delayed until soil conditions improve.

Richardson reported on various nonmetallic mining activities, including the status of mining ordinances being developed by townships.

2012 COST-SHARE APPROVALS:

Richardson reviewed cost-share requests for Dave Linehan (riprap and nutrient management), Dave Ritter (riprap and nutrient management), and Paul Schendel (nutrient management).

Motion by VanWychen, second by Kuhn to approve a Land and Water contracts for Dave Linehan, Dave Ritter, and Paul Schendel. Motion carried 4-0.

REVIEW AND SUGGEST UPDATES T COMMITTEE COMPOSITION AND DUTIES:

The Administrative Committee is asking for updates to standing committee composition and duties descriptions in order to update county ordinances. Staff and committee discussed changes.

Motion by VanWychen, second by Wegner to approve a new Land Conservation, Forestry & Parks Committee composition and duties description as suggested by staff and committee. Motion carried 4-0.

DNR REPORT:

Walroth said she is working on 2013 Managed Forest Law applications and emergency drought funding offered through DNR. She also reported that 2013 tree applications will be in soon.

NRCS REPORT:

Wheeler discussed cover crops. NRCS is encouraging the use of cover crops, especially with the likelihood of large amounts of corn being harvested for silage due to the drought.

FORESTRY & PARKS UPDATES:

There are two active timber sales at the present time, both in the town of Lincoln.

The Warrens Cranberry festival will be the 28th, 29th and 30th of September; this is the busiest week of the camping season.

ANNUAL WORK PLAN RESOLUTION:

Chad reviewed the annual county forest work plan.

A motion was made by Jim Kuhn, seconded by Nodji VanWychen to approve the work plan and forward the resolution on to the county board. Motion carried 4-0.

WCFA FALL CONFERENCE ATTENDANC:

The fall conference is in Chippewa Falls on November 2, 2012.

A motion was made by Nodji VanWychen, seconded by Jim Kuhn to approve the attendance of any committee members who are available to attend the conference. Motion carried 4-0.

TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY – TOWN OF LINCOLN:

Chad explained that the county has retained ownership of parcel # 185-00190-0000 through the tax delinquency procedures. This parcel is 26 acres more or less and it borders an existing block of county forest that is landlocked by private land and the railroad. This parcel is vital to providing the county with permanent access to this block of county forest for management practices and recreation.

A motion was made by Nodji VanWychen, seconded by Jim Kuhn to advise the Property & Purchasing Committee that the Land Conservation, Forestry & Parks Committee is interested in taking control of parcel # 185-00190-0000 and enrolling it into the County Forest Law and request that said parcel be removed from list of parcels for sale and not advertised as such. That the Forest & Parks administrator draft a resolution to enroll the property into the County Forest Law and that it be reviewed and approved at the October Land Conservation meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

McMULLIN PARK ELECTRICAL PROJECT BIDS:

Four bids were received as follows:

D&K Electric	\$7,600.00
Nilssen Electric	\$12,394.00
Ferries Electric	\$13,743.00
Nelson Plumbing & Electric	\$15,662.00

A motion was made by Nodji VanWychen, seconded by Jim Kuhn to approve the bid from Nilssen Electric for \$12,394.00. Motion carried 4-0.

LINE ITEM TRANSFER:

Chad explained that \$3,000.00 from the Salaries line item would need to be transferred to the Capital Improvement line item to complete the electrical project.

A motion was made by Nodji VanWychen, seconded by Jim Kuhn to approve a \$3,000.00 line item transfer from Salaries to Capital Improvements to complete the electrical project. Motion carried 4-0.

COUNTY FOREST LAND TRANSACTION:

Chad presented some information that the committee had requested at an earlier meeting. The first item was the estimated tax impact of this transaction. The total loss of tax revenue was estimated at approximately \$6,000.00 to \$9,000.00 per year. Chad has been doing research to find out approximately how much silica sand is on the property and contacting professionals to gather information on the mining process and mining leases. Several of the county forests have sent or are sending copies of mineral exploration agreements and leases.

A map of the county forest land in the Town of Grant and the surrounding area was reviewed along with maps of potential properties that could be traded to the county.

A motion was made to go into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes 19.85 (1) (e) at 11:20a.m. by Van Wychen, seconded by Kuhn. Role call vote: Gail Chapman-yes, Jim Kuhn-yes, Jim Rasmussen-not present, Dean Wagner-yes, Nodji Van Wychen-yes. Also present: Chad Ziegler (Forestry & Parks), Kevin Schilling (DNR), Al Hoff and Bryce Richardson (Land Conservation).

A motion was made to exit out of closed session at 12:15 a.m. by Kuhn, seconded by Wegner. Role call vote: Gail Chapman-yes, Jim Kuhn-yes, Jim Rasmussen-not present, Dean Wagner-yes, Nodji Van Wychen-yes. Also present: Chad Ziegler (Forestry & Parks), Kevin Schilling (DNR), Al Hoff and Bryce Richardson (Land Conservation).

The committee instructed Chad to draft and deliver a list of items that will need to be met for the transaction to progress and request that U.S Silica/Forenergy review the items and respond to the committee within a reasonable amount of time.

PAYMENT OF FORESTRY AND PARKS BILLS:

The committee reviewed the monthly bills.

A motion was made by Jim Kuhn, seconded Nodji Van Wychen to approve the bills in the amount of \$14,303.63. Motion carried 4-0.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next LCC meeting was scheduled for October 16, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.

ADJOURN:

Motion by Kuhn, second by Wegner to adjourn at 12:20 p.m. Motion carried.

Al Hoff & Chad Ziegler, recorders

MONROE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION, FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE & PLACE:

August 21, 2012 at the Monroe County Ag Services Center, Sparta, WI

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Gail Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Present were G. Chapman; J. Rasmussen; J. Kuhn; N. VanWyche; D. Wegner; A. Hoff, LCD; C. Ziegler, Forestry & Parks; B. Richardson, LCD; C. Walroth, DNR; K. Schilling, DNR; P. Peterson, Wildlife Services; G. Wheeler, NRCS; S. Repking, NRCS; L. Revels.

MINUTES APPROVAL – 7/17/12 AND 8/1/12:

Motion by VanWyche, second by Kuhn to approve the July 17, 2012 and August 1, 2012 minutes as printed. Motion carried 5-0.

PAYMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION BILLS:

Hoff reviewed the monthly Land Conservation bills.

*Motion by Kuhn, second by Rasmussen to approve the bills in the amount of \$3,725.02
Motion carried 5-0.*

WILDLIFE DAMAGE PROGRAM REPORT:

Phil Peterson updated the committee on Wildlife Damage Program activities including planning for a fence at Crimson Bogs. He discussed the new laws relating to wolf hunting and control. He discussed confirmed cases of cattle depredation involving wolves in Monroe County.

STAFF REPORTS:

Richardson reported on jobs he is working on including 2 grade structures and several waterways. He told the committee that he has been assisting Juneau County with review of a nonmetallic mining reclamation plan. The committee discussed the possibility of touring a frac sand mine after a LCC meeting.

Hoff reported that Micheel has been working on several streambank improvement projects.

Hoff discussed the Discovery Farms open house on August 29.

2012 COST-SHARE APPROVALS:

Richardson reviewed a cost-share request for Andy Burkhalter for streambank riprap.

Motion by VanWyche, second by Kuhn to approve a Land and Water contract for Andy Burkhalter. Motion carried 5-0.

COUNTY CONSERVATION AID GRANT:

Hoff explained the Conservation Aid Grants from DNR. They are available to counties as matching funds for fish and game projects. Monroe County is eligible for \$2,442 in 2013. Hoff recommends the funds be used to continue stream improvement work in the Village of Norwalk.

Motion by Kuhn, second by VanWyche to apply for a 2013 Conservation Aids grant to do streambank improvement work in the Village of Norwalk, and to submit a resolution to County Board allowing the County Conservationist to make the application. Motion carried 5-0.

DNR REPORT:

Walroth reported on activity relating to the CRP program. She also reported that the State has made \$100,000 available to drought stricken counties to assist landowners with replanting trees damaged by the drought.

NRCS REPORT:

Wheeler reported that CRP acreage has been opened for haying and grazing due to the drought. He reported on the workload associated with 40 new CRP contracts in the county. He also discussed EQIP activities and the recent Driftless Area signup.

2013 BUDGET REVIEW:

1. Land Conservation – Hoff discussed the proposed Land Conservation budget for 2013. The budget request includes a county levy of approximately \$126,000. Hoff discussed the annual staffing grants that the County receives from DATCP. In 2012, the State lapsed money that affected staffing grants. The amount was not known until after county budgets were approved. The amount actually received resulted in a deficit in the 2012 Land Conservation budget that will be made up by less spending in the Environmental Construction and Development account in combination with increased revenue in Nonmetallic Mining permits. The same situation is occurring at the present time as DATCP has not announced the 2013 staffing grants. Hoff said he put the same amount in the 2013 staffing grant revenue as was received in 2012, which was \$112,000.
2. Forestry and Parks – Ziegler reviewed the proposed 2013 budget for Forestry and Parks and answered questions from the committee. The financing proposal matches or exceeds the revenue for each of the following budgets: Snowmobile Trails, Forestry, Parks.

FORESTRY & PARKS UPDATES

There are two active timber sales at the present time; one began about two weeks ago; the other timber sale is in the process of being closed out.

The park has been busy this month; attendance is slightly above last year at this time.

CATARACT SNOWMOBILE BRIDGE BIDS:

Chad reviewed the bids for the Cataract snowmobile bridge with the committee. The bids were as follows:

RA Schroeder Construction, LLC: \$17,844.00
Proposal is for reconstructing the bridge in its present location.

Torkelson Excavating, LLC
Proposal 1: \$9,949.00
Proposal is for reconstructing the bridge in its present location.

Proposal 2: \$19,000.00
Proposal is for relocating the bridge approximately 100 yards up stream.

A motion was made by Jim Kuhn, seconded by Jim Rasmussen to accept the low bid from Torkelson Excavating in the amount of \$9,949.00 to rebuild the bridge in its existing location. Motion carried 5-0.

LINE ITEM TRANSFER:

Chad explained that \$10,000.00 was budgeted to build an addition onto the maintenance shed at McMullen Park. Due to some reorganizing and equipment disposal; the addition is not needed at this time. Information was presented to complete some electrical upgrades and add additional electrical pedestals.

A motion was made by Nodji VanWychen, seconded by Jim Kuhn to approve a \$10,000.00 line item transfer from Capital Improvements to Contracted Services to complete the electrical project. Motion carried 5-0

COUNTY FOREST LAND TRANSACTION:

There is no new information at this time.

PAYMENT OF FORESTRY & PARKS BILLS:

The committee reviewed the monthly bills.

A motion was made by Jim Kuhn, seconded Jim Rasmussen to approve the bills in the amount of \$5,817.83. Motion carried 5-0.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next LCC meeting was scheduled for September 18, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.

ADJOURN:

Motion by VanWychen, second by Kuhn to adjourn at 10:20 a.m. Motion carried.

Al Hoff & Chad Ziegler, recorders

Approved 8/21/12

MONROE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION, FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE & PLACE:

August 1, 2012 at the Monroe County Ag Services Center Conference Room, 820 Industrial Dr., Sparta.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Gail Chapman called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Present were Chapman; Rasmussen; Kuhn; VanWychen; Wegner; Ziegler, Forestry & Parks.

SNOWMOBILE BRIDGE BIDS::

The landowner issues have not been fully resolved; no action was taken on this agenda item.

COUNTY FOREST LAND TRADE:

Chad updated the committee regarding the status of this potential transaction. An air photo of the proposed trade and the surrounding area was reviewed.

A motion was made to go into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes 19.85 (1) (e) at 6:20 p.m. by Kuhn, seconded by Rasmussen. Role call vote: Gail Chapman-yes, Jim Kuhn-yes, Jim Rasmussen-yes, Dean Wagner-yes, Nodji Van Wychen-yes.

A motion was made to exit out of closed session at 8:20 p.m. by Kuhn, seconded by Van Wychen. Role call vote: Gail Chapman-yes, Jim Kuhn-yes, Jim Rasmussen-yes, Dean Wagner-yes, Nodji Van Wychen-yes.

The committee instructed Chad to collect more information regarding the proposed transaction and try to make contact with some professionals within the sand mining industry to ask questions and possibly meet with them and tour a sand mining and processing facility. The committee would like more research performed on the background of Forenergy and to find out which company would be entering into a joint venture with them.

ADJOURN:

Motion by Kuhn, second by Wagner to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Motion carried..

Chad Ziegler, recorder

MONROE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION, FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE & PLACE:

July 17, 2012 at the Monroe County Hwy Dept. Conference Room, 803 Washington St., Sparta.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Gail Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Present were Chapman; Rasmussen; Kuhn; VanWychen; Wegner; Hoff, LCD; Ziegler, Forestry & Parks; M. Modjeski, DNR; C. Walroth, DNR; G. Wheeler, NRCS; Larry Revels, Gerke Excavating representatives.

MINUTES APPROVAL – 6/19/12:

Motion by VanWychen, second by Kuhn to approve the June 19, 2012 minutes as printed. Motion carried 5-0.

PAYMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION BILLS:

Hoff reviewed the monthly Land Conservation bills.

Motion by Kuhn, second by Wegner to approve the bills in the amount of \$776,306.71. Motion carried 5-0.

ACTION ON RECLAMATION PERMIT APPLICATION FOR GERKE EXCAVATING BORNTRIGGER QUARRY:

Richardson reviewed the nonmetallic mining reclamation permit application submitted by Gerke Excavating for a new limestone quarry on the Joe Borntrigger property located in Section 12 of Wilton Township. The permit request was noticed in county papers, and adjacent landowners were notified by letter. The reclamation plan was prepared by General Engineering Company, and calls for a post-mining land use of pasture and wildlife habitat. Slopes will be a minimum of 3:1 on all areas except for stable highwalls. The planned opened acreage for the first year is 8.7 acres, requiring a financial assurance amount of \$21,750 which has been submitted. Gerke is in the process of obtaining other required permits. The current zoning designation is agricultural.

Gerke Excavating representatives answered questions from the committee on the reclamation plan.

Motion by Van Wychen, second by Rasmussen to approve a nonmetallic mining reclamation permit for Gerke Excavating on the Joe Borntrigger property. Motion carried 5-0.

STAFF REPORTS:

Richardson reported that the Randall Quarry, operated by Gerke Excavating, has been successfully reclaimed. He discussed the progress of the Unimin Tunnel City Quarry and passed around photos taken by DNR staff at the site. Richardson told the committee that he is assisting with a project to capture and distribute beetles for the control of purple loosestrife.

Micheel discussed cost-share projects he is working on at Jack Herricks, Jim Weiker, Connie Meyer, Larry Hoeft, Hugo Arndt, City of Sparta, Village of Norwalk, Todd Nevin, and Dave Peterson. He told the committee that a recent manure storage request came from a farmer raising 3,000 rabbits. Micheel discussed the process landowners need to take if they wish to get a permit to irrigate.

Micheel discussed the Western Area Land Conservation Association meeting recently held in LaCrosse. Marilyn Pedretti will be the Western Area representative to the WLWCA board.

2012 COST-SHARE APPROVALS:

There were no cost-share requests for consideration.

REPORT ON CROPLAND TRANSECT SURVEY:

Richardson told the committee that he completed a cropland transect survey in Monroe County. The purpose of the survey is to collect statistically accurate information on cropland acreages, tillage types, and soil loss. Richardson passed around a survey summary, which showed higher corn acreage, less no-till, and higher erosion rates.

DNR REPORT:

Modjeski reported that enforcement action is pending on stormwater violations for a nonmetallic mining operation in Monroe County.

Walroth reported that 35 new Managed Forest Law applications were received from Monroe County landowners. She also reported that 2012 marked a new low for tree planting in Monroe County.

NRCS REPORT:

Wheeler distributed copies on the Wisconsin Crop Manager, a drought information handout, and a Driftless Area Initiative map. He discussed the handouts. He reported that Monroe County has 39 new Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contracts. He noted that 38 new CRP contracts were approved in Monroe County. A meeting for CRP participants will be held 7/20/12. There will be a Local Work Group meeting scheduled after the August LCC meeting.

FORESTRY & PARKS UPDATES

Chad gave a report to the committee regarding the last electric bill. It appears the increased usage and warmer than normal weather caused the increase in the normal June electric bill.

SNOWMOBILE BRIDGE BIDS: -DISCUSSION/ACTION

Chad reviewed the bids for the Cataract snowmobile bridge with the committee. The bids were as follows:

RA Schroeder Construction, LLC: \$17,844.00
Proposal is for reconstructing the bridge in its present location.

Torkelson Excavating, LLC
Proposal 1: \$9,949.00
Proposal is for reconstructing the bridge in its present location.

Proposal 2: \$19,000.00
Proposal is for relocating the bridge approximately 100 yards up stream.

A motion was made by Nodji Van Wychen, seconded by Jim Rasmussen to postpone the decision until feedback is provided by the snowmobile association. Motion carried 5-0.

LAND ACQUISITION: TOWN OF RIDGEVILLE - UPDATE:

Chad explained that the Solid Waste Department is looking into purchasing property adjacent to the land fill. Part of the land would be needed for future expansion of the land fill and the other part would provide a buffer incase contamination spreads. The possibility of enrolling 80 acres more or less of this property into the county forest has been discussed along with applying for stewardship funding and interest free loans from the state.

COUNTY FOREST LAND TRADE – DISCUSSION/ACTION:

Chad updated the committee regarding the status of this potential trade. Forenergy is securing mineral exploration contracts with adjoining property owners and is interested in acquiring approximately 250 acres of County Forest in the Town of Grant and Town of Lincoln.

The committee decided to have a special meeting to discuss this proposal. The meeting date was set for August 1, 6 PM at the Monroe County Ag Services Center, 820 Industrial Drive, Sparta.

James Rasmussen left the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

PAYMENT OF FORESTRY & PARKS BILLS:

The committee reviewed the monthly bills.

A motion was made by Nodji Van Wychen, seconded Dean Wagner to approve the bills in the amount of \$3,905.79. Motion carried 5-0.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next LCC meeting was scheduled for August 21, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.

ADJOURN:

Motion by Kuhn, second by Van Wychen to adjourn at 11:10 a.m. Motion carried.

Al Hoff & Chad Ziegler, recorders

MONROE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION, FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE & PLACE:

June 19, 2012 at the Monroe County Justice Center Conference Room, 128 S. Water St., Sparta.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Gail Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. Present were Chapman; Rasmussen; Kuhn; VanWychen; Wegner; Hoff, LCD; Ziegler, Forestry & Parks; Stan Brownell, Monroe Co. Conservation Congress; members of the public.

MINUTES APPROVAL – 5/15/12:

Motion by VanWychen, second by Rasmussen to approve the May 15, 2012 minutes as printed. Motion carried 5-0.

PAYMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION BILLS:

Hoff reviewed the monthly Land Conservation bills.

*Motion by Kuhn, second by VanWychen to approve the bills in the amount of \$11,798.96
Motion carried 5-0.*

REPORT ON CONSERVATION CONGRESS ANNUAL MEETING:

Stan Brownell reported on activities of the Monroe County Conservation Congress. Monroe County is in District 6, represented by Maurice Amundson, Tom Muench, Myron Leis, Roger Greenwood, and Brownell. Brownell reported on the committee assignments of the Monroe County members. Brownell and Amundson attended the recent annual conference of the Conservation Congress. Brownell reported on the issues discussed at the conference including the deer management report, possible changes to the administrative rule making process, and the strategic planning process for the Conservation Congress.

2012 COST-SHARE APPROVALS:

Hoff reviewed Land and Water cost-share requests from Travis Brooks for a grass waterway and John Schmitz for a diversion and streambank improvement.

Motion by Kuhn, second by VanWychen to approve cost-share contracts for Travis Brooks and John Schmitz. Motion carried 5-0.

APPROVE PUBLIC FISHING EASEMENT:

Hoff explained that the Land Conservation Department asks landowners on trout streams where habitat work is being done if they would be willing to sign public fishing easements. This sometimes helps get cost-share money from multiple sources. There is no cost to Monroe County.

Motion by Wegner, second by Kuhn to approve public fishing easements for Simonson Family Trust on Billings Creek, and for Bernadette Baley on the Little LaCrosse River. Motion carried 5-0.

9:00 a.m. – PUBLIC HEARING FOR FAIRVIEW CRANBERRY MINE RECLAMATION PLAN:

1. Review of Monroe County ordinance requirements. Hoff reviewed the history of the nonmetallic mining reclamation requirements in Wisconsin. Operators of mines over 1 acre must submit a reclamation plan addressing topsoil management, final grading and slopes, post-mining land use, and a description of reclamation measures. Operators must submit financial assurance to assure implementation of the reclamation plan.
2. Review of Fairview Cranberry/Smart Sand reclamation plan. Hoff reviewed the submitted reclamation plan for the Fairview Cranberry Oakdale Mine. The mine is operated by Smart

Sand, Inc. This is a modification of an existing permit, required to bring their plan up-to-date with the current plan of operations. The new plan, prepared by Ayres Associates, addresses mining at the expanded mine site which now totals approximately 1,130 acres. The material being mined is frac sand. Mining is taking place on approximately 90 acres in 2012, in addition to acreage being cleared for future use. Financial assurance in the amount of \$770,000 has been submitted to cover reclamation of the current mining activity. Post-mining land use will be a mixture of open water, meadow, and cranberry bogs and reservoirs. Existing rail spurs and facilities will be removed after completion of mining activities.

3. Public questions and answers. Hoff asked the Committee and the public if there were any questions on the reclamation plan. Kuhn asked about mining near the 2 streams. Smart Sand said they are required to meet shoreland zoning requirements within 300 ft. of the stream. They also said they have had the wetlands delineated and they cannot destroy wetlands. They addressed the question of what would happen to the land after mining by saying it would likely be sold.
4. Public comments for the record. Hoff asked if anyone from the public had comments for the record. There were none.

*Motion by VanWychen, second by Wegner to adjourn the public hearing at 9:30 a.m.
Motion carried.*

ACT ON NONMETALLIC MINING RECLAMATION PERMIT REVISION FOR FAIRVIEW CRANBERRY/SMART SAND MINE:

Motion by Kuhn, second by Rasmussen to approve the revised reclamation plan for the Fairview Cranberry/Smart Sand Mine. There was no discussion. Motion Carried 5-0.

Hoff explained to the Committee that Smart Sand has submitted financial assurance in the form of cash in the interim while they are working on obtaining an alternate form of financial assurance. The rules allow the operator to change the type of financial assurance once per year. Hoff asked for approval to return the cash payment as soon as the alternate form of financial assurance is received, which will likely be prior to the next regular committee meeting.

Motion by VanWychen, second by Kuhn to approve allowing Hoff to return the cash financial assurance prior to the regular LCC meeting if acceptable alternate financial assurance is received. Motion carried 5-0.

REVIEW, ACT ON HI-CRUSH WYEVILLE PLANT NONMETALLIC MINING RECLAMATION PLAN REVISION:

Hoff reviewed the proposed reclamation plan revision for the Hi-Crush Wyeville mine. The mine is operated by Hi-Crush Proppants LLC, Houston, Texas. This is a modification of an existing plan that is not adequate to meet current and future operational plans. Also, since the original permit was issued, additional parcels have been purchased which will increase the permitted acreage to approximately 353 acres. The mine is located in Byron Township and is an active frac sand mine. The sand is processed on site and shipped out by rail. The revised plan was prepared by Short, Elliott & Hendrickson. Planned active acres at this site is approximately 100 acres for 2012. Post mining land use at this site will include a privately owned lake with wetland and upland riparian properties that can be utilized for recreation and/or residential use. No structures will remain after final reclamation. Financial assurance in the amount of \$1.5 million has been received, which is adequate for current operations.

Shanna Skallat, Compliance Supervisor for Hi-Crush Operating, LLC was present and answered questions from Committee and staff.

Motion by Rasmussen, second by Kuhn to approve the plan revision for the Hi-Crush Wyeville Plant. Motion carried 5-0.

DNR REPORT:

No DNR staff were present at the meeting.

NRCS REPORT:

Hoff passed out a written report from NRCS District Conservationist Greg Wheeler. The report gave updates on the Conservation Reserve Program and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. Hoff also passed out the agenda for a CRP management meeting being held for landowners on July 20 in Sparta.

FORESTRY & PARKS UPDATES

The camping season is in full swing; camping revenues are approximately \$8,000.00 higher than this time last year most likely due to the warmer than normal weather this spring.

Timber sale preparation and set up has begun for the spring 2013 timber sales.

HANDOUT: COUNTY FOREST FACTS/HISTORY:

Chad distributed and explained a County Forest Facts sheet to the committee and answered questions

TIMBER SALE BIDS DISCUSSION/ACTION:

Chad reviewed the 2012 timber sale bids with the committee. The high bids were as follows:

Tract 1-12, Lambert Forest Products:	\$16,376.50
Tract 2-12, Futurewood Corp.:	\$25,178.15*
Tract 4-12, Lambert Forest Products:	\$15,979.66*
Tract 5-12, Strzok Logging:	\$31,900.00*
Total:	\$89,434.31

*Only one bid was received on the tract.

A motion was made by Kuhn, seconded by Rasmussen to approve the high bid for each tract. Motion carried 5-0

RESOLUTION APPROVING MOA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE KNOWLES-NELSON STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM:

Chad explained that the WDNR is requiring this MOA to be approved and signed by the counties with county forest land in order to participate in the Knowles-Nelson Grant program for land acquisition. Approving the MOA does not obligate the county to purchase land or apply for the grant.

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

PAYMENT OF FORESTRY & PARKS BILLS:

The committee reviewed the monthly bills.

A motion was made by Jim Kuhn, seconded by Nodji Van Wychen to approve the bills in the amount of \$8,912.72. Motion carried 5-0.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next LCC meeting was scheduled for July 17, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.

ADJOURN:

Motion by VanWychen, second by Kuhn to adjourn at 10:05 a.m. Motion carried.

Al Hoff & Chad Ziegler, recorders

MONROE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION, FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE & PLACE:

May 15, 2012 Monroe County Ag Services Center Conference Room, 820 Industrial Dr., Sparta.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Gail Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. Present were Chapman, Rasmussen, Kuhn; VanWychen; Richardson, LCD; Hoff, LCD; Ziegler, Forestry & Parks; Modjeski, DNR; Schilling, DNR; Wheeler, NRCS; Patti Jackson-Kelly, NRCS; Larry Revels, Stan Brownell, Kim Mello. Wegner was absent.

MINUTES APPROVAL – 4/17/12:

*Motion by Kuhn, second by Chapman to approve the April 17, 2012 minutes as printed.
Motion carried.*

SELECT COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIR:

Chairman Chapman appointed Jim Kuhn as vice-chair, approved unanimously by committee members.

PAYMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION BILLS:

Hoff reviewed the monthly Land Conservation bills.

*Motion by VanWychen, second by Kuhn to approve the bills in the amount of \$7,230.32
Motion carried.*

ACT ON NONMETALLIC MINING RECLAMATION PERMIT FOR MACK LIMESTONE QUARRY:

Richardson reviewed the nonmetallic mining reclamation permit application from Dave Mack for a new limestone quarry in Jefferson Township. Antony Excavating will be the operator of this quarry. The initial active acres will be 1 acre. Initial financial assurance will be in the amount of \$3,000. Post-mining land use will be woods and pasture. A conditional use permit is not needed for this mine. Rasmussen asked if neighboring landowners have been notified. Richardson responded that by ordinance, all owners within 300 ft. of the parcels being mined are notified. In addition, public notices are put in the legal sections of local papers. Richardson did not receive any responses from the public.

Motion by VanWychen, second by Kuhn to approve the nonmetallic mining reclamation permit for Dave Mack/Antony Excavating pending submittal of proper financial assurance. Motion carried.

ACT ON NONMETALLIC MINING RECLAMATION PERMIT FOR TIM SHAW SAND QUARRY:

Richardson reviewed the nonmetallic mining reclamation permit application from L and S Investments for the Bear Creek Cranberry Mine in Oakdale Township. Tim Shaw is the operator of this frac sand mine. Active acres will be 10 acres and the required initial financial assurance is \$10,000. Post-mining land use will be grassland, cranberry bogs and reservoirs. A conditional use permit has been issued. Staff explained that mining is occurring at this site, so this is an after-the-fact permit.

Warden Modjeski reviewed Chapter 30 violations that have taken place on this site. Rasmussen expressed concerns about what he sees as red flags about this application, including the water quality violations. Hoff explained that while the Chapter 30 violations are valid concerns, they are

being handled by DNR enforcement staff and do not impact the nonmetallic mining reclamation permit application. Richardson and Hoff explained the financial assurance rules and procedures to the committee. If Shaw opens additional acres or changes his mining plans, additional financial assurance would be required before expansion takes place.

Motion by Kuhn, second by Rasmussen to approve a nonmetallic mining reclamation permit for L and S Investments LLP/Tim Shaw pending submittal of proper financial assurance. Motion carried 3-0-1 (VanWychen abstained).

STAFF REPORTS:

Richardson discussed construction jobs at Don Kortbein and James Paulson. He reported on considerable activity that has occurred during the past month relative to nonmetallic mining. Two plan revisions will be considered at the June meeting, and other inquiries have been received. He said a reclamation permit application for frac sand was received from Rutlin Cranberry, but was later withdrawn by the applicant.

Hoff passed out a written report from Bob Micheel. His activities include working with Sparta and Brookwood schools on educational projects. He is working on jobs for the current year, including the Village of Norwalk, John Schmitz, Doug Nevin, Larry Revels, Jeff Schmitz, and Dave Peterson.

2012 COST-SHARE APPROVALS:

Hoff discussed cost-share contracts for Travis Leis (waterway, bank shaping), Bernadette Baley (riprap), Ronald Brueggeman (riprap), and Jim Weiker (grass waterway).

Motion by VanWychen, second by Rasmussen to approve 2012 Land and Water contracts for Travis Leis, Bernadette Baley, Ronald Brueggeman, and Jim Weiker. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF WESTERN AREA WLWCA BOD MEMBER:

Hoff explained the merging of the Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees (WALCE) and the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (WLWCA). Monroe County belongs to the Western Area Land and Water Conservation Association, one of eight WLWCA area associations. The new bylaws state that each county will select a LCC rep to serve on the board of directors of the Area Association.

Nodji VanWychen volunteered to represent Monroe County on the Area Board of Directors, which was approved by consensus by the committee.

GOLDEN SANDS RC&D UPDATE:

Amy Thorstenson, Executive Director for Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development, gave an update and a history of the council. Monroe County has been a member of Golden Sands since the early 1970's, but has not been an active member for several years. Amy handed out a brochure highlighting accomplishments of Golden Sands. She encouraged Monroe County to appoint 2 members to the council and take advantage of what Golden Sands has to offer. She discussed the events being planned as part of the 40th anniversary of Golden Sands.

DNR REPORT:

Schilling said that June 1 is the deadline for Managed Forest Law applications. He also discussed oak wilt and associated management recommendations.

NRCS REPORT:

Wheeler introduced Patti Jackson-Kelly, Assistant State Conservationist for NRCS in the

Southwest Area. Wheeler said Monroe County has 30 new Environmental Quality Incentives (EQIP) contracts totaling approximately \$510,000. He handed out a report of the 2011 activities of NRCS and discussed concerns with conservation compliance, especially with potential erosion problems as a result of increased tillage.

FORESTRY & PARKS UPDATES

Tree planting has been completed on the Birch Lane site; the contractor planted about 45,000 trees. Delaney Forest Products recently finished sale 126; a red pine first thinning.

McMullen Park has been busy; all the seasonal staff has started working.

REVISIT: RESOLUTION FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION AIDS:

The state requires that the county approve a resolution to apply for state aid. The main purpose for this resolution is to apply for snowmobile aid for annual trail signing and maintenance. This resolution was approved by the committee in April; Corporation Counsel has recommended a few revisions.

A motion was made by Jim Kuhn, seconded by Nodji Van Wychen to rescind the original resolution and approve the revised resolution. Motion carried 4-0.

PAYMENT OF FORESTRY & PARKS BILLS:

The committee reviewed the monthly bills.

A motion was made by Jim Kuhn, seconded by Nodji Van Wychen to approve the bills in the amount of \$13,989.09. Motion carried.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE:

The next LCC meeting was scheduled for June 19, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. The committee decided to continue meeting the 3rd Tuesday of the month for the immediate future.

ADJOURN:

Motion by Rasmussen, second by Kuhn to adjourn at 10:22 a.m. Motion carried.

Al Hoff & Chad Ziegler, recorders

MONROE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION, FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE & PLACE:

April 17, 2012 Monroe County Ag Services Center Conference Room, 820 Industrial Dr., Sparta.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Gail Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Present were Chapman, McTaggart, Wegner, Kuhn; Schroeder; Richardson, LCD; Micheel, LCD; Hoff, LCD; Ziegler, Forestry & Parks; Walroth DNR; Schilling, DNR; Wheeler, NRCS; Larry Revels, Stan Brownell.

MINUTES APPROVAL – 3/15/12:

*Motion by Kuhn, second by McTaggart to approve the March 15, 2012 minutes as printed.
Motion carried.*

PAYMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION BILLS:

Hoff reviewed the monthly Land Conservation bills.

*Motion by Schroeder, second by McTaggart to approve the bills in the amount of \$2,262.20
Motion carried.*

STAFF REPORTS:

Micheel and Richardson have been working on 2012 conservation projects. Micheel discussed the merging of the Wisconsin Land Conservation Association with the Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees. Micheel has participated in presentations to 6th grade students in Sparta, Sparta High Point students, and Brookwood students. He also presented at the Driftless Area Symposium.

Richardson discussed activity with nonmetallic mining permits. There are 3 new applications that will be considered at the next LCC. In addition, there have been several new requests for information.

Hoff discussed mining moratoriums and licensing agreements being passed and considered by local governments. He pointed out that Monroe County is the regulatory authority for nonmetallic mining reclamation in the county. In order for townships or cities to regulate reclamation, they would need to go through the process of becoming the regulatory authority for their municipality.

Hoff told the committee that someone drove down the snowmobile trail by Tri-Creek Site 1, drove up the emergency spillway and caused some damage to the sod on the spillway.

2012 COST-SHARE APPROVALS:

Richardson discussed cost-share contracts for Don Kortbein (waterway), James Paulson (crossing), Arlen Simonson (nutrient management), and Doug Fries (nutrient management).

Motion by Schroeder, second by Wegner to approve 2012 Land and Water contracts for Don Kortbein, James Paulson, Arlen Simonson, and Doug Fries. Motion carried.

DNR REPORT:

Walroth reported on Monroe County tree delivery. She discussed tax law activities. January 1, 2013 is the next deadline for Managed Forest Law (MFL) applications. Walroth passed out a summary of Monroe County Tax Law Acres. Monroe County has 48,155 acres enrolled in forest tax law programs.

NRCS REPORT:

Wheeler reported that Soil Conservation Technician Dan Gunderson is attending training in Fort Worth, and has been working on 2013 projects. He discussed the last Conservation Reserve Program signup. There will be between 30-40 contracts signed in Monroe County. For 2013, Monroe County will have about 30 EQIP contracts for \$508,000 of conservation work.

FORESTRY & PARKS UPDATES

The park has had approximately 20 campers so far this season; the shower building is open. Recently four gates were wrecked on the county forest; two have been replaced so far. Tree planting has begun on the Birch Lane site.

MOWING BIDS: ANGELO WAYSIDE::

Two mowing bids were received for mowing the Angelo Wayside; one from Eco-Wash, LLC for \$42.00/mowing and one from Attractive Landscape for \$90.00/mowing.

A motion was made by Jim Schroeder, seconded by Larry Mc Taggart to approve the low bid from Eco-Wash, LLC. Motion carried.

COUNTY FOREST LAND TRADE:

Chad Ziegler reported that the WDNR County Forest Specialist is willing to meet with or have a teleconference with the LCC to discuss potential ideas regarding the trade. The current County Forest Specialist will be retiring in mid May; he recommended the committee discuss the proposal and other options and if appropriate put together a proposal and request a withdrawal for the WDNR to review.

Discussion was held. The committee decided to bring the topic back to the committee in a few months after the new LCC committee has been determined

RESOLUTION FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION AIDS:

The state requires that the county approve a resolution to apply for state aid. The main purpose for this resolution is to apply for snowmobile aid for annual maintenance.

A motion was made by Larry Mc Taggart, seconded by Jim Schroeder to approve the resolution. Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF FORESTRY & PARKS BILLS:

The committee reviewed the monthly bills.

A motion was made by Jim Kuhn, seconded by Jim Schroeder to approve the bills in the amount of \$689.15. Motion carried.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next LCC meeting was scheduled for May 15, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.

ADJOURN:

Motion by Schroeder, second by Kuhn to adjourn at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried.

Al Hoff & Chad Ziegler, recorders

Approved 4/17/12

MONROE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE & PLACE:

March 15, 2012 Monroe County Justice Department Conference Room, 128 S. Water St. Sparta.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Gail Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. Present were Chapman, McTaggart, Wegner, Kuhn; Richardson, LCD; Ziegler, Forestry & Parks, Walroth DNR Larry Revels, Tim Forell, Forenergy LLC.

MINUTES APPROVAL – 2/21/12:

Motion by McTaggart, second by Wegner to approve the February 21, 2012 minutes as printed. Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION BILLS:

Richardson reviewed the monthly Land Conservation bills.

Motion by Kuhn, second by Wegner to approve the bills in the amount of \$5,838.83 Motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS:

Micheel and Richardson have been working on 2012 conservation projects. Richardson updated the committee on the status of reclamation plans that may be presented to the committee in the near future. Richardson discussed 3/9/12 Contractor Workshop held at the Leon Town Hall.

DNR REPORT:

Walroth reported on Monroe County tree delivery. About the same number of trees as last year, which is down significantly from years past. Shilling is setting up timber sales on Monroe County Forest property. Walroth and Shilling are working with private landowners on various issues.

Motion by Kuhn, second by Mc Taggart to approve the 15 local emergency fire wardens presented for consideration. Motion carried.

NRCS REPORT:

No NRCS staff were present at the meeting.

FORESTRY & PARKS UPDATES

The park is receiving a lot of camping inquiries. A firewood processor was brought in to cut/split most of the remaining larger diameter logs at the park. The wood shed is nearly full.

ATTENDANCE TO WCFA SPRING MEETING:

The WCFA Spring Meeting is being held on March 22-23 in Wausau.

A motion was made by Dean Wegner, seconded by Larry Mc Taggart to approve the attendance of Jim Kuhn and Chad Ziegler. Motion carried

APPROVAL OF LOCAL FIRE WARDENS:

This action was approved during the “DNR Report.

GROUND WATER MONITORING WELL AT/NEAR MCMULLEN PARK:

Ziegler presented information from David Hart (UW-Extension) Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey (WGNHS). The WGNHS is requesting permission to drill at or near McMullen Park in April 2012. The project consists of a 6” diameter by 1000’ deep well. Drilling

and drill core sampling is expected to take approximately 1 week to complete. Upon completion of the drilling a variety of measurements will be taken such as geophysical logs, optical borehole images, temperature, and packer tests; these tests will take 1-2 weeks. The well will be properly filled and sealed at the end of the project or within two years of construction and the county can bill WGNHS for \$300.00 to help cover administrative costs.

A motion was made by Jim Kuhn, seconded by Larry Mc Taggart to grant the WGNHS permission to drill a well near McMullen Park. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION/PROPOSAL ON POTENTIAL COUNTY FOREST LAND TRADE:

Tim Forell from Forenergy made a proposal geared towards acquiring Monroe County Forest Land in the Town of Grant and Town of Lincoln. The intentions are to invest in a large tract of land to develop, construct and operate (through a joint venture) a sand mining, processing and storage/transportation facility on the property.

The potential structure of the transaction: Forenergy would be looking to acquire 200 to 800 acres from the County. In return they would be willing to consider the following options with the intention of positioning the county's net outcome to be greater by a 2 to 1 margin;

(1) Replace acreage at ratio of 2:1 in areas contiguous to other existing county forest land holdings, (2) Pay cash up to \$3,000 per acre (appraised value) in addition to a 1:1 acreage trade, (3) Pay cash up to \$6,000 per acre, or (4) Give the property back when mining is completed). This would encompass Forenergy designing, constructing, and delivering a reclamation plan with enhanced habitat features (in concert with county's wishes) that would be a direct long-term benefit to waterfowl and the public's recreational use of the property. Forenergy would then gift it back by way of assigning warranty deed to Monroe County as different stages of the mining plan are completed.

TEST DRILLING FOR FRAC SAND ON COUNTY FOREST:

Tim Forell asked permission to do some test drilling on the county forest in section 12, Town of Grant.

A motion was made by Jim Kuhn, seconded by Larry Mc Taggart to allow Forenergy at their own expense to drill one test hole and reclaim the drilling area to its pre-drilling state in section 12, Town of Grant provided that it does not violate any sections of the County Forest Law. Motion carried (3-1, Wegner).

PAYMENT OF FORESTRY & PARKS BILLS:

The committee reviewed the monthly bills.

A motion was made by Dean Wegner, seconded by Larry Mc Taggart to approve the bills in the amount of \$754.03. Motion carried.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next LCC meeting was scheduled for April 17, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.

ADJOURN:

Motion by Mc Taggart, second by Kuhn to adjourn at 10:50 a.m. Motion carried.

Bryce Richardson & Chad Ziegler, recorders

MONROE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE & PLACE:

February 21, 2012 at the Monroe County Ag Services Center, Sparta, WI.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Gail Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Present were Chapman, Schroeder, McTaggart, Wegner, Kuhn; Hoff, LCD; Micheel, LCD; Richardson, LCD; Wheeler, NRCS; Ziegler, Forestry & Parks.

MINUTES APPROVAL – 1/17/12:

Motion by McTaggart, second by Schroeder to approve the January 17, 2012 minutes as printed. Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION BILLS:

Hoff reviewed the monthly Land Conservation bills.

Motion by Schroeder, second by Kuhn to approve the bills in the amount of \$182,986.22. Motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS:

Micheel and Richardson have been working on 2012 conservation projects. Micheel updated the committee on a few landowners that have had manure runoff or manure management issues. Richardson updated the committee on the status of the nonmetallic mining reclamation program.

Hoff told the committee that Bob Micheel received an appreciation award from Wisconsin Trout Unlimited for implementing trout habitat improvement work in Monroe County.

LINE ITEM TRANSFER FOR 2011 BUDGET - ACTION:

Hoff said a line item transfer is needed in the amount of \$864.49 to cover overages in salary and fringe benefit accounts resulting from sick leave payouts in 2011.

Motion by Schroeder, second by McTaggart to approve a line item transfer in the amount of \$846.49. Motion carried

REVIEW OF 2011 CONSERVATION WORK:

Micheel showed pictures of conservation work completed by the office in 2011. He explained the resource concerns and solutions that were implemented. Richardson showed pictures of nonmetallic mines in various stages of operation.

DNR REPORT:

No DNR staff were present at the meeting.

NRCS REPORT:

Wheeler reported on the on the next CRP signup. There are currently about 11,400 acres enrolled in CRP in Monroe County. There will be a meeting in July for landowners participating in CRP. He reported that Monroe County landowners signed up for approximately \$800,000 worth of conservation work in the last EQIP signup.

Wheeler passed out annual reports of NRCS activities and accomplishments in Wisconsin in 2011.

FORESTRY AND PARKS UPDATES:

Ziegler said the park is currently seeking applications for seasonal park staff.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON FORESTRY & PARKS LINE ITEM TRANSFERS:

Ziegler presented line item transfers in the amount of \$3,113.35.

A motion was made by Jim Schroeder, seconded by Larry Mc Taggart to approve the line item transfers as presented. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON BUDGET ADJUSTMENT FOR SNOWMOBILE TRAILS

A budget adjustment increase for the revenue line item “state aid-snowmobile trails” in the amount of \$75,724.86 and an increase in the expense line item “snowmobile trails” for the same amount was presented.

A motion was made by Jim Schroeder, seconded by Jim Kuhn to approve the budget adjustment. Motion carried

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON TREE PLANTING/HERBICIDE APPLICATION BIDS:

Tree planting and herbicide application bids were presented. Verbal quotes for herbicide application were also obtained from the Sparta Co op (\$21.50/ac) and the Federation Co op (\$20.50/ac).

A motion was made by Jim Schroeder, seconded by Dean Wegner to accept the low tree planting bid from One Stop Forestry for \$124.50/acre and hire the Federation Co op to perform the herbicide application. Motion carried.

Company	Brooks & Cristie		Ivan Heisz		Brown Forestry		Zumbro Valley Forestry	
	\$/ac	Total	\$/ac	Total	\$/ac	Total	\$/ac	Total
Tree planting/root pruning	\$172.75	\$9,328.50	\$160.00	\$8,640.00	\$220.00	\$11,880.00	\$133.86	\$7,228.44
Pre-emergent herbicide applic.	included			\$0.00	\$60.00		\$44.13	\$2,383.02
notes:	40" band of spray, Herbicide can be applied before or after the tree is planted.				40" band centered over row. Applied with ATV/sprayer immediately after planting		Broadcast spray the entire field 2 weeks prior to planting.	
Total :	\$172.75	\$9,328.50	\$160.00	\$8,640.00	\$280.00	\$11,880.00	\$177.99	\$9,611.46
Federation Co op sprays							154.36	8,335.44

Company	Grade Tech Pavers		One Stop Forestry		EC3		\$/ac	Total
	\$/ac	Total	\$/ac	Total	\$/ac	Total		
Tree planting/root pruning	\$314.08	\$16,960.00	\$124.50	\$6,723.00	\$353.33	\$19,079.82		\$0.00
Pre-emergent herbicide applic.			\$25.00	\$1,350.00	\$55.00	\$2,970.00		\$0.00
notes:			ATV sprayer after planting, 36" band of spray,		30" band centered over row after planting. 3qt simazine/ac			

Total :

Federation Co op sprays

\$314.08	\$16,960.00	\$149.50	\$8,073.00	\$408.33	\$22,049.82	\$0.00	\$0.00
		145.00	7,830.00				

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON POTENTIAL COUNTY FOREST LAND TRADE:

A company named Forenergy is proposing to acquire Monroe County Forest Land in the Town of Grant and Town of Lincoln. The intentions are to invest in a large tract of land to develop, construct and operate (through a JV) a sand mining processing and storage/transportation facility on the property.

The potential structure of the transaction: Forenergy would be looking to purchase/trade 200 to 800 acres from/with the County. In return they would be willing to consider any 2 of the following combinations with the intention of positioning the Counties net outcome to be greater by a 2 to 1 margin;

(1) Replace acreage with equal amounts of acreage in areas contiguous to other existing CFL land holdings, (2) Pay a cash difference of \$1,700-\$2,000 per acre (appraised value) on top of the acreage trade in order to get the County to a 2 to 1 net outcome. OR (3) (Give original property back when completed). This would encompass Forenergy designing, constructing, and delivering a reclamation plan with enhanced habitat features (in concert with CFL's wishes) that would be a direct long-term benefit to waterfowl and the public's recreational use of the very property I purchased, before gifting it back by way of assigning warranty deed to CFL as different stages of the mining plan are completed.

The committee recommended that the Forest & Parks Administrator respond with a written letter thanking Forenergy for the offer; letting them know that the committee needs some time to consider all of the options.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON RESOLUTION ADDING ADDITIONAL SEASONAL CAMPSITES AT McMULLEN PARK:

Discussion was held regarding the 10 seasonal campsites at Mc Mullen Park.

A motion was made by Jim Schroeder, seconded by Larry Mc Taggart to have the Forest & Parks Administrator determine which sites should be seasonal sites. Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF FORESTRY AND PARKS BILLS:

The committee reviewed the monthly bills.

A motion was made by Jim Schroeder, seconded by Jim Kuhn to approve the bills in the amount of \$2,626.59. Motion carried.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next LCC meeting was scheduled for March 20, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.

ADJOURN:

Motion by Kuhn, second by Schroeder to adjourn at 11:35 a.m. Motion carried.

Al Hoff & Chad Ziegler, recorders

MONROE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE & PLACE:

January 17, 2012 at the Monroe County Ag Services Center, Sparta, WI.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Gail Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Present were Chapman, Schroeder, McTaggart, Wegner, Kuhn; Hoff, LCD; Micheel, LCD; Richardson, LCD; Peterson, APHIS; Wheeler, NRCS; Walroth, DNR; Ziegler, Forestry & Parks; Larry Revels.

MINUTES APPROVAL – 12/20/2011:

Motion by Schroeder, second by McTaggart to approve the December 20, 2011 minutes as printed. Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION BILLS:

Hoff reviewed the monthly Land Conservation bills.

Motion by Schroeder, second by McTaggart to approve the bills in the amount of \$8,694.57. Motion carried.

2011 WILDLIFE DAMAGE CLAIMS REVIEW AND ACTION:

Phil Peterson reviewed the Wildlife Damage program. He then presented two 2011 damage claims received from Monroe County Landowners.

1. Robert Sutton, Township of Lincoln, damage to corn and soybeans with a payable claim of \$465.22. He did not harvest the required number of deer for his shooting permit, but USDA, county, and DNR staff recommend a waiver because deer were not available during shooting hours.
2. Tom Griffin, Township of Oakdale, damage to stored feed with a payable claim of \$5,385.10.

USDA recommends approval of both claims.

Motion by Schroeder, second by McTaggart to approve 2011 damage claims for Robert Sutton and Tom Griffin as submitted. Motion carried.

Peterson discussed the delisting of the grey wolf from Endangered Species Act protection. This will make it easier to manage the grey wolf population in Wisconsin.

STAFF REPORTS:

Richardson has completed several surveys for 2012 projects. He is also working on a streambank project for Lemonweir River landowners that will be completed by a contractor that is required to complete conservation work as part of an environmental enforcement action. Richardson said annual nonmetallic fee notices and annual report forms have been sent to the 44 permitted sites in Monroe County. Six of those sites are frac sand sites. Those permitted sites have 561 active acres, which is an increase of 117 acres from 2010.

Micheel reported on the status of 2011 projects for Hugo Arndt, Dick Martin, Ron Drews, Dave Peterson, Ron Hurtz, and Jeff Schmitz. In addition, work has started for 2012 projects.

DISCUSS STATE BUDGET LAPSE TO STAFFING GRANT:

Hoff discussed the annual staffing grant from Wisconsin DATCP. Normally DATCP would inform counties of proposed grant amounts in time to incorporate the data into annual budgets. They did not give that data to counties this year in time for 2012 budget preparation because of uncertainty with the State budget. Counties were told to expect a decrease, but the amount was uncertain. Monroe County received a staffing grant in the amount of \$133,000 for 2011. Hoff said he budgeted for \$125,000 for 2012 based on the best information available at budget time. DATCP recently informed the counties that DOA is requiring an addition lapse for 2012, so the proposed amount for Monroe County is \$112,000, which would leave a \$13,000 deficit in the LCC budget. Counties will not know the final details for a couple more months.

FORESTRY AND PARKS UPDATES:

Ziegler gave the committee an update regarding the Habelman trade in the Town of New Lyme. The paper work was finalized in January and about 43,000 trees will be planted this spring.

PAYMENT OF FORESTRY/PARK BILLS:

The committee reviewed the monthly bills.

A motion was made by Kuhn, seconded by Schroeder to approve the bills in the amount of \$3,179.69. Motion carried.

DNR REPORT:

Walroth said the forestry staff has been doing year end reports and logging projects on tax law properties.

NRCS REPORT:

Wheeler gave an update on the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). About 45 landowners have signed up for 2012 projects. Wheeler reported on the Healthy Waters Initiative. The Kickapoo Watershed was submitted for Vernon and Monroe Counties, which will provide additional cost-share dollars if approved.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next LCC meeting was scheduled for February 21, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.

ADJOURN:

Motion by Schroeder, second by Kuhn to adjourn at 9:55 a.m. Motion carried.

Al Hoff & Chad Ziegler, recorders