

Monroe County Land Conservation, Forestry & Parks Committee Minutes

Date and Place:

Tuesday December 15, 2015 at the Monroe County Ag Services Center, Sparta, WI

Call to Order:

Chairman Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. Present were: J Rasmussen; D Wegner; N VanWychen; D Olson; B. Micheel, LCD; B. Richardson, LCD; J Wilk, LCD; C Ziegler, Monroe Co. Forestry; C. Walroth DNR; M Komiskey NRCS; R Schneider DNR; Public.

Minutes Approval 11/17/15 meeting:

Motion by Rasmussen, second by Van Wychen to approve the November 17th minutes as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Comment Period:

None

Review Land Conservation Bills:

Micheel reviewed monthly bills.

County Conservationist Report:

Micheel reported on:

Tri Creek Dam repair and inspection that was completed in November on the gate valve. Micheel said that J.F. Brennan Company fixed the gate valve and is in working condition but they recommended replacing the valve stem guides that are wearing out in the near future. The committee agreed Micheel should apply for the DNR Grant monies (50% cost sharing) to possible complete the repair in 2016.

Committee agreed on December 1, 2015 as the 90% harvest date for crop damage reporting.

Brief review of the Farmland Preservation Program requirements and the Scenic Ridge and Valley (AEA) notice that was sent out with town's tax statements recently. Landowners are contacting the office with questions and interest in the new program.

Oak Management Workshop is proposed for Monroe and La Crosse County in the fall of 2016. A planning session this afternoon with DNR & County forester and various partners is scheduled in the Monroe County Ag Service Center.

Update on the new committee structure and need for a Committee Mission Statement. Micheel and Ziegler will draft a statement and present it at the January LCC meeting.

Micheel attended County Conservationist meeting in Wisconsin Rapids. Topics discussed at the meeting were:

Into the Outdoor TV program highlighting County Land Conservation efforts will air Dec 19th.

Proposed changes to the MFL program.

Well/groundwater protection

Farmer led councils

Changes to Nutrient Management Standard 590

Speaker discussing MN Legacy Funding for conservation.

Soil and Water Conservationist Report:

Wilk and Richardson discussed completed and ongoing projects.

Cost Share Approvals:

Gabe Leis – Grade Stabilization Structure

Red Queen LLC – Grade Stabilization Structure

Motion by Rasmussen, second by VanWychen to approve the above cost shared projects. Motion carried 5-0.

NRCS Report:

Komiskey reported on staff CREP training scheduled for 1/11/16, Wetland Determinations, EQIP activities and possible intermittent staff.

DNR Private Lands Report:

Walroth reported on Tax Law Changes, Open hunting land info and CRP signups.

Forestry & Parks:

McMullen Park was closed up November 30th after all of the deer hunters had gone home. Preliminary park fees: \$143,000; preliminary expenses: \$92,000.

There is one active timber sale on the county forest; sale 139. The gun deer seasons are complete; Ziegler had one request for ATV access from a disabled hunter and two vehicle access requests. Ziegler rented a bulldozer from the Jackson County Forestry Department to complete several projects on the ski hill property: re-open logging roads, constructed a new road and turn around, collapsed cistern and watering trough,

rehabilitated wildlife pond and installed a gate. Schneider reported that Ricky Garber was found guilty in a court trial of setting fire and failure to distinguish. This ruling would help the county recover timber loss and the state and local government recover fire suppression costs.

Review Forestry & Park Bills:

Ziegler reviewed the past months bills.

Staff and Supervisor Open Discussion:

Micheel presented (on behalf of the LCD) a certificate of appreciation to Dean Wegner for his 4 years of service on the LCC. This was Dean's last meeting as the Farm Service Agency Rep to the LCC.

Set next Meeting Date:

The next meeting will be on January 19, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. in the Monroe County Ag Services Center.

Adjourn:

Motion by Van Wychen, Second by Olson to adjourn at 9:30 a.m. Motion carried 5-0.