

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

### **Date and Place:**

Tuesday February 16, 2016 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: J Rasmussen; D Hall; N VanWychen; B. Micheel, LCD; B. Richardson, LCD; J. Wilk LCD; C Ziegler, Monroe Co. Forestry; C. Walroth DNR; M Modjeski DNR; S Davidson DNR; V Blount NRCS; C Mulder NRCS; public.

### **Minutes Approval 1/19/16 meeting:**

***Motion by Rasmussen, second by Hall to approve the January 19, 2016 minutes as presented.***

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

### **Public Comment Period:**

Connie Weedman spoke regarding a planned logging operation on Monroe County Property locally known as the "Ski Hill". She was opposed to logging this area due to the amount of public use this area receives by people hunting and hiking. She felt there was a lack of public land accessible to people in close proximity to Sparta and that this property should be preserved due to the unique nature of the property. Olson arrived at 8:13.

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

Micheel reviewed monthly bills.

### **Review and Approve Bid for New Truck:**

Micheel presented the lone bid for the new work truck. Bid from Brennege Ford for a total bid of \$24,075.50.

***Motion by Rasmussen, second by VanWychen to accept Brennege Ford bid for new work truck. Motion carried 4-1.***

### **Review and Adopt LCC Mission Statement:**

Micheel and Ziegler discussed the intent of a mission statement for the committee. Three examples were presented. Committee discussed wording and preference of the statements. Decided on statement #3 with a couple changes in wordage. The approved mission statement is highlighted below; which also incorporates the new committee name affective this spring.

*"The mission of the Monroe County Natural Resources Committee is to manage, conserve and protect our natural resources. The committee will facilitate wise, sustainable land use and outdoor recreation through information and education while supporting technical and financial assistance to landowners of Monroe County and encourage all residents of Monroe County to be stewards of our natural resources keeping in mind the generations to follow."*

***Motion by Rasmussen, second by Hall to accept Mission Statement #3 as edited. Motion carried 5-0.***

County Conservationist Report:

Micheel reported on:

CREP agreement signed. Strong interest in Farmland Preservation Program from the Scenic Ridge and Valley landowners. Certificate of Compliance needed for all participants. Oak workshop planning committee has targeted Oct. 1 2016 in Portland Township for the workshop. Micheel will be presenting at a Healthy Soils, Healthy Waters workshop on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Sparta Phosphorus trading at 25% of goal. Cost to address non-point sources in 2015 is \$250 per pound of Phosphorus. Fishing Easement layer will be on Extreme web site soon.

Tri Creek Property Discussion: County Forest Law Program and Mark Roberts Property

Micheel and Ziegler explained the County Forest Law Program and how it could relate to the Tri Creek Property. Discussed developing a management plan as well as the positive and negative aspects of a plan. The committee was in favor of developing a management plan prior to pursuing the County Forest Law Program.

Micheel briefly explained the history of the Mark Roberts property; along with the land use easement the LCC holds, and some the questions he's received from interested parties concerning buying the property.

**Motion by VanWychen, second by Rasmussen to develop a Tri-Creek Management Plan.**

**Motion carried 4-1.**

Soil and Water Conservationist Report:

Wilk discussed projects he was working on. Wilk announced he is leaving and has taken a job with private company.

Richardson discussed nonmetallic mining items, construction planning, upcoming training and results of Area Poster Contest.

Soil and Water Conservationist Position Opening:

Micheel stated the position opening has been advertised for the past three weeks and closes Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. Planning to have new Soil & Water Conservationist hired by March.

Staff and Supervisor Open Discussion:

Micheel discussed Munis training and Department Head Evaluations.

NRCS Report:

Blount, reporting for Komiskey, Discussed EQIP and CSP deadlines, Conservation Plan workload and CREP outreach.

DNR Private Lands Report:

Modjeski reported on citations issued to Wisconsin White Sands LCC.

Walroth introduced Shawn Davidson as the new DNR Forest Ranger, Regional Tree Farm application for Kann Tree Farm has been submitted. Many calls regarding mandatory harvest practices for 2016 and 2017.

Forestry & Parks:

Ziegler has been planning for the up-coming camping season and performing timber sale establishment duties in the field and office.

Line Item Transfer:

Ziegler proposed transferring \$250.00 from the Forestry Site Conversion Line to Forestry Salaries Line to cover the cost of LTE salaries that were not budgeted for.

***Motion by Rasmussen, second by Hall to approve the line item transfer. Motion carried 5-0***

Review Forestry & Park Bills:

Ziegler reviewed the past months bills.

Set next Meeting Date:

The next meeting will be on March 15, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. in the Monroe County Ag Services Center.

Adjourn:

**Motion by Van Wychen, Second by Chapman to adjourn at 10:14 a.m. Motion carried 5-0.**