

**Monroe County Natural Resource and Extension Committee**  
Regular Monthly Meeting – July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Mo. County Ag Service Center – 820 Industrial Dr., Sparta, WI

Committee Members present: N. VanWychen, J. Schroeder, D. Pierce, M. Halverson.  
Also Present: B. Micheel, C. Ziegler, C. Mulder, A. Karrels, J. Roll, M. Komiskey, C. Walroth, M. Modjeski, J. Goede, E. Eggert, B. Halfman, public.

The meeting notice was posted in compliance with the open meeting law.

**Call to Order:** Chairman VanWychen called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

**Public Comment Period:** There was no public comment.

**Approve Minutes from the June 14th NR & Extension Meeting:** The committee reviewed the minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented by J. Schroeder, seconded by D. Pierce. *Motion carried, 4-0.*

**Deke Slayton/Bike Museum:** A. Karrels reported that the museum is hitting its peak tourism season and traffic is steady. They had an annual pig roast fundraiser that went well and are currently working on their new endeavor which is a space camp during the 1<sup>st</sup> week in August. She explained that the county has built a carpet covered partition over the damaged wall area and that the chimney has been fixed. They are starting to get things moved back into place from the construction at the jail site but there have been delays as the company that originally moved them is not going to be moving them back. There is also a portion near the door that needs soil but landscaping is being done by volunteers so it will take time. A motion was made to approve the report as presented by D. Pierce, seconded by M. Halverson. **Motion carried, 4-0.**

**Local History Room/Wegner Grotto:** J. Roll presented report to committee (attached). He discussed amending the resolution and ordinance in regards to the endowment investment language (attached). N. VanWychen asked if local firms were contacted to provide investment options. J. Roll said he had contacted multiple firms, one being from Sparta, and had decided to go with a La Crosse-based firm that worked within Monroe County. A motion was made to approve the language change presented for the endowment investment resolution by D. Pierce, seconded by M. Halverson. **Motion carried, 4-0.**

**Conservation Camp Report:** C. Mulder presented certificates to the 3 students that were present that attended camp. Each student spoke briefly and explained their experiences to the committee.

**County Conservatoinist report:** B. Micheel presented the departmental report to the committee (attached) and the proposed budget for 2017 was discussed. He is proposing a new Tree Sales project in which the Land Conservation Dept. will order and sell trees to land owners. A Tree Sales expense and revenue line item needs to be created in the budget. Expenses were presented and discussed. A motion was made to approve and add the Tree Sale line item to the budget by J. Schroeder, seconded by D. Pierce. **Motion carried, 4-0.**

**Soil and Water Conservatoinist Report:** C. Mulder briefed the committee on her report (attached), and B. Micheel presented B. Richardson's report in his absence (attached).

**Approve Cost Share Agreements:** There were 6 Cost Share Agreements presented for approval. A motion was made by D. Pierce, seconded by J. Schroeder to approve Cost Share Agreements presented for: Peterson Farms, L. Keim, J. Wiedmeyer, J. Carlisle, E. Leis, C. Bornrtregger. **Motion carried, 4-0.**

**NRCS Report:** M. Komiskey explained the EQIP and CSP federal programs to the committee. EQIP currently has about \$162,000 obligated to the county and CSP has about a dozen contracts at \$33,000 per year times 5 years.

**DNR Reports:**

Warden - M. Modjeski discussed training a new warden for another local area and also a deer farm fence inspection he went on but they were out of business. He mentioned that there are some dead trees by Angelo, possibly, Ash Borer, and wondered if Chad could check them.

Private Lands – C. Walroth handed out information on The Kann Tree Farm, and informed the committee that they have been chosen for the 2016 North Central Region Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year and are finalists for national recognition.

**Forestry & Parks Updates/Review Bills:** C. Ziegler presented his departmental report (attached) and the 2017 budget proposal to the committee for review. He would like to add space to an existing shed for storage and will propose capital improvements in the 2017 budget. Expenses were presented and reviewed.

A line item transfer was presented and a motion to approve \$496.00 to be transferred out of Site Conversion account to Salaries, Soc. Sec, Medicare, and Workers Comp. was made by D. Pierce, seconded by M. Halverson.

**Motion carried, 4-0.**

C. Ziegler also discussed changing the language in the logging contracts to read \$1.0 million from the current \$2.0 million insurance requirement to be able to allow smaller, local businesses the ability to compete for contracts. A motion was made by D. Pierce, seconded by J. Schroeder to change the timber sales contract language from \$2.0 million to \$1.0 million in insurance requirements. **Motion carried, 4-0.**

**Extension Office Business:**

-4H & Youth Development – J. Goede and B. Kuderer presented report to committee (attached).

-Family Living - E. Eggert presented report to committee (attached).

-Agriculture Ext Update - presented by B. Halfman (attached). Expenses were presented and reviewed.

The next meeting will be held August 16th (NOTE: Date change to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday) at 8:30 a.m. at the Monroe County Ag Services Center in Sparta.

**Motion to adjourn:** was made at 11:17 a.m. by D. Pierce, seconded by M. Halverson. **Motion carried, 4-0.**

*Leslie Schreier, Recorder*