

	APPROVED MINUTES LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING Thursday November 15, 2018 at 3:30 PM HHS Building, Room 1001 303 W. Chapel St. Dodgeville, WI 53533	Iowa County Wisconsin
Meeting was called to order by chair Dave Gollon at 3:30 P.M.		
Roll Call. Members present: Ron Benish, Kevin Butteris, Roger Dax, Dave Gollong, Don Leix, Thomas McGraw, and Dan Nankee Members excused: Rod Anding Others present: Katie Abbott, Larry Bierke, Dave Terrall, Chris Clayton, Scott Godfrey, Lisa Trimble		
Approve the agenda for this November 15, 2018 meeting. Sup. Benish made a motion to approve the November 15, 2018 agenda. Sup. Butteris seconded the motion. Motion carried. Sup. Leix moved to move agenda item number 8 to the start of the agenda. Sup. Benish seconded. Motion carried.		
Approve Wildlife Abatement 2019 budget and 2018 claims and crop prices: Dave Terrall from USDA Wildlife Services provided background on the program, and presented the 2019 budget and 2018 crop reimbursement rates. Sup. Benish moved to approve the 2019 Wildlife Abatement budget of \$27,036.37. Sup. Leix seconded. Motion carried. Discussion of crop prices, which are based on 12-month average. Mr. McGraw moved to approve the 2018 crop prices with the adjustment of lowering the soybean rate from \$8.90/bushel to \$8.00/bushel, and setting the 90% crop harvest date to December 10. Seconded by Sup. Butteris. Motion carried. Discussion about the species covered and hunting rules.		
Approve the minutes of the September 20, 2018 meeting. Sup. Nankee made a motion to approve the September 20, 2018 minutes. Sup. Leix seconded the motion. Motion carried.		
Report from committee members and an opportunity for members of the audience to address the committee. No action will be taken. Sup. Nankee passed around articles about Vernon County dam breaches and the McCaulley farm 100-year celebration, which acknowledged neighboring farm families.		
NRCS update: no update was provided		
Blackhawk Lake update: the recent Blackhawk Lake Commission meeting discussed new power to the campsites, general maintenance, and finances. Revenue was down in October due to poor weather, but reserved funds can cover the difference. County Administrator Larry Bierke provided an update that he will meet with the Commission to begin discussions on a new Operations Agreement.		
Consider CREP perpetual easement land use request: Ms. Abbott presented a map and request from Roger and Jean Kessenich to hay their perpetual CREP easement every other year, and spot mow or spray invasive species during the bird nesting season as needed. Discussion about the timing of mowing, and setting a precedent of haying CREP when landowners already received a large payment for the easement. Mr. McGraw moved to allow spot mowing and spraying only. Mr. Dax seconded. Sup. Leix opposed, all other favored. Motion carried. The Committee will discuss how to handle future requests to be consistent, and offered that the Kessenich's could re-submit their haying request in the future.		
Consider Farmland Preservation compliance extension request: Ms. Abbott presented a request by Lonny Moyer to extend the deadline for his farm to come into compliance by fencing cattle out of the stream, due to a very wet year and low milk prices. Sup. Benish moved to approve the extension with the requirement that Land Conservation staff assist with planning the project, estimating costs, and come back to the Committee to set another deadline. Seconded by Sup. Butteris. Motion carried.		

Additional cost-share project approvals: Ms. Abbott provided a list of one Nutrient Management Planning cost-share contract of \$240 and four project cost-share contracts (two well decommissions, one spring development, and one roof gutter project) totaling \$16,179.04. These contracts will complete the 2018 funding and begin using the 2019 funding as well. Sup. Benish moved to approve the projects. Sup. Butteris seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion with DATCP about County ordinance options: Chris Clayton and Lisa Trimble from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection provided information on the tools Counties have under Livestock Siting and Manure storage rules. Livestock Siting cannot prevent a facility from being expanded or built, but can require setbacks and odor control. Zoning rules can cap animal units by establishing specific zones, but only if finding of fact justifies the limits for public health and safety. Only one Township has done this, near an urban area. Manure storage ordinances can cover many of the concerns that a Livestock Siting ordinance would address, which is why Iowa County did not implement Livestock Siting in the past.

Discussion about possible Manure Storage Ordinance revisions: Ms. Trimble provided feedback on Iowa County's current Manure Storage ordinance and provided other examples and guidance. Ms. Abbott and Mr. Godfrey addressed some of the questions they have as they've reviewed the current ordinance, including: if the ordinance should only apply to certain volume of storage, and if so what number (most Counties do not have a minimum size); how to address cumulative storage capacity on one farm; how to address manure stacking; whether to include any other NR151 standards or prohibitions. Discussion about if the County can require bonding in case a storage is breached or abandoned. The Committee recommended Ms. Abbott and Mr. Godfrey continue to review the Manure Storage ordinance and work with DATCP, and come back to the Committee with their recommendations. Staff should also talk to other producers and partners about the impact of any proposed changes.

Land Conservation Department update: Ms. Abbott provided the following updates:

- a) Farmer outreach: recent mailings included 520 letters to Farm Bureau members about the groundwater study and 218 postcards to farmers about a field day. The upcoming newsletter will reach about 2300 farmers or farmland owners.
- b) SW WI Groundwater Study: The first round of water samples were finished the previous week, with 300 samples taken within Iowa, Grant, and Lafayette Counties.
- c) Budget updates: The Department recently received a \$3,000 Alliant Energy Foundation grant for a rainfall simulator. The Department Assistant hours were increased from 24/week to 30/week in the 2019 budget because of an increased workload of outreach and data entry.
- d) Program updates: The Department anticipates extending funding into 2019 for one Nutrient Management Contract (down from seven contracts extended in 2017) and five project contracts (similar to 2017, but this year's extended projects will have already been surveyed and designed).

Agenda items for future meetings: Notice of Non-Compliance approvals, permanent CREP provisions, manure storage ordinance, public access on County dams

Motion to set the next meeting date and adjourn.

The next meeting date was set for Thursday December 20 at 1:30pm. Mr. Dax moved to adjourn. Seconded by Sup. Benish. Motion carried.