

## APPROVED MINUTES LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING Thursday November 14, 2019 at 1:00 PM HHS Building, Room 1001 303 W. Chapel St. Dodgeville, WI 53533

Iowa County Wisconsin

Meeting was called to order by Chair David Gollon at 1:02 PM.

**Roll Call.** Members present: Ron Benish, Bob Bunker, Kevin Butteris, Roger Dax, Dave Gollon, Don Leix, and Dan Nankee. Members excused: Rod Anding Others present: John Meyers, Larry Bierke, Katie Abbott, Kaitlin Schott

**Approve the agenda for this November 14, 2019 meeting and approve the minutes of the October 17, 2019 meeting:** Sup. Benish made a motion to approve the November 14, 2019 agenda and the October 17, 2019 minutes. Mr. Bunker seconded the motion. Sup. Gollon abstained. 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 discussed an article on CWD carcass drop-off locations, articles and editorials about a Lafayette County groundwater study resolution, and an invitation to the Iowa County Uplands Farmer-led Watershed Group dinner.

**NRCS update:** Kaitlin Schott, NRCS Soil Conservationist, provided updates on CSP and EQIP. The Soil Technician position is still vacant. There is still no batch date for 2020 CSP or EQIP but interested landowners should contact them as soon as possible. There may be a general CRP sign-up in December.

**Blackhawk Lake Commission update**: A group from Iowa County and Blackhawk Lake Commission will meet with DNR on November 21. The Blackhawk Lake Commission meeting the previous night turned negative about the meeting and Iowa County's offer of assistance with DNR issues. The meeting will only focus on the Blackhawk Lake dams. The Committee discussed Iowa County's role, liability, and level of oversight; discussion of past payments and agreements.

**Approval of 2015 Blackhawk Lake Agreement:** Sup. Gollon requested legal review of Section 4 regarding Iowa County having sole responsibility for maintenance of the dams. Discussion of the definition of maintenance vs. repair. Discussion of the mechanism for the commission's authority to run the park. Sup. Benish moved to send the Agreement to Public Works with the recommendation to approve. Sup. Leix seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Cost-share project approvals:** Ms. Abbott provided a list of cost-share projects for the 2019 funding. Discussion about operation and maintenance requirements of cost-shared practices. Sup. Bunker moved to approve the projects. Sup. Butteris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## **Land Conservation Department updates:**

- a) Cost-share ranking sheet example: Ms. Abbott provided two examples of the new cost-share ranking sheet, which were created by Conservation Technician Sarah Hovis.
- b) WI Land + Water: Southern Area Association meeting and conference dates: Ms. Abbott brought attention to various upcoming meeting and events dates and encouraged participation by Committee members.
- c) Proposed Farmland Preservation Program legislation: Ms. Abbott discussed the proposed state legislation to increase the Farmland Preservation Program tax credit and to provide implementation grants to Counties.
- d) DNR nitrate rule scoping document: Ms. Abbott discussed the DNR's Statement of Scope about revising the agricultural nonpoint standards to address nitrate issues in sensitive areas. Public hearings are anticipated in the spring of 2021.

Agenda items for future meetings: FPP Notices of Noncompliance, 2019 annual report

**Motion to set the next meeting date and adjourn.** The next meeting date was set for Wednesday December 18 at 1:00pm. Sup. Benish made a motion to adjourn. Sup. Nankee seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:26 pm.