

## APPROVED MINUTES LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday February 19, 2020 at 1:00 PM USDA Conference Room 1124 Professional Drive Dodgeville, WI 53533

Iowa County Wisconsin

## Meeting was called to order by Chair David Gollon at

**Roll Call.** Members present: Ron Benish, Bob Bunker, Roger Dax, Dave Gollon, Don Leix, and Dan Nankee. Members excused: Rod Anding Members absent: Kevin Butteris Others present: Katie Abbott, Landon Baumgartner, Dave Terrall, Joe Bonnell

Approve the agenda for this February 19, 2020 meeting and Approve the minutes of the January 22, 2020 meeting: Mr. Bunker made a motion to approve the February 19, 2020 agenda and the January 22, 2020 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 shared news and updates about: farm closures, the Market Facilitation Program payments, water quality legislation passed by the Assembly, a proposed farm siting bill, and dam repair grants. Mr. Dax reported that CRP participants can get a mid-contract management exemption for rusty patched bumblebee habitat. Mr. Bunker shared that Sen. Marklein was in Rewey recently for a listening session.

**Introduction of Joe Bonnell, new Extension water quality educator:** Mr. Bonnell introduced himself and provided some background. Discussion re: collaboration with Extension and LCD.

Wildlife damage program: claims approval and harvest waiver approval: Mr. Terrall presented the Committee with the 2019 Wildlife Damage Program claims summary. Three out of four claims met the harvest requirements, but Alan Kolb missed it by only one deer and later shot two more. Mr. Terrall said he and DNR Wildlife Biologist Travis Anderson recommend a harvest waiver. Sup. Benish made a motion to approve the harvest waiver for Alan Kolb and approve all four claims. Sup. Nankee seconded. Motion carried.

NRCS update: no update provided

**Blackhawk Lake Commission update:** Sup. Leix provided an update that at the last meeting the Commission did not discuss the dams at all. They are planning to purchase a new mower.

**Approval of LWRM plan 5-year review materials:** Ms. Abbott presented the materials required for the WI Land and Water Board's 5-year review of the Iowa County Land and Water Resource Management Plan. Discussion of waterways and planning. Sup. Nankee made a motion to approve the LWRM 5-year review materials. Mr. Bunker seconded. Motion carried.

**FPP policy revision:** Ms. Abbott and Mr. Baumgartner presented their proposed revisions to Policy 1202: Farmland Preservation Tax Credit Program Compliance. Revisions include creating a tiered system of violations and compliance schedules, plus a policy for multiple violations. The committee recommended adding a section that adjusts the compliance schedule for those that self-report/voluntarily ask for help fixing a violation. Staff will add that language and bring the second revision to the next meeting.

## **Land Conservation Department updates:**

- a) 2019 work plan issue & successes: Ms. Abbott provided a handout with some key challenges and success of 2019. Discussion of creating a policy for cost-share project deposits and using FSA rates for landowner project work.
- b) Groundwater study Farm Bureau comment: Ms. Abbott provided a comment given to the County Board from an Iowa County Farm Bureau member.
- c) Priority watersheds for MDV phosphorus projects: Ms. Abbott outlined the plan she is submitting to DNR for MDV phosphorus funding project areas and priorities.
- d) Land & Water resolutions: The committee discussed two resolutions slated for the Land + Water Association annual meeting. The committee expressed support for Resolution #1 but not #2.
- e) State legislative updates: Ms. Abbott provided an update on proposed State water quality legislation.

Agenda items for future meetings: CREP easement management plan approval, FPP policy revision

Motion to set the next meeting date and adjourn. The next meeting date was set for Thursday March 26, 2020 at 1:00pm. Sup. Benish made a motion to adjourn. Sup. Leix seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:43pm.