

## **MINUTES**

### **Clark County Land Conservation Committee**

**Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 9:30 am**

**Clark County Courthouse, Auditorium**

Committee Members Present: Don Koerner, Martin Nigon – FSA, Chairman Fritz Garbisch, Dan Clough. A quorum of the Committee was present.

Committee Members Absent: Bryce Luchterhand

Others Present: Jane Reigel – NRCS, Jim Arch – County Conservationist, Sheri Denowski – Conservation Engineer, Amanda Kasparek - Conservation Agronomist, Shirley Iwanski - Program Assistant.

Fritz G. called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Review of the minutes of previous LCC meetings.

- a. Dan C. made the motion to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2019 meeting as presented. Seconded by Marty N. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Review of vouchers.

- a) Committee reviewed the vouchers for January and February 2019. Don K. made the motion to approve the January and February vouchers as presented. Seconded by Dan C. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **1. USDA Agency Reports**

- a. **NRCS** - Jane R. said signup continues for three programs, including CREP, CSP and Soil Health. There will be a new technician starting on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Jane will have figures for the various NRCS programs available at the next meeting. Jane left the meeting at 9:52 a.m.
- b. **FSA** - Marty N. provided a written report to the committee covering FSA program signups. Marty also encouraged anyone with animal losses, buildings down, etc. due to recent snow/ice events, to report those losses to FSA as soon as possible. Must be reported within 30 days.
- c. Marty also mentioned that Amish/Mennonite milk must be kept at 50 degrees or cooler if sold – does not apply to milk used for their own consumption.
- d. Marty mentioned that there is a concern for farmers who are getting discouraged and even considering suicide. Deb at FSA was able to get help for one individual recently. Sheri mentioned she will be attending a mental health conference along with Amanda this week to learn how to identify and respond to signs of mental health problems.

## **2. LWRM Plan**

- a. Jim continues to work on the LWRM plan and should have a draft available at the April LCC meeting for the committee's review.

## **3. Large Scale TRM grant**

- a. Jim provided the committee with a map of the site to be used for the demonstration farm as well as the contract. The farmer has signed the contract as of last week. The contract states LCD will pay the farmer \$1,100 in March and again in October each year. Jim needs committee approval to pay the \$1,100 March payment. Fritz said to put in on the April agenda.

## **4. Land Conservation Department Reports/Updates**

- a. Employee use of personal cell phone and reimbursement
  - i. Sheri D. said that the current MiFi service purchased from Verizon for \$40.01 per month is unreliable and she has been using her personal cell phone in place of MiFi. We cancelled MiFi service, so there is the \$40.01 available in the budget. In the past few months she has not had to use her personal phone but in some months, with construction season coming up, she estimates she might use up to 2GB per month for business related usage. She pays \$15 per GB. Dan C. made a motion to pay up to \$40 per month of Sheri's cell phone bill, seconded by Marty N. All Ayes. Motion carried. Dan C. also stated that if Sheri's bill goes over the \$40 maximum, then bring it back to committee for consideration.
- b. Summer Intern
  - i. Jim presented the committee with the resume of the summer intern he is looking to hire. The intern is currently taking classes with CVTC and would be available from April through August. He could work with Amanda to complete Nutrient Management Plans, to drive throughout the county and look for wells that need to be closed and pits that need to be abandoned, look at construction sites in progress, and other things. Marty N. made a motion to hire the intern, seconded by Don K. All Ayes. Motion carried.
- c. New department truck
  - i. Jim said that the department has funds in the 2019 budget for a new truck this year and he would like to begin the process to find a new truck. Fritz said notification of bid requests should be open to anyone within Clark County. Fritz also stated that specifications should be what Jim sees as the best fit for the departments needs

- d. Cost Share Rates
  - i. Sheri presented the updated Cost Share Rates information which had been sent to the committee previously. She suggested that since grazing is a good practice to preserve the soil, that prescribed grazing, along with Trails and walkways and livestock watering facilities, should be moved to a higher priority than what is on the current list.
  - ii. Sheri also said that limits were removed from the list and practices are listed at 70% cost share (with the exception of those practices set at 50% or 90% for hardship cases).
    - 1. Committee felt that the current \$1,000 limit for decommissioning wells is sufficient in most cases and if there is a need for more those instances can be brought to the committee to consider a higher limit on an individual basis.
- e. Farmland Preservation Plan (FPP)
  - i. Amanda reported she will begin FPP inspections soon and will have approximately 80 inspections to do.
  - ii. The Town of Reseburg is looking to join the Ag Enterprise Area (AEA) and Amanda is working on that as well. Amanda is applying for a Grant to cover the updates needed to the FPP due to the Town of Reseburg being added to the AEA.
  - iii. Marty asked Amanda if she is having trouble getting NMPs. Amanda said yes there are still issues but it is hard to enforce getting them done. If they are in the FPP, she can always issue a non-compliance of COC and they will lose their tax credit.
- f. WLWCA West central meeting and Speaking/Poster Contest
  - i. Business meeting
    - 1. Don K. attended the west central business meeting. He stated that groundwater contamination was the major concern.
  - ii. County Speaking Contest
    - 1. Only Thorp school participated in the county level Speaking contest with two speakers in the freshman division. Kate Schraufnagel won at the local and regional level and took 2<sup>nd</sup> place at state. There were 12 posters in the local contest, two posters won at the regional level and advanced to state and one poster by Brook Webb received first place at state.

- g. WLWCA Annual Conference
  - i. Amanda attended the WLWCA annual conference in Lake Geneva. She attended a breakout session on youth education. She learned a major issue with getting participation is getting it into the English and art curriculums. Maybe approach the principal or school board. Make sure they are aware of the cash awards.
  - ii. Amanda also attended a session regarding the planting of wild rice. She felt Sportsman Lake would be a good fit for wild rice. The rice uses phosphorus. No permit is required to plant, only to harvest.
  
- h. Engineers Report
  - i. Sheri D. reported that bond funds have been allocated for the year. No new permits and no applications have been received so far this year. C-Dairy has received their necessary DNR permits.
  - ii. Animal Manure Management Ordinance
    - 1. Ordinance Update
      - a. Sheri revised the Ordinance to follow a DATCP template she found. Since it covers more than animal manure the ordinance name should be changed to Manure Storage and Management Ordinance (MSMO).
      - b. The DATCP template had a different order to things. Sheri asked if the committee would like to see our ordinance follow the DATCP order? Marty stated and the members agreed – fine to change the order.
      - c. Sheri found an instance from Jefferson County with a 350’ setback from property lines. Fritz felt 350’ was too far, however our current ordinance of 100’ may be too short. Marty suggested 200’ or 250’. Fritz suggested it shouldn’t be the same for a farm with 50 or 75 animal units as opposed to CAFOs. Committee agreed with a 250’ setback, but 350’ setback for CAFOs.
      - d. Amanda mentioned that there are odor ordinances out there, which can include differences based on number of animal units, type of storage and volume of storage.
      - e. Sheri asked about opinion on limits for stacking pads. Marty felt it should be at least three months. Don K. asked if there is a recommended time limit for manure storage? Sheri said cost share agreements are for seven months. Committee felt it should be three months for bedded pack stacking pads.

- f. Sheri asked the committee's thoughts on the fees charged for permits. Committee agreed permit fees should be increased - \$1,500 for 1,000 animal units or more, \$1,000 for 500-999 animal units, \$750 for 200-499 animal units and \$250 for up to 199 animal units.
- g. Under penalties, Dan C. suggested jail time references be removed. That is for a criminal offense and this is a civil offence. The Sheriff's Department must issue citations. Current penalty is now \$200 per day, which is never enforced. Dan C. suggested the charge be \$200 per week or portion of a week. Marty suggested we need to talk to legal counsel and Sheriff's Department on what we can do for fines.
- h. Sheri will make discussed changes to the ordinance and present revision at the next LCC meeting.

5. DATCP video

- a. The committee viewed the DATCP video entitled Soil and Water Resource Management Grants.

6. Public Comments – No public comment.

7. Next Meeting Date

- a. Next committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. in Room 307.

8. Adjourn

- a. Marty N. made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 a.m. Seconded by Don K. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared and submitted to the committee by Shirley Iwanski.