

**RUSK COUNTY LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

***“Not Committee Approved”***

**DATE:** January 9, 2018

**ROLL CALL:** A. RATHSACK, R. GIERKE, L. LIEFFRING, G. BILLER

**OTHERS PRESENT:** J. KRELL, R. COTE, M. KOEHLER, S. ZESIGER

**Open Session:** Meeting called to order @ 8:00 AM by Alan Rathsack

**Minutes:** Biller/Gierke motion to approve minutes from September 12, 2017. Motion carried.

**Next Meeting Date:** Tuesday, January 9, 2018 @ 8:00 A.M

**Payment Approval Report:** Gierke/Lieffring motion to approve payment approval report. Motion carried.

**Wildlife Damage Claim Program:** Zesiger handed out 2017 Wildlife Damage Claims. There were 14 landowners that made claims. 13 claims for bear damage. 2 claims for deer damage. 1 claim for geese damage. 1 claim for elk damage. 4,116 acres were appraised and there was \$26,295.73 of appraised damage. After deductibles \$20,514.91 was claimed. There was discussion on each claimant's damage and abatement effectiveness. 2 farms will receive starling damage assistance this month.

**NRCS Report:** Koehler has 7 EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) applications that were rated high priority and funded – the largest being \$157,000, which is 2 barnyards and a runoff containment system. 2 additional EQIP applications are hoped to be funded through local priority funds. One WRP (Wetland Reserve Program) application was withdrawn and there are currently 4 good applications for Rusk County. There are 2 new applications for ABC (American Bird Conservancy, Regional Conservation Partnership program through EQIP) Tag Alder shearing and plantings for monarch butterfly and bees. Mike noted that the cold weather and light snow has helped freeze wetlands and get tag alder shearing projects off to a great start. He's hoping to get all 40 contracts (est. 300 acres) that have signed up done this winter.

**Farm Service Agency:** Nicholson was unable to attend so Rick Cote, Lead Program Technician provided a report. Cote discussed Agricultural Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC). There are Marketing Assistance Loans available for stored crops. They are 9 month loans at 2.625%. Farm Storage Facility loans are available in 7, 10 or 12 year terms with up to 85% cost-share. Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather or by attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the Federal Government. Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-raised Fish (ELAP) provides financial assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, certain adverse weather events or loss conditions, including blizzards and wildfires.

**Land Conservation Report – J. Krell:** The local Speaking and Poster Contest will be January 24 at 6:00pm at LEC. Krell worked with about 30 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Ladysmith Elementary. They focused on watersheds, where water comes from and how what we do affects water

quality. They also worked on creating posters for the poster contest. That waste storage abandonment that was hoped to be finish had to be extended to the spring due to extreme cold weather. A barnyard runoff system was also extended. Krell will file 2017 SWRM (Soil and Water Resource Management) grant reimbursement, Farmland Preservation grant reimbursement and apply for 2019 SWRM grant funding. Staff did a public survey in 2015 that indicated we should focus on farmers and student outreach as our top priorities. After some discussion on public outreach it was agreed to maintain farmers and students as the focus for 2018.

**Land Conservation and Development Department:** Krell reported that new remonumentation contracts will be coming up and Tesky is working on annual reports for each of the divisions (Land Conservation, Land Information, and Zoning) in the department.

**Animal Waste Storage Applications:** Bill Holt has approved plans designed by NRCS. Permit issued. Liefkring/Gierke motion to approve Waste Storage Permit. Motion carried.

**Farmland Preservation Plan:** DATCP is reviewing FPP for certification

**2018 Work Plan:** Discussion on continuing 2017 focus on Animal Waste Storage and Nutrient Management compliance. Becky Creek, Deer Tail Creek, Holcombe Flowage (East), Meadow Brook, Potato Lake and Tenmile Creek are on the 2018 *WDNR 303d Impaired Waters* list. Nonpoint source (surface runoff) phosphorus and suspended solids are listed as the cause and pollutant. Creation of “Impaired Waters Recovery plan” is a plan to pursue conservation projects that directly affect these waters with the end goal being to eliminate farm sourced pollution as a pollutant contributor.

**Out of County Travel:**

Technician Meeting in Park Falls on January 11 and Technician Meeting in Altoona on January 30 for Runstrom.

NW Area Meeting + Poster/Speaking Contest on February 2 in Hayward for Krell, Runstrom and Schott.

WI Land+Water Conference on March 14-16 in Lake Geneva for Krell.

Liefkring/Gierke motion to approve Out of County travel. Motion carried.

**Adjourn:** Liefkring/Gierke motion to adjourn at 8:55 AM. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by John Krell