

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

“Not Committee Approved”

DATE: January 10, 2017

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

OTHERS PRESENT: J. KRELL, C. TESKY, S. ZESIGER, RICK COTE, M. KOEHLER

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

Minutes: Lieffring/Biller motion to approve minutes from December 13, 2016 meeting. Motion carried.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 @ 8:00 A.M

Payment Approval Report: No payment approval report was received from Finance.

Wildlife Damage Claim Program: Zesiger provided numbers for damage claims for 2016. There were 12 claims that amounted to about \$44,490. Rathsack signed each of the damage claims. There is \$500 deductible for all claims. Most of the claims were bear damage. The highest ones were because of feed bag damage. Property owners did well with kill permits for bear. Zesiger will be working on a starling kill project for Van Doorn's north of Tony.

NRCS Report: Koehler reported that the Conservation Stewardship Program applications are currently being accepted. Applications will take longer to review because resource concerns need to be addressed. There is a minimum of \$1500/year for a 5 year contract. There needs to be one enhancement above and beyond what is currently being done. Forest management plan must be done in those areas.

Farm Service Agency Report: Rick Cote, Lead Program Technician, provided a report. Jim Kelley was done on the board on December 31. Mike Quade was elected to the county committee. Roman Antczak and Amanda Nicholson are also on the committee. They will be deciding who will be representing FSA on the LWC Committee tomorrow. Katie Stariha is the new County Executive Director and would like to attend a future meeting. Cote discussed some of the available programs including ARC/PRC, which is a support price for farmers, LIP, ELAP and NIAP. They also provide commodity loans and Operating and Storage Facility loans. .

Land Conservation Report – J. Krell: Krell reported on 2016 highlights and 2017 goals. He will be working on 2018 grant application. Upcoming, staff will be doing training and the speaking contest.

Land Conservation and Development Department: Tesky continues to work on the program budgeting presentation for county board and end of the year reports.

Out of County Travel: NW area Poster and Speech Contest in Spooner, Winter Technician meeting in Eau Claire and WI Land+Water Conference in Elkhart Lake. Lieffring/Gierke to approve out-of-county travel. Motion carried.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 AM.

Minutes prepared by CeCe Tesky