

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

“Not Committee Approved”

DATE: MARCH 10, 2020
ROLL CALL: R. GIERKE, B.MCBAIN, B. STOUT
OTHERS PRESENT: N. STADNYK, MIKE QUADE, N. BESASIE

Open Session: Meeting called to order @ 8:00 AM by Roger Gierke.

Minutes: McBain/Stout motion to approve minutes from January 14. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 @ 8:00 A.M

Payment Approval Report: Payment approval reports were passed around. Gierke/Stout motion to approve. Motion carried.

Wildlife Damage Claim Program: Zesiger not in attendance.

NRCS Report: Besasie reported on the EQIP program. Signup deadline was Feb. 28 and there were 47 signups with 36 of those scoring as priority projects. Project types include irrigation, erosion control, field borders, conservation cover, and grazing systems. He indicated that alder shearing has been scaled back. There was some discussion about the CSP program. There is a May 29th signup deadline and so far he has had 7 applications. To be accepted, CSP signups must have a nutrient management plan to screen high.

Besasie also provided a staffing update. There is currently a posting for a soil conservationist at the Ladysmith office and Besasie will be splitting his time to act as the Area Resource Conservationist.

Farm Service Agency: Quade reported that the ARC and PLC signups will be ending March 16.

Land Conservation and Development Department: Stadnyk reported on the status of hiring a GIS technician for the Land Information Department and discussed the recent training and exam for POWTS inspection for Zoning and Land Conservation staff.

Land Conservation Report

Animal Waste Storage Applications: None.

Out of County Travel: Stadnyk, Mar 20 - Ag Education & Workforce Development Council, Madison

Stout/McBain motion to approve out of county travel. Motion carried.

Devils Creek Project Update: Stadnyk reported that the LWCD did receive the DNR grant for Devils Creek. We will be working on finalizing the plan over the next few weeks and will begin collecting data over the spring/summer months. Committee discussed the purpose of the grant and project goals.

Reimbursement Requests: Stadnyk reported on the status of USDA-APHIS and DATCP-SWRM reimbursement requests. Both requests were submitted and the SWRM reimbursement has already been received.

2021 SWRM Grant Application: LWCD staff are currently working on components of the 2021 SWRM grant application.

Potential Hog Operation: Committee discussed the recent application for a hog operation in Rusk County. Applications and permits are very preliminary and an initial meeting is scheduled for March 26th. Stadnyk will report with more details at the next LWCC meeting.

CREP Program Presentation: Committee discussed the possibility of having the DATCP representative come up for a separate presentation regarding the CREP program. Stadnyk will coordinate with DATCP and the committee to set up a time and date in late March or early April.

Manure Spreading Ordinance: Committee discussed the interest in and possibility of developing a manure spreading ordinance or manure spreading rules for the county. Discussion centered on the best process for development. Stadnyk will conduct follow-up research and present ideas for development to be discussed at the next LWCC meeting.

Adjourn: McBain/Gierke motion to adjourn at 8:58 AM. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Nick Stadnyk