

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

***“Not Committee Approved”***

**DATE:** April 11, 2017  
**ROLL CALL:** A. RATHSACK, G. SWOVERLAND, R. GIERKE, L. LIEFFRING, J. BILLER, A. NICHOLSON  
**OTHERS PRESENT:** J. KRELL, C. TESKY

**Open Session:** Meeting called to order @ 8:02 AM by Alan Rathsack

**Minutes:** Biller/Lieffring motion to approve minutes from March 14, 2017 meeting. Motion carried.

**Next Meeting Date:** Tuesday, May 9, 2017 @ 8:00 A.M Discussion about having meetings every other month. Biller/Swoverland motion to have the next meeting in May and then every after month after that. (July, September, November, January, March, May)

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

**Wildlife Damage Claim Program:** Zesiger provided a written report. The 2017 year-to-date enrollees include deer protection of commercial grapes and deer/bear shooting permits for soybean and corn fields where there was >\$1000 damage last year. County highway and forestry beaver trapping agreements became active on April 3 and township agreements will become active on April 17. Only one beaver complaint so far. Surley Camp Road. 3 beaver were removed and 3 culverts were unplugged.

**NRCS Report:** Koehler provided a written report. NRCS workload in Rusk County is currently concentrated on CSP applications. Koehler has been working on doing walk overs of the 3900 acres signed up for CSP to collect info to be able to complete the conservation activity evaluation tool (CAET). Also meeting with landowners to determine what practices or enhancements they will adopt. They continue to take applications for tag alder shearing. The next batching date is June 2. Currently have 14 more applications.

**Farm Service Agency:** Nicholson reported that the ARC/PLC signup is 70% complete. Board members attended required federal training. There will be a County office trainee in the Ladysmith office. Staff are gearing up for upcoming crop reporting.

**Land Conservation Report – J. Krell:** Krell reported that a project manual has been received for the Schmitz Farms new 8.3 million gallon storage facility. Staff has been working on projects which include an access road and 2 barnyards. The 2018 SWRM Staffing grant application is due next week. For 2017, Rusk County allocated to receive \$98,906 in staffing support and \$62,800 in Cost Share funding. There is Family Earth Night at LES on April 20 that Krell will be attending. April 22 is Earth Day. Trees will be picked up on April 24 and sales will be April 28-29 and May 1. Krell will be working on a program for the Hawkins Library “Building a Better World” on June 22. Krell and Runstrom will be working with 3-7 graders July 10-13 at Trails End.

**Land Conservation and Development Department:** Tesky reported on Zoning activities, Wisconsin Land Information grant reporting and remonumentation updates.

**Out of County Travel:** NW area Technician's meeting in Eau Claire for Runstrom, April 12. Northern Tech meeting in Park Falls for Runstrom on April 20. Liefkring/Gierke to approve out-of-county travel. Motion carried.

**Adjourn:** Liefkring/Gierke motion to adjourn at 8:47 AM. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by CeCe Tesky