

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

***“Not Committee Approved”***

**DATE:** May 9, 2017

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** J. KRELL, C. TESKY, P. RICHTER, S. ZESIGER

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

**Minutes:** Biller/Gierke motion to approve minutes from April 11, 2017. Motion carried.

**Next Meeting Date:** Tuesday, July 11, 2017 @ 8:00 A.M

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

**Wildlife Damage Claim Program:** Zesiger has added two new enrollees in the past month. Both enrollees are for bees. Beaver work has been busy. Several beaver were removed on CTH F and CTH O&F for the county. He is currently working on a big removal project for the Town of Hubbard. He will be helping with wolf research trapping and collaring in the Blue Hills are next month. The wolf de enlistment rider was removed from the federal budget bill prior to approval. Matter is still in the courts and there is still hope that there will be a fall wolf season.

**NRCS Report:** Richter discussed the meeting they had with the American Bird Conservancy regarding alder shearing program. There are concerns about the size of the projects and the scheduling of contracts. Hopefully these concerns will be addressed. CSP program is taking a lot of staff time now. There is a May 25 deadline to have all the information entered for the applications. There may be some staffing changes to the Ladysmith office soon.

**Farm Service Agency:** Nicholson reported that there is not much crop reporting yet. They attended Freedom of Information training and also training on Organic farming cost share programs. There was over \$851,000 in funds disbursed to Rusk County farmers in 2016 for all FSA programs. Prices for many farm products are down now – beef, corn and milk.

**Land Conservation Report – J. Krell:** Krell reported that the tree sales were successful. All the trees were either sold or donated to area schools. There was an article in the Ladysmith News regarding SEG fund availability. The Village of Hawkins has done more soil sampling for P limits. The Farmland Preservation Intern begins next week and Krell plans to have a draft plan ready for town officials by the end of June. Letters will go out this week for property owners of waste storage facilities that are not being used.

**Land Conservation and Development Department:** Tesky reported that both a GIS Intern and the Farmland Preservation intern will be starting next week. Zoning is busy with permits. 3 remonumentation contracts are currently signed. Hoping to also do Town of Washington yet this year.

**Schmitz Family Farm Animal Waste Storage:** Krell updated the committee on the status of the plans. Peter Wurzer is coming today to assist staff in reviewing the plans. The Rusk County Waste Storage Application is forthcoming and likely to be on the July agenda.

**SWRM Grant Designee:** DATCP has changed how the SWRM grant contract is signed. They want a single person as designee and they don't recommend an elected person, as this person can change frequently. Tesky supports having Krell be the designee. Gierke/Biller motion to appoint Conservationist, John Krell to be the designee for SWRM grants and to move forward with the Master Contract agreement. Motion carried.

**Out of County Travel:** Feedlot discharge training in Stevens Point on May 31-June 1 for Krell, NW Area meeting in Hayward on June 9 for Krell and County Con Meeting in WI Rapids on July 13-14 for Krell. Liefkring/Gierke to approve out-of-county travel. Motion carried.

**Adjourn:** Liefkring/Gierke motion to adjourn at 8:36 AM. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by CeCe Tesky