

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

“Not Committee Approved”

DATE: MAY 12, 2020
ROLL CALL: B. STOUT, T. DUSELL, M. SCHMITT, J. MEYER
OTHERS PRESENT: N. STADNYK

Open Session: Meeting called to order @ 8:01 AM by Stout.

Select LCC Chair/Vice-Chair: Nominations accepted for LCC chair. Schmitt nominated Stout for Chair. No other nominations presented. Nomination approved. Meyer nominated Dusell for Vice-Chair. No other nominations presented. Nomination Approved.

New Member Orientation: Stadnyk reviewed the history, statutory requirement, and duties of the Land Conservation Committee and the Land & Water Conservation Division within the county.

Minutes: Schmitt/Meyer motion to approve minutes from March 10. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 @ 8:00 A.M

Wildlife Damage Claim Program: Reviewed report submitted by S. Zesiger. To date there are 9 enrollees. No permanent fence inspections conducted. Question arose regarding transfer of Wildlife Damage activities if enrollee moves operation.

NRCS Report: Reviewed report submitted by N. Besasie. USDA Service Center is open by appointment. Staff are also available by phone and email. Field work and visits are still being completed.

NRCS is currently looking to hire an additional Soil Conservationist in Ladysmith. The Job announcement has closed and NRCS is in the process of evaluating applicants.

The Conservation Stewardship Program application batching date for general sign up ends May 29th. Applications submitted prior to this date will be evaluated for funding in 2020. NRCS in Ladysmith is currently handling about 40 Environmental Quality Incentive Program applications requesting around \$400,000 in funds. Applications cover farmstead, cropland, forest, and pasture land uses. Primary interest in increasing soil health, rotational grazing, and managing woodlots to increase forest health and remove invasive species. Funding decisions will be made in the next two weeks. Final funding levels from the first EQIP batching date will be available prior to the July meeting.

Land Conservation and Development Department: Stadnyk reported on the status of hiring a GIS technician for the Land Information Department and Land Information/Zoning Intern. Reported on the possibility of hiring a GIS intern in conjunction with Economic Development.

Reviewed the current status of Zoning Division permitting and inspections. Discussed the status of the countywide aerial photography project.

Land Conservation Report

Animal Waste Storage Applications: None.

Manure Spreading Ordinance Discussion: Continued discussion of development of a spreading ordinance. Staff will continue to investigate options and ideas for development. Staff will communicate with Farm Bureau representatives to obtain their ideas and input.

Out of County Travel: None

Potato Creek Watershed Update: Discussion deferred to next meeting.

Devils Creek Watershed Update: Stadnyk reported on the current status of work on the Devils Creek Watershed Project. Stream flow measurements are being recorded and work has begun on developing advisory committee and landowner outreach activities.

CREP Program Participation: Stadnyk presented details of the State of WI CREP program provided by DATCP. Committee discussed the pros and cons of the program and asked that DATCP come to next meeting before a final participation decision is made.

TRM Grant Activity: Stadnyk reported on the status of 2 TRM grant opportunities within the Red Cedar Watershed. One application is in final review for approval and the other will be submitted this week.

2021 SWRM Grant Application: LWCD staff have submitted the 2021 SWRM grant application.

2020 SWRM Grant Projects: Briefly discussed the status of current conservation projects in the county. A more detailed report will be available at the next meeting.

LWRM Plan Update: Stadnyk described the counties LWRM plan purpose and status. Plan is up for 5 year review in December, 2020.

County Owned Dams: Stadnyk reported on activities related to county owned dams. Murphy dam is up for 10 year inspection this year and inspector has been selected.

Adjourn: Dusell/Meyer motion to adjourn at 9:40 AM. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Nick Stadnyk