

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

“Not Committee Approved”

DATE: May 14, 2019
ROLL CALL: R. GIERKE, B.MCBAIN, B. STOUT, T. DUSELL
OTHERS PRESENT: C. TESKY, S. ZESIGER, N. STADNYK, N. BESASIE

Open Session: Meeting called to order @ 8:03 AM by Roger Gierke.

Minutes: Stout/McBain motion to approve minutes from March 12 and April 9. Motion carried.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, July 9, 2019 @ 8:00 A.M

Payment Approval Report: Payment approval report was passed around. DuSell/McBain motion to approve. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Wildlife Damage Claim Program: Zesiger brought an amended budget proposal for Rusk County. They are planning to monitor bear traps electronically. This will save hundreds of hours of checking the traps. Monitors are \$1,000 each. 30 will be placed for Rusk County. These funds are reimbursed back to the county with WN DNR grant. No levy to the county. DuSell/McBain motion to approve the budget amendment. Motion carried. Zesigar also handed out wildlife damage claims to date. There are nine. DuSell discussed a meeting held last month concerning wildlife damage program. Other producer concerns - besides electronic monitoring of bear traps - includes the requirement of land to be open to public hunting, the cap of crop damage reimbursements on large farms and bear hunting zones.

NRCS Report: Besasie discussed the EQIP sign ups available. Soil Health Initiative ends this Friday. CSP ended last Friday. There were 15 applicants for Rusk County. 2500 acres included in the applications. He will update the committee at July meeting on how many acres are impacted locally. He is working with two producers for animal waste storage closures. These can be approved by Stadnyk when plans are complete.

Farm Service Agency: No report.

Land Conservation Report: New Conservationist Nick Stadnyk was introduced. He discussed his background as it relates to this position. In the three weeks since starting, he has been doing a lot of research to determine what kind of programs are in place and what type of programs people are participating in and how that can be improved. He has developed some short term and mid-term goals and will be able to update the committee on the products of those goals at the July meeting.

Land Conservation and Development Department: Tesky reported that employees impacted by the recent County Board decision are getting their training done so that raises can be implemented. A remonumentation project has been put together and is being reviewed. Hoping

to have bid opening at June meeting of Land Information. Land Information Council will be meeting on May 22 to discuss upcoming project needs.

Animal Waste Storage Applications: None.

Out of County Travel: Stout/McBain motion to approve out of county travel on June 14, 21 and July 18-19. Motion Carried. Let Nick know by the end of May if you would like to attend Lakes Conference.

Adjourn: McBain/DuSell motion to adjourn at 8:37 AM. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by CeCe Tesky