

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

“Not Committee Approved”

DATE: July 9, 2019
ROLL CALL: R. GIERKE, B.MCBAIN, B. STOUT, T. DUSELL, M. SCHMITT
OTHERS PRESENT: S. ZESIGER, N. STADNYK, N. BESASIE

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

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

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 @ 8:00 A.M

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

Public Comment: None

Wildlife Damage Claim Program: Zesiger handed out wildlife damage claims to date. There are 11. Recent claims have been for bear and goose damage to stored feed and cranberries.

NRCS Report: Besasie discussed the EQIP funded projects within the county. 25 contracts are being implemented totaling \$499,539. He also reported on the stewardship program. 11 applications have been submitted totaling \$299,009. Under the wetland reserve program, approximately \$400,000 has been provided. He reports that compliance checks are complete and there were no issues. He has a plan to plant some prevent plant seed mixes and hold a field day to highlight different mixes. He shared the purpose and time/date of the local working group. Stadnyk plans to attend. Dusell inquired about the ability to rebuild an old stream crossing for cattle.

Farm Service Agency: No report.

Land Conservation Report: Stadnyk reported on a potential pollinator habitat project and is evaluating funding sources. He also reported on the process to apply for 2 separate grants which would be set aside for conservation work in areas not currently classified as agricultural. Information was provided regarding 2 watershed based proposals to work with agricultural landowners and explained the need to complete erosion vulnerability assessments using the EVAAL model. Stadnyk explained the update of the counties Land & Water Resource Management Plan which is due next year. More formal discussion will be held on the September meeting. Stadnyk expressed his interest in becoming a certified crop advisor and will provide more detail at the September meeting.

Land Conservation and Development Department: Stadnyk reported that there has been no final decision on the department head position. A decision is expected on July 11th.

Animal Waste Storage Applications: None.

Out of County Travel: Dusell/Schmitt motion to approve out of county travel on July 17 and August 8. Motion carried. Let Nick know if you are interested in attending the local working group meeting in August.

Adjourn: Stout/McBain motion to adjourn at 9:01 AM. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Nick Stadnyk