

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

“Not Committee Approved”

DATE: July 10, 2018

ROLL CALL: R. GIERKE, A. NICHOLSON, M. SCHMITT, B.MCBAIN, T. DUSELL,
B. STOUT

OTHERS PRESENT: C. TESKY, J. KRELL, S. ZESIGER

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

Minutes: Stout/McBain motion to approve minutes from May 8, 2018. Motion carried.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 11, 2018 @ 8:00 A.M

Public Comment: None

Wildlife Damage Claim Program: Zesiger handed out administration and claims to date. Beaver work is busy. There has been a lot of bear trapping, especially near Bruce. There have been no new wolf depredations here. Wolves did kill a couple bear hounds last week. Dusell handed out wolf depredation cost estimates for reimbursement. Eagles are currently a problem on many farms with calves.

NRCS Report: None

Farm Service Agency: Nicholson reported that Katie has moved up to District Manager. The Rusk office has many long-standing employees and she doesn't expect many changes without an Executive Director. The crop reporting deadline is July 16. MPP did issue payments for Feb, March, April, May and part of June. Milk prices are significantly depressed. Futures do not look good. Row crops are doing well with good weather and growing season. ARCP and LCP programs – deadline is August 1. CRP program deadline is August 17.

Land Conservation Report: Krell reported on current SWRM contracts. They have 1,400 acres of Nutrient Management Planning contracted! Some new projects include some fencing and a watering facility for a farm looking to convert 80 acres of cropland to rotational grazing. Discussion on low crop and milk prices has been tough for many farmers. Still – on comparison – staff did 30 contracts with 11 farmers from 2006-2013. From 2014 through this year, they have signed 30 contracts with 29 landowners, so they are reaching a lot of landowners. This does not count projects that do not receive grant assistance. There have been significant environmental benefits implemented by the farmers, with the help of our staff and funding. Tree sales went well. All trees were sold. Krell did a tree day at the elementary school. There will be a NW area training for Land Conservation Committee members. Krell was elected to the Land + Water Board of Directors representing the NW area. Krell will run a session at Youth 4H camp at Trails End and Runstrom will be at the Junior Fair Aug 9-12.

Land Conservation and Development Department: Tesky has been working on budgets for the Department. Zoning permits are up.

2019 Budgets: Tesky handed out budgets for Land and Water Conservation Department. Biggest change will be the addition of Nonmetallic mining revenues for the department from zoning. Dusell/Schmitt motion to forward budgets to Finance. Motion carried.

Animal Waste Storage Applications: None

Out of County Travel: County Conservationist Meeting on July 19-20 in Wisconsin Rapids for Krell. Schmitt/Stout motion to approve Out of County travel. Motion carried.

Adjourn: Dusell/McBain motion to adjourn at 9:05 AM. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by CeCe Tesky