

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

“Not Committee Approved”

DATE: July 11, 2017

ROLL CALL: A. RATHSACK, R. GIERKE, L. LIEFFRING

OTHERS PRESENT: J. KRELL, C. TESKY, P. RICHTER, S. ZESIGER, K. STARIHA, J. SHERMAN

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

Minutes: Lieffring/Gierke motion to approve minutes from May 9, 2017. Motion carried.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 @ 8:00 A.M

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

Wildlife Damage Claim Program: Zesiger handed out an updated enrollees list. He is meeting with a couple more enrollees today. He is also working on beaver dam destruction in Rusk County. There was some wolf research trapping done in Taylor County, but they weren't able to do any in the Blue Hills.

NRCS Report: Josh Sherman, Assistant State Conservationist, attended. He explained some of the limitations on hiring because of hiring freezes. There is currently a lot of forestry work in Rusk County. They hope to have more Ag projects in the future. Richter discussed the applications made for storm damage funding. There is an evaluation process and planning process. The local group for EQIP held a meeting on June 28. It was a good meeting. There are 8 new CSP contracts in Rusk County.

Farm Service Agency: Katie Stariha introduced herself. She is the County Executive Director for the Barron, Rusk, Sawyer Agencies. FSA is governed by a county committee made up of area farmers. They are currently accepting nominations for members of that committee through August 1. Staff is assessing storm damage in the fields. They are also looking for funding to assist property owners in cleanup. Crop reporting deadline is July 17. There is an Aug 1 deadline for Ag Risk program.

Land Conservation Report – J. Krell: Krell reported that they are working on the animal waste storage priority. 90 pits have been identified and letters have gone out to property owners. Pits should be properly abandoned if not used for 24 consecutive months. Staff have been working on enforcement issues at NW Mink Ranch – where the animal waste storage in the pit is close to overtopping. They also continue to work on the watering facility and access road and plans for shoreland management. They will be doing training for Nutrient Management Plans this fall. Krell attended an outreach with young folks at the Hawkins Library titled *Building a Better World*. Staff also did some training at the 4-H Youth Camp at Trails End. The Farmland Preservation Plan is being reviewed in Madison. There should be a DRAFT approval at the LWC meeting in September and final approval at County Board in November or December.

Land Conservation and Development Department: Tesky reported that both a GIS Intern and the Farmland Preservation interns have been working out very well. Tesky has been working on 2018 budgets for the department. She and Carol Johnson will be doing interviews for the Scanning position in the Register of Deeds office.

Out of County Travel: None

Adjourn: Lieffring/Gierke motion to adjourn at 8:47 AM. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by CeCe Tesky