

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

“Not Committee Approved”

DATE: September 11, 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/Schmitt motion to approve minutes from July 10 and July 31. Motion carried.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, November 13, 2018 @ 8:00 A.M in Small Conference Room

Payment Approval Report: Schmitt/McBain motion to approve the report. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Wildlife Damage Claim Program: Zesiger handed out claims to date. There are currently 18 enrollees for the year. He has been trapping a lot of bear in the corn. 68 have been trapped so far in Rusk County. He relocates the bears 25-35 miles away on public land. Beaver complaints and deer damage complaints are picking up.

NRCS Report: None

Farm Service Agency: Nicholson reported on the Market Facilitation Program that has just been rolled out by Trump. The program is intended to assist producers impacted by foreign retaliatory tariffs. Payment prices on specific commodities are minimal and the FSA County Committee is not in favor of the program. Most farmers would like to have prices based on supply and demand, rather than set by and subsidized by the government. The County Committee is meeting monthly to assist staff in getting administrative work done since there is no Executive Director hired to replace Katie yet.

Land Conservation Report: Krell reported on current projects. Several projects in progress but overall construction season has been slow because low commodity prices have made it difficult for some farmers to commit to new construction. They are working with a new land owner on manure storage abandonment. DATCP was here to review Nutrient Management Plans. Krell has been reviewing Farmland Preservation Plans and is looking into how to recruit towns and farmers for additional participation. Staff want to do a Buckthorn Bash with a local school to teach the students about what buckthorn is and how to eradicate it.

Land Conservation and Development Department: Tesky went over the nonmetallic mining reclamation audit results. Financial assurance calculations will need to be updated. The Land Information Council will be working on updating the Land Information Plan for the county. Discussion about Holcombe flowage limits and establishment of no-wake ordinances.

2019 Budgets: No new changes.

Animal Waste Storage Applications: None

Out of County Travel: NW Area Meeting and Tour on September 28 in Superior for Krell and Committee members who want to attend. WI Land + Water Board of Directors meeting in Madison for Krell on October 24. Stout/Dusell motion to approve Out of County travel. Motion carried.

Adjourn: Schmitt/McBain motion to adjourn at 8:54 AM. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by CeCe Tesky