

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

“Not Committee Approved”

DATE: November 13, 2018

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

OTHERS PRESENT: C. TESKY, P. RICHTER, S. ZESIGER

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

Minutes: Schmitt/Stout motion to approve minutes from September 11. Motion carried.

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

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

Public Comment: None

Wildlife Damage Claim Program: Zesiger handed out claims to date. There are currently 21 enrollees for the year. 85 bear were trapped in Rusk County. Crop appraisals have been done. Prices were discussed. Alfalfa hay = \$147.00/ton, Corn = \$3.12/bushel, Soybeans = \$8.17/bushel. Schmitt/McBain motion to approve crop prices. Motion carried. Final date for crop appraisal was discussed. Stout/McBain motion to approve 12/31/18 as the final date for crop appraisals for 2018. Motion carried. Zesiger passed out the 5-year Cooperative Service Agreement with USDA for wildlife damage. Stout/McBain motion to approve the 5-year contract. Motion carried. Discussion of 2019 budget for wildlife damage. Zero levy for Rusk County. Schmitt/McBain motion to approve the 2019 budget. Motion carried.

NRCS Report: Richter reported that the replacement for Koehler has not been appointed. There is some reorganizing within the upper management area with Human Resources. EQUIP and CSP programs are going strong. There are 25 applicants for alder shearing. Deadline is this Friday. Staff has also been working on some waste storage, grazing and grassed waterway plans. Staff is working on getting 135 payments out for CSP contracts by the end of the year.

Farm Service Agency: Nicholson reported that fall crop reporting just finished. There has been an issue getting equipment in the fields to finish harvest. Corn is dry but ground is wet. The Market Facilitation Program has been going well and there is much participation. No Executive Director has been hired yet.

Land Conservation Report: Tesky provided a report prepared by Krell. The Upper Chippewa Invasive Species Partnership purchased items for the Rusk County for buckthorn removal. These items are available to landowners. Krell is working on putting together a Buckthorn bash with the City of Ladysmith. 2019 support numbers are in: \$88,526 for staffing and support (down by \$17k), \$39,400 for Cost Sharing (up by \$6k) and \$45,000 for SEG (up by \$25,000) . The poster contest deadline is Jan 25, 2019. The local speaking contest is Jan 30, 2019. Please consider being a judge! NW area speaking contest will be Feb 7, 2019.

Land Conservation and Development Department: Budgets will be considered today at County Board. Tesky has been working on Land Information Plan and remonumentation.

2018 SEG Fund Transfer: SEG money is needed to close out Nutrient Management Plans for 1,105.6 acres for Rusk Rose (Eric Hillan). Transfer from Shawano County for \$21,320. Transfer from Juneau County for \$2,904. Schmitt/McBain motion to accept the transfers. Motion carried.

Animal Waste Storage Applications: Louis Krupa is doing an abandonment next spring. The plan was prepared by NRCS and meets our Waste Storage Ordinance. McBain/Schmitt motion to approve the abandonment plan. Motion carried.

Out of County Travel: NW Area Meeting on November 28 in Hayward for Krell and chair or vice chair. County Con meeting for Krell in Wisconsin Rapids on Dec 6-7. Schmitt/McBain motion to approve Out of County travel. Motion carried.

Adjourn: Schmitt/McBain motion to adjourn at 8:36 AM. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by CeCe Tesky