

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

DATE: November 8, 2022

ROLL CALL: T. DUSELL, M. QUADE, R. STOUT, J. MEYER, M. SCHMITT, N. BESASIE

OTHERS PRESENT: N. STADNYK, R. HANSEN

Open Session: Meeting called to order @ 8:00 am

Public Comment: None.

Minutes: DuSell/Schmitt motion to approve minutes from October 11th. Motion carried.

Payment Approval Report: DuSell/Schmitt motion to approve payment approval report. Motion carried.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 @ 8:00 am

Wildlife Damage Claim Program: No report.

NRCS Report: Besasie reported the Conservation Stewardship Program renewal process has a total of 11 funded participants. NRCS current project focus includes implementing invasive species control, forest stand improvement, field borders, and rotational grazing. Working with local famers on farmstead projects is also a priority of the office. The last EQIP batching date had a total of 52 participants with unique projects. Inflation Reduction Act will increase annual budget for NRCS over the next 3-5 years with a focus on conservation projects. Committee members had questions regarding the cost-share programs and timelines.

FSA Report: Quade provided an update on upcoming FSA dates. November 15th is the acreage reporting deadline for fall mint and fall-seeded small grains and November 20th is the deadline for noninsured crop disaster. December 5th is the deadline to return 2022 county committee election ballots and December 9th is the deadline to sign up for 2023 Dairy Margin Coverage Program. A new Acting CED is in place and a new PT has been hired.

Land Conservation & Development Department: Stadnyk noted land use permits were at 364 and sanitary permits were at 108. Numbers are still higher than average for land use and about the long-term average for sanitary. Stadnyk will present at the next property meeting to request funding of new office chairs and desks for the Zoning Department. The Land Information Department has sent out a grant for 911 funding. Road centerline data is being collected to improve accuracy. The interviewing process for the GIS Specialist position will begin November 9th. Stadnyk will be starting up satellite offices again in December.

Land Conservation Report

Animal Waste Storage Applications: None.

Out of County Travel: None.

Authorizing Resolution 2023 Healthy Lakes Grant: Stadnyk proposed the Healthy Lakes Grant to board members. This grant will pay about 70% of practices landowners are implementing on their properties. DuSell/Meyer motion to approve grant as presented. Motion Carried.

Authorizing Resolution 2023 Surface Water Grant: Stadnyk asked for approval of the Surface Water Grant. This grant would aid landowners in the central part of Rusk County. Funding will be used to support the producer led group with projects to assist landowners and farmers alike. Beginning efforts are aimed towards Deertail Creek. Meyer/Schmitt motion to approve 2023 Surface Water Grant funding as presented. Motion carried.

Poster & Speaking Contest Discussion: Stadnyk asked to clarify method of paying competition winners. Board discussion led to purchasing gift cards for winners in each category.

Project Implementation Updates: Stadnyk reported completed projects, current projects, and implementation for future projects. Committee members discussed projects and timelines for funding.

2023 Budget Updates: No new updates to report at this time.

GIS Discussion: Stadnyk will cover GIS information at an upcoming meeting.

Adjourn: Schmitt/Meyer motion to adjourn at 8:42 am. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Rachel Hansen.