

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

DATE: April 12, 2022

ROLL CALL: T. DUSELL, M. QUADE, W. MCBAIN, J. MEYER, M. SCHMITT, R. STOUT, S. ZESIGER

OTHERS PRESENT: N. STADNYK, R. HANSEN

Open Session: Meeting called to order @ 8:02 am

Public Comment: None

Minutes: Schmitt/Dusell motion to approve minutes from March 22nd. Motion carried.

Payment Approval Report: Dusell/Meyer motion to approve payment approval report. Motion carried.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 10th, 2022 @ 8:00 am

Wildlife Damage Claim Program: Zesiger reported the bear are becoming active and there have been efforts to trap wolves. It was noted elk are present just outside of Ladysmith and 14 from a nearby property were relocated near Clam Lake. It was found trapping has been most effective and there have been other methods used to deter elk. The DNR is strategizing methods to take the next step including planting diversion crops.

NRCS Report: No report presented.

FSA Report: Quade read recent updates regarding FSA programs. The ARC/PLC program is wrapping up. Enrollment for Rusk County was 687 farms. April 15 is the acreage reporting deadline for spring crops. The Grassland CRP sign-up is now open.

Land Conservation & Development Department: Stadnyk stated as of April 7th the Zoning Department has received an increasing amount of land use permits. The current number of permits has exceeded previous years including last year. Sanitary permit numbers are between last year and the long-term average.

The Land Information Department has drafted an RFP to complete the remonumentation in the township of Lawrence. Brittany will be attending a conference on the Spillman 911 database in Orlando at the end of the month. Department staff is working to fix data within the Spillman system to better manage addressing and support the work of law enforcement.

Stadnyk attended the Property Committee meeting to request ARPA funds for a new GPS unit and LiDAR data. There was no action on the request and further consideration for funding will be decided at a later date.

Land Conservation Report

Animal Waste Storage Applications: None

Out of County Travel: None

Summer Intern: Stadnyk requested approval to hire a summer intern for the Land Conservation Development Department. The intern's wage would be paid for by the nonmetallic mining funds. Priorities for hiring an intern include creating a system to manage the nonmetallic mines and using the drone to collect data. Motion by Schmitt/McBain to approve hiring a summer intern for the department. Motion carried.

Groundwater Testing Program: Stadnyk proposed working with the Public Health Department to gather geospatial data from water samples. Gaining this information would allow the County to collect data of Nitrate content in water which is currently unavailable. Each department would pay for half of the total costs to record testing. Public Health receives an estimated 60 tests a year which gives a cost estimate of around \$900 for the data collection. A discussion was held by the committee about current records and testing protocol. No decision was made and further discussion will continue next meeting when Stadnyk presents a concrete plan.

Animal Waste Storage Ordinance Resolution: Committee members reviewed changes and clarification language that was updated in several sections. A discussion was held on modifications to current standards and conditions. Motion by Dusell/McBain to propose the resolution to County Board at the May meeting. Motion carried.

Wildlife Damage Program: Stadnyk explained an economic analysis would be beneficial to evaluate the impacts of wildlife damage. Committee members offered ways to gather data to improve damage assessments. Discussion suggested the program should value producers in today's market and the significance of damage claim compensation for landowners who rely on crop yield.

Adjourn: Dusell/McBain motion to adjourn at 9:50 am. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Rachel Hansen.