

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

DATE: May 10, 2022

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

OTHERS PRESENT: N. STADNYK, R. HANSEN

Open Session: Meeting called to order @ 9:59 am

Nominations for Chairman: Schmitt nominated Stout. Called three times of other nominations. Motion by Schmitt/DuSell to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Stout as Chairman. Motion carried.

Nominations for Vice-Chair: Meyer nominated Schmitt. Schmitt nominated DuSell. Called three times of other nominations. DuSell declined nomination. Motion by DuSell/Meyer to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Schmitt as Vice-Chair. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Minutes: DuSell/Kalepp motion to approve minutes from April 12th. Motion carried.

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

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 14, 2022 @ 8:00 am

Wildlife Damage Claim Program: Stadnyk reported on behalf of Zesiger. A pack of wolves has been located within the county and the DNR would like them trapped for research purposes. Zesiger plans to trap them next week. The USDA is in the process of cost-sharing the construction of two permanent fences in neighboring counties to deter wildlife.

NRCS Report: Stadnyk presented the NRCS report on behalf of Besasie. The Ladysmith Field Office has selected 9 Conservation Stewardship Programs for funding. The requested funding for common practices includes tree planting, invasive species control, and forest stand improvement. NRCS in Ladysmith recently offered the Soil Conservation Technician position to a qualified candidate.

FSA Report: Quade reported updates for the FSA. The Program Technician from Ladysmith will be transferring to Chippewa Falls and a new position will be opening. Deadline for the Grassland CRP is May 15th. A board member mentioned an email from the FSA County Executive Director about reporting storm damage to your local FSA Office. Storm assessments can be reported for damage to farms, farm structures/equipment, crops, and livestock.

Land Conservation & Development Department: Stadnyk presented a graphic representation of permits received in the Zoning Department. Sanitary permits are starting to level out at the long-term average while land use is well above. Stadnyk will attend the Property Meeting to request ARPA funding for a replacement GPS unit and additional LiDAR data. The LCDD has been approved for Adopt-a-Highway Program for a 2 ½ mile section on Hwy 40. LCDD staff will volunteer their time to pickup that portion of the road. Stadnyk updated the committee on the status of Pigeon Creek Dam and temporary repairs to

meet DNR regulations. A discussion was held regarding the dam and the outline of the project with funding. Applications for internships are due by May 20th.

Land Conservation Report

Animal Waste Storage Applications: None

Out of County Travel: None

New Member Orientation: Stadnyk provided background information on the Land Conservation Department to the new committee member. Key aspects of the department are water quality, ag, and soil health. Each year funding assists landowners in projects that are led by the department staff.

2022 Budget and Project Planning Discussion: Stadnyk presented an outlook at upcoming projects and program grants. Each program has funding which is allocated to specific needs for both the department and landowners. Most of the grants are time sensitive and need to be used within a certain time period. Committee members questioned if funds are used up every year. Stadnyk clarified the question by explaining how grant money is utilized for projects, dam funding, damage reimbursements, and staff salaries.

Outreach: Stadnyk discussed current outreach efforts, effectiveness, and plans for continued activities.

Violation Discussion: Committee reviewed violation status and discussed the resolution of most recent violations.

Shoreland Program Announcement: Stadnyk presented a letter to send to landowners in shoreland areas to inform them of the shoreland program

GW Sampling Plan: Stadnyk reviewed the GW sampling program plan. Motion by DuSell/Kalepp to present plan to finance and ask for funding. Motion carried.

Adjourn: DuSell/Meyer motion to adjourn at 11:45 am. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Rachel Hansen.