

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

**DATE:** June 14, 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 @ 8:00 am

**Public Comment:** None

**Minutes:** DuSell/Kalepp motion to approve minutes from May 10<sup>th</sup>. Motion carried.

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

**Next Meeting Date:** Tuesday, July 12, 2022 @ 8:00 am

**Wildlife Damage Claim Program:** Stadnyk reported updates on behalf of Zesiger. A number of beaver conflicts have been addressed in the township of Big Falls. Goose complaints are on the increase due to damage to emergent corn and soybeans. It was noted Zesiger trapped a male wolf for the DNR's research project.

**NRCS Report:** No report presented.

**FSA Report:** Quade provided recent information shared with him by the County Executive Director. Crop reporting is still ongoing through July 15<sup>th</sup>. The Ladysmith FSA office has an open position for a full-time program technician. The Emergency Relief Program was announced to help producers impacted by natural disaster events in 2020 and 2021.

**Land Conservation & Development Department:** Stadnyk shared permit numbers for the Zoning Department. Land use permits are at 195 in comparison to 178 at the same time last year and sanitary permits are lower at 37 compared to 63 last year.

The Land Information Department has a contract ready to submit for the additional LiDAR products. Approximately 75% of the LiDAR funding will be covered through ARPA funding. Funds for a replacement GPS unit were also approved.

Stadnyk noted the Land Conservation Department will be putting the satellite offices on hold until October. Upcoming opportunities for community involvement include a community garden in Sheldon and a farmer-led watershed group. Funding is available for both projects. Stadnyk mentioned the Dairy Breakfast had a high attendance rate and Runstrom spoke to several people regarding buckthorn. Committee members discussed addressing previous issues/violations. Stadnyk will look into enforcement protocol for non-metallic mining pits.

**Land Conservation Report**

**Animal Waste Storage Applications:** None

**Out of County Travel:** None

**Conservation Projects Update:** Stadnyk explained the list of projects and allocated funding for them based on grants. There are projects in line for next year which are covered through certain state grants.

**Drone Demonstration:** Stadnyk displayed some of the work the drone has captured. There are multiple uses for the drone within each LCDD Department. It has been used to provide accurate results and gather relevant information to share with landowners.

**Shoreland Program Update:** This program is in the beginning phase and a list of landowners to send mailings to has been created. There are nearly 900 recipients who will be informed about the new program. A postcard will be designed for the expansive mailing.

**Red Cedar Lakes Association Request:** Stadnyk explained the purpose of the association and why they contacted the department. The association is planning to conduct an invasive species project on the Murphy Flowage. Results from the survey will be shared once completed.

**LCDD Budget Breakdowns:** Stadnyk shared the department wide budget. Targeted funding efforts are available from multiple levy and grants. These funds will be managed for certain projects over the next several years.

**Adjourn:** Meyer/DuSell motion to adjourn at 9:07 am. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Rachel Hansen.