

JUNEAU COUNTY LAND & WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Joe Lally, Chair, Wonewoc
Rodney Seamans, LaValle
Jim Raese, FSA Representative, Wonewoc

Gary Frei, Camp Douglas
Scott Wilhorn, Necedah

**Land & Water Resources Committee
February 8, 2018 - 8:00 am
U.W. Extension Meeting Room, Hickory Building, Mauston, Wisconsin**

PRESENT: Joe Lally, Chair, Rodney Seamans, Gary Frei, FSA Rep. Jim Raese, County Board Rep. Tim Cottingham, NRCS Rep. Jon Field, LWRD Reps. Matt Komiskey, & Kerrie Wheeler, Golden Sands RC&D Rep. Josh Benes

1. Meeting called to order by chair, Joe Lally, at 8:00 am.
2. MINUTES
Motion by Rodney Seamans, seconded by Gary Frei to approve the minutes of January 11, 2018 meeting. Motion carried.
3. VOUCHERS
The following vouchers were submitted to the committee for review and approval:
 - Matt Komiskey– (Food for Technical Advisory Meeting)
 - Rudig, Jensen Chrysler Dodge – (4x4 Truck)
 - Rock Top Meats – (Wildlife Damage – Venison Donation)
 - Kerrie Wheeler – (Contracted Services)
 - WI Land+Water Conservation Assoc. – (2018 Dues)
 - WI Land+Water Conservation Assoc. – (2018 Conference Registration)
 - Grand Geneva Resort – (2018 Conference Hotel Registration)Motion by Jim Raese, seconded by Gary Frei to approve the vouchers. Motion carried.
4. WILDLIFE DAMAGE ABATEMENT
 - o No report.
5. NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
 - o EQIP projects – 4 cover crop, 1 no till, 4 forest incentive management plans and 1 tree planting with 6,000 trees.
 - o Cover crop signup this spring with a focus on soil health
 - o A streambank project and 2 manure pit projects could go in this spring if the funding comes through
 - o Currently designing a big water system for dairy that is transitioning to beef
 - o CSP – the goal for 2,500 enrollment acres has almost been met with 16 applications.
 - o NRCS, FSA and LWRD are cleaning and packing their offices in preparation for the move

- CRP cap has been met so FSA is holding names until more CRP acres open up
6. FSA REPORT
 - Farmers are encouraged to sign up for ARC and update their farm records
 7. RC&D UPDATE
 - Josh gave an overview of what the Golden Sands RC&D does and gave the Committee handouts of active projects and a brochure of his specific projects.
 8. MANURE ORDINANCE UPDATE
 - On 1/24/18 an informal meeting was held with local producers, highway department and township road crews. The ordinance was reviewed and potential issues were discussed. The group had some suggestions and preferences as to what should be in the ordinance. It will be reviewed by DATCP and LCC before going to public hearing and County Board.
 - Discussion on having an Emergency Management Plan written up for manure haulers.
 9. CHANGE FUNDING – CONSERVATION AID TO SAMPLING
 - LRWD has \$2,400 in a Conservation Aid fund for projects such as those at Wilderness Park. However Juneau County Parks Dept. also received funds for the same projects so the Department would like to transfer the \$2,400 to a fund to be used in well water testing in Armenia Township where the wells have been receiving high levels of nitrates in their test results. The LWRD would offer up to 70% cost sharing to homeowners in Armenia to have their drinking water wells tested for nitrates. Homeowners must then provide the depth of their wells, the well ID number and the results of the test. High results will be tested again and a meeting will be held to cover the results. This funding transfer can be done from a Finance Department standpoint if LCC approves through a motion.

Motion by Gary Frei, seconded by Rodney Seamans to transfer \$2,400.00 from the Conservation Aid fund into a Well Water Testing Fund. Motion Carried.

10. REQUEST TO FINANCE FOR ATC FUNDS
 - This year a grant has been achieved to add gutters to a building, plant as rain garden and put in prairie plants along the shoreline at Wilderness Park.
 - LWRD is requesting a “placeholder” be put on \$200,000 of the ATC funds to be used on conservation practices such as streambank restoration and matching conservation grants over the next 3-5 years. Having access to these funds would allow LWRD to apply for other matching conservation grants that would extend the ATC funds.

Motion by Gary Frei, seconded by Jim Raese to allow LWRD to request \$200,000 of ATC funds be held for conservation activities as overseen by the LWRD/LCC. Motion carried.

11. OFFICE MOVE UPDATE
 - Final offers for new space went to the USDA National Office and the wait is on for their decision, then a final design can be done. Once that final design is approved, the lease company has 120 days to finish out the building before move in takes place.

- Tim discussed tentative dates for the moving of County offices into the new building and for offices to move out of the Hickory and Annex buildings. There is the possibility that those who are moving into the old Courthouse will be able to use the furniture that is left behind.
- Storage will be made available for those departments who will have to move twice and will need room to store files and furniture that will not be used for the interim as well as anything that may be put up for auction.
- LWRD will need to co-locate with NRCS in order for the landowners of the County to receive the best customer service and the most efficient use of conservation dollars to be spent.

Motion by Joe Lally, seconded by Jim Raese to allow the Juneau County Land & Water Resources Department be co-located with USDA NRCS and for the LWRD to move with NRCS as they move. This motion allows the County Conservationist to go before the Executive Committee, and County Board to present this information. Motion Carried.

12. REVIEW AND SELECT LWRD LOGO

- Kerrie had several designs for a logo drawn up in January. The staff selected two to bring before the LCC and the LCC decided on the final logo.

Motion by Rodney, seconded by Joe Lally to approve the final design for the Department logo. Motion Carried.

13. DISCOVERY FARMS GRANT APPLICATION

- The application is due by the end of February. \$20,000 per site for two sites. Lake Redstone area will be the targeted site. LWRD will just have to manage the paperwork and help manage the sites.

Motion by Gary Frei, seconded by Rodney to apply for the Discovery Farms Grant. Motion Carried.

14. NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

- LWRM Plan – the draft is done and will go to DATCP for review. The annual plan shows the department needs 3 full time employees.
- Lake Redstone Producer meeting is February 21, 2018 at the Summit
- Contractors meeting will be held February 26, 2018 at the Hatch Library
- City of Mauston asked Matt to be a part of the Lake Decorah project
- Volk Field is interested in phosphorus trading/adaptive management.
- There is a potential for an AEA in Plymouth Township
- PACRS wanted Juneau County to nominate a northern farmer for a conservation award. At this point the Department and LCC declined.
- Purchase of survey gear is in progress. Would like the gear in the office by spring.

14. Next meeting was set for **March 8, 2018 at 8:00 am** in the **U.W. Extension Meeting Room.**

15. Meeting adjourned – Motion by Rodney Seamans, seconded by Gary Frei to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 a.m. Motion carried.