

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

October 19, 2016

1. Call to Order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Matt Foelker at 8:00 am. Committee members Matthew Foelker (Chair), Ed Morse (Vice Chair), Peter Hartz (Secretary), Gregg Patrick (Member), Laura Payne (@ 8:10) (Member), Frank Anfang (FSA Rep), and Margaret Burlingham (Public Member) were present. Also in attendance were Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; LaVern Georgson, Jefferson County Agriculture Agent, UW Extension; Jim Schroeder, County Board Chairman; Cody Calkins, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS); Dave Terrell, USDA Wildlife Services.

2. Roll Call (Establish a Quorum):

A quorum was established.

3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law:

It was determined that the committee was in compliance with the Open Meetings Law.

4. Approval of the October Agenda:

The October agenda was reviewed by the committee members. No changes were proposed.

5. Approval of the September 21, 2016 Meeting Minutes:

Frank Anfang made a motion to approve the September 21, 2016 meeting minutes as written, Margaret Burlingham seconded. Motion carried 6/0.

6. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP) October Report. See attached.

7. Public Comment:

There were no comments.

8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

Cody Calkins discussed the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) through NRCS. Mark Watkins will forward information to NRCS in regard to farms that may qualify for CSP.

9. Discussion on USDA Wildlife Services - Dave Terrell:

Dave Terrell brought the 2016 Crop Price Proposal and the 2017 Budget/Financial Plan. See Attached. Frank Anfang made a motion to accept the 2016 Crop Price Proposal as presented with a 90% harvest completion date of December 10, 2016, Gregg Patrick seconded. Motion carried 7/0. Frank Anfang made a motion to accept the 2017 Budget/Financial Plan, Gregg Patrick seconded. Motion carried 7/0.

10. Discussion on Farm Tech Days - LaVern Georgson:

LaVern Georgson discussed Farm Tech Days and the measures that have been taken to date. Individuals have been identified to serve as an executive committee. In two weeks they will meet to approve committee assignments. LaVern Georgson is working to identify farms that fit the criteria for Farm Tech Days. When suitable farms are found, letters, questionnaires and applications will be sent out. Tours of these farms are tentatively set for 12/1/16. Farm Tech Days will be in July 2019 in-between Jefferson County Fair and State Fair.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on County Farm Lease:

Due to the potential interest in the county farm as a secondary site for Farm Tech Days (see item #10), the LWC Committee discussed the option of a 1 year lease extension with the current tenant. Mark Watkins spoke to the current lessee who is open to 1 year extension of the current lease. Matt Foelker expressed his interest in extending the lease, saying it's the best option. Laura Payne made a motion to extend the lease for 2017, Gregg Patrick seconded. Motion carried 7/0. Watkins will follow up with the corporation council to determine the next steps.

12. Discussion on Hoard's Dairyman Manure Pit:

Mark Watkins spoke with the engineer working with Hoards Dairy. A repair plan is being completed. It will be submitted for review and approval. A surface survey has been completed and Mark Watkins is waiting for the plan proposal to be sent to LWCD before forwarding it on to the Planning and Zoning Committee.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Notices of Noncompliance - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP):

There were no notices at this time.

14. Discussion and Possible Action on Cancellations of Notices of Noncompliance - FPP:

There were no cancellations at this time.

15. Review of the Monthly Financial Report (August):

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures (August) was distributed. See attached.

16. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easements (PACE) Applications:

Cliff Haberman's easement has closed and the reimbursement paperwork has been sent to NRCS. A person interested in the easement program called and spoke to Mark Watkins. An application was mailed.

17. Discussion on Jefferson County Land & Water Conservation Report on Baseline Documentation for Easements:

Mark Watkins informed the committee that the baseline documents have been completed, they will be forwarded to NRCS, and everything is up to date.

18. Discussion on Marketing Farmland Conservation Easements:

Margaret Burlingham will be sending articles on both the Wilke and Haberman easements to the Farm Bureau and ask them to publish them in their newsletter. Mark Watkins will add an article into the LWCD Fall Newsletter. Margaret Burlingham will contact both the Lake Ripley Lake District and the Rock River Collation asking them to include an article outlining the program in their newsletters.

19. Discussion and Possible Action on Monitoring Easements:

All paid easements have been monitored and the donated easement monitoring will be complete in November. When complete, the year's information will be sent to NRCS.

20. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include: Items # 8, 10 - 19, County Farm Lease Extension.

21. Next Scheduled Meeting:

- November 16, 2016 @ 8:00 in Room 112

22. Adjournment

Frank Anfang made a motion to adjourn at 9:05 am, Margaret Burlingham seconded. Motion carried 7/0.