

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

April 19, 2017

1. Call to Order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Matt Foelker at 8:05 am. Committee members Matthew Foelker (Chair), Ed Morse (Vice Chair) (@ 8:25), Peter Hartz (Secretary), Gregg Patrick (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; and Nancy Lannert, LWCD; and Kathy Turner, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Lloyd Zastrow (Member) was excused.

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 April Agenda:

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

5. Approval of the March 15, 2017 Meeting Minutes:

Frank Anfang made a motion to approve the March 15, 2017 meeting minutes *as amended*, Gregg Patrick seconded. Motion carried 5/0.

6. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP) April 2017 Report. See attached.
- Mark Watkins will continue to request a visit from DNR to discuss a variety of items, i.e. permits and personnel contact concerns.

7. Public Comment:

Anita Martin, from Lake Mills, voiced her concerns with Item #9 in regard to the avian flu and whether or not there would be special measures taken to insure clean donations.

8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

Kathy Turner gave an update on Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). NRCS is currently checking compliance with USDA Standards, ongoing participation in a variety of programs, and soil erosion.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on Participation in a Turkey Donation Program with USDA Wildlife Services:

See attached. Gregg Patrick made a motion to participate in the Turkey Donation Program, Frank Anfang seconded. Motion carried 5/0.

10. Discussion And Possible Action on Tree Trimming or Removal on Jefferson County Farm:

Mark Watkins spoke to the committee in regard to possible tree trimming needed on the County Farm. An apartment complex that shares a property line with the farm is asking us to trim or remove some trees that are encroaching on their property. The County Surveyor can mark the property lines for further consideration. Frank Anfang made a motion to have a property inspection done before any work is done, Gregg Patrick seconded. Motion carried 6/0.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Potters Field Maintenance Recommendations for 2017:

Nancy Lannert discussed the recommended repairs to the Potters Field. See attached. The Solid Waste department is also donating a bench made from recycled materials. Ed Morse mentioned the possibility of a designation of the Potter's Field with the Historical Society plaque. Gregg Patrick made a motion to accept the repairs as listed, Margaret Burlingham seconded. Motion carried 6/0.

12. Discussion on Hoard's Dairyman Pit:

Nothing new to report at this time. The waste facility remains empty and idle.

13. Discussion on LWCD Director's Report:

Mark Watkins discussed the LWCD Director's Report. See attached. The report was well received. Mark Watkins will continue to include the report in the meetings going forward.

14. Discussion on 2017 Farmland Preservation Program Required Field Inspections:

Nancy Lannert spoke about Annual Spot Check. This year the NE quadrant of the county will be inspected. Postcards are sent to all of the farmers in the NE quadrant to make them aware of our presence for annual spot check purposes.

15. Discussion on 2017 New Conservation Standards for Farmland Preservation Program (FPP):

Nancy Lannert discussed 3 new conservation standards for FPP introduced this year with a 12/2018 deadline; cropland setback, pastures included in nutrient management plans, and no significant discharge of process wastewater to waters of the state. These requirements are now listed on the Annual Certification form.

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

There were no notices at this time.

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

Steven & Theresa Schluter

Gregg Patrick made a motion to accept the notice, Frank Anfang seconded. Motion carried 6/0.

18. Review of the Monthly Financial Report (January/February):

The most recent statement of revenues and expenditures (January/February) was distributed. See attached.

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

There are no new applications this time. Margaret Burlingham spoke to the committee in regard to announcing a 90 day easement application period starting in August and advertised at the County Fair. The Food, Land & Water Project Committee are working on ideas for advertising the program also.

20. 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 and everything is up to date.

21. Discussion on the 4th Grade Farm Tour

Margaret Burlingham will attend the 4th Grade Farm Tour hosted by Ron Kutz May 3, 2017.

22. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include: Items 6, 8, 12, 13, 16-20, Jefferson County Dairy Breakfast (May 20, 2017 @ Fair Grounds)

23. Next Scheduled Meeting:

- May 17, 2017 @ 8:00 in Room 112

24. Adjournment

Frank Anfang made a motion to adjourn at 9:20 am, Margaret Burlingham seconded. Motion carried 6/0.