

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

October 18, 2017

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) (@ 8:10), Frank Anfang (FSA Rep), and Margaret Burlingham (Public Member) were present. Also in attendance were Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); and Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD. Lloyd Zastrow (Member) was absent.

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. Review of the October Agenda:

The October agenda was reviewed by the committee members. Item #9 has been postponed to November.

5. Approval of the September 20, 2017 Meeting Minutes:

Ed Morse made a motion to approve the September 20, 2017 meeting minutes as written, Frank Anfang seconded. Motion carried 5/0.

6. Public Comment:

There were no comments.

7. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP) October 2017 Report. See attached.
- Food, Land and Water Conference - Margaret Burlingham attended the conference. She gave a brief recap of the conference.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on USDA Wildlife Services 2018 Budget & 2017 Crop Prices - Dave Terrall:

Dave Terrall gave an overview of the program. See the attached budget sheets. Gregg Patrick made motion to accept the 2018 Budget as written, Frank Anfang seconded. Motion carried 6/0. Gregg Patrick made a motion to accept the 2017 Crop Prices with a 90% harvest date of 12/10/17, Margaret Burlingham seconded. Motion carried 6/0.

9. Discussion on Glacierland Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) - Kirsten Jurcek:

Kirsten Jurcek, per a phone call with Mark Watkins, postponed the discussion until November.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Jefferson County Park's Request for 2 Acres of Tillable Acreage from the County Farm for Bike Trails - JC Parks Department:

Kevin Weismann outlined the Parks Department's request for a 2 acre parcel on the County Farm. Peter Hartz made a motion to take the 2 acres out of production, transfer management of those acres to the Parks Department, if the Parks Department will waive all Potter's Field maintenance to make up for the loss of 2 acres of County Farm rental income, Frank Anfang seconded. Motion carried 6/0.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on County Farm Lease:

LWCD mailed lease packages to previous applicants, put the package on the county Request for Proposal (RFP) site, and packages are available in the LWCD office.

A beekeeper approached the Parks Department about using County Farm Land for bees. No official proposal has been submitted. Peter Hartz made a motion to wait to make any decisions until an official proposal has been made, Frank Anfang seconded. Motion carried 6/0.

Gregg Patrick made a motion to have LWCD open the County Farm Lease Bids and bring the winning bid to the November LWCC Meeting, Peter Hartz seconded. Motion carried 6/0.

12. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

NRCS didn't attend the meeting therefore a report was unavailable.

13. Discussion on LWCD Directors October 2017 Report:

Mark Watkins discussed the Director's Report. See attached.

14. Discussion on Hoard's Dairyman Facility:

Mark Watkins visits the facility almost daily. The construction is moving along smoothly and per design.

15. Discussion on Foxconn:

This item will be revisited when additional details are available.

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 Cancellation of Notices of Noncompliance - FPP:

There were no cancellations at this time.

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

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

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

Applications: LWCD sent an application to an interested party after being contacted by phone.

NRCS informed Margaret Burlingham that the funds for PACE this year are ½ of last year. Margaret Burlingham will attend the November Jefferson County Agri-Business Club meeting to discuss the easement program and application window announced during the Jefferson County Fair.

20. Discussion on Jefferson County Land & Water Conservation Report on Baseline Documentation for Easements: Baseline Documentation has been completed for the year.

21. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include: #9, 12-14, 16-19, and County Farm Lease Winning Bid

22. Next Scheduled Meeting:

- November 15, 2017 @ 8:00 in Room 112

23. Adjournment

Frank Anfang made a motion to adjourn at 9:15 am, Gregg Patrick seconded. Motion carried 6/0.