

Land & Water Conservation Committee
Minutes
November 12, 2008

1. Call to order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Committee Member, Carlton Zentner at 10:37 a.m. Committee members Karen Christian, and George Jaeckel were present. Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department; Deb Miller, Administrative Clerk; Josh Odekirk, NRCS were also in attendance. Ms. Nancy Lannert, Resource Conservationist arrived at 10:49.

2. Roll Call (establish a quorum):

Two officers were present to establish a quorum

3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law:

It was determined by Mr. Zentner that the committee was in compliance with the open meeting law.

4. Review of the November Agenda:

The November agenda was reviewed by the committee members.

5. Citizen Comments:

There were no citizen comments.

6. Review and Approval of the October Meeting Minutes:

Mrs. Christian made a motion to approve the October meeting minutes as written. Mr. Jaeckel seconded. Motion carried.

7. NRCS Report (Natural Resources Conservation Service) – Josh Odekirk:

Mr. Odekirk discussed the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) report. A hand-out was provided. See attached report.

8. Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) – Notice of Non-Compliance

Ms. Lannert presented twelve FPP notices of non-participation or non-compliance landowners to the committee members. Of the twelve, Mr. Charles Buskirk and Mr. Norman Hartwig have decided to voluntarily withdraw from FPP. However, if the remaining landowners return their certification card, a cancellation of notice of noncompliance can be signed. This allows the landowner to be re-instated into FPP. A motion was made and seconded to accept the notice of non-compliance for all twelve landowners. Motion carried.

9. Potential Sale of Rain Barrels:

Mr. Watkins proposed the potential selling of rain barrels in conjunction with Earth Day/Week. He suggested that the department can roll it out as a pilot program and offer them during the department's annual tree sale. Barrels could possibly be purchased from local food companies and be made into rain barrels. It was decided by the committee to table this for now and revisit the topic at a later date.

10. Potters Field Report:

Ms. Lannert gave a quick update on Potter's Field. She said the posts have been installed along the path leading up to the site. She also reported that Holly from the Parks Department mowed and trimmed and that area looks great. However, some of the evergreens that were planted didn't survive. There is a low area that needs filling in with gravel. The burdock in the area is much better but will need additional spraying to keep it under control. Mr. Zentner suggested putting together a group of volunteers to help with future maintenance. This topic will be re-visited in February.

11. Update of Jonas Farm Property:

Mr. Watkins reported that the Jonas tile repair has been completed. He also said that the costs came in lower than expected. The lease expires at the end of November and that the Jonas Farm property will be put up for sale. No further action is required by the Land & Water Conservation Department.

12. Gravel Extraction report for Hwy 26 Bypass:

Mr. Watkins was given a memorandum from corporation counsel regarding fill for the highway 26 bypass. The memo was received from a contractor looking for a source to borrow for the project. The area would be the two hills on the county farm out by old Countryside. The person that contracts for the fill will need to re-claim the site and then close it. The county may have to apply for a possible conditional use permit through the Zoning department.

13. Report on WLWCA:

Mr. Watkins gave a report on the WLWCA/SAA meeting. Mr. Watkins asked DATCP if the Land Conservation Department could impose a penalty for an individual that doesn't complete their project. There is no penalty in the contract at this time. Due to our nutrient management sign-up our county was awarded the full seg money for 2009. The farmers will be required to have a nutrient management plan that they will need to follow as long as they own the farm.

14. Correspondence:

Mr. Mike Halstead, from the Department of Natural Resource (DNR) contacted the Parks Director and informed him that the Hyssop has been moved to Korth Park.

15. Set next meeting and possible agenda items:

It was decided by the members that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Land & Water Conservation committee will be held on Wednesday, December 17, at 8:30 in room 202.

16. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Christian and seconded by Mr. Jaeckel at 11:55. Motion carried.