

Land & Water Conservation Committee Minutes

July 19, 2017

1. Call to Order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Matt Foelker at 8:03 am. Committee members Matthew Foelker (Chair), 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; Gerry Kokkonen, LWCD; Cody Calkins, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Members Ed Morse (Vice Chair) and Lloyd Zastrow (Member) were 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 July Agenda:

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

5. Approval of the June 21, 2017 Meeting Minutes:

Gregg Patrick made a motion to approve the June 21, 2017 meeting minutes as written, Margaret Burlingham seconded. Motion carried 5/0.

6. Public Comment:

There were no comments.

7. Communications:

- Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP) July 2017 Report. See attached.
- Thank You from Jefferson County Dairy Breakfast. See attached
- Grant County Southern Area Tour.

8. Discussion on LWCD Director's July 2017 Report:

Mark Watkins discussed the Directors Report. See attached.

9. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

Cody Calkins discussed the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) report. No written copy was available.

10. Discussion on Hoard Dairyman Facility:

Mark Watkins met with the engineers from REA. Hoard's has submitted documentation for the new manure storage facility and the abandonment of the old one. A review of the construction plans, amendments to the livestock siting permit, and nutrient management plan are being conducted by the LWCD. Monitoring the outflow water from below the old basin for contamination will continue. When the new application and plans have been determined to be complete they will be advanced to the Planning & Zoning Committee for full approval.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Locating Honey Bee Hives on the County Farm:

Mark Watkins notified the committee of an informal request to locate hives on the County Farm. A party has shown interest in using some of the non-crop land to house the hives. There is nothing formal or specific yet. After discussion, the committee has chosen to revisit this item during the County Farm lease period this fall.

12. Discussion on Potter's Field Authorities:

Mark Watkins spoke to the committee about confusion surrounding which department has oversight of the Potter's Field. Historically, the LWCD has had oversight. Recently the Historical Sites Commission has been working with the Park's Department. Gregg Patrick made a motion to have the LWCD be the authority of the Potter's Field, Frank Anfang seconded. Motion carried 5/0.

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

Weenonah Brattset Trust, Kathleen M Cauley, Evelyn Tinberg

Gregg Patrick made a motion to accept the notices, Peter Hartz seconded. Motion carried 5/0.

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

There were no cancellations.

15. Discussion on the LWCD Preliminary 2018 Budget Request:

Mark Watkins discussed the 2018 Budget Request. The initial request review shows a 0% increase with the exception of insurance costs.

16. Review of the Monthly Financial Report (May):

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

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

There are no applications at this time. A family new to the area has shown some interest. Gerry Kokkonen spoke with the family and provided them with an application and additional easement paperwork.

18. Discussion and Possible Action on Easement Application Press Release:

Margaret Burlingham discussed the Press Release sent before the beginning of the County Fair. See attached. Margaret Burlingham will contact other outlets to have the release reach more farmers, i.e. State Farmer, Ag Review, and Country Today. The new PACE brochures will also be distributed.

19. Discussion on Federal Allocation for the PACE Program:

Margaret Burlingham discussed the current state of Federal Allocations for Farmland Easements. The federal allocations are set to be half of last year's amount.

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

Gerry Kokkonen included a copy of a baseline documentation that is sent out to each easement participant for the committee's reference. See attached.

21. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:

Possible agenda items include: Items # 8 - 17, 20

22. Next Scheduled Meeting:

- August 16, 2017 @ 8:00 in Room 112

23. Adjournment

Gregg Patrick made a motion to adjourn at 9:07 am, Frank Anfang seconded. Motion carried 5/0.