

Land & Water Conservation Committee (LWCC) Minutes
February 20, 2013

1. Call to Order

The monthly meeting was called to order by Walt Christensen at 8:30 am. Committee members Carlton Zentner and Matt Foelker were present. Also in attendance were Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Patricia Cicero, LWCD; Gerry Kokkonen, LWCD; John Molinaro, County Board Chairman; Dennis Vollmer, NRCS; Greg David, County Board member; Earlene Ronk, Town and Country RC&D Board member; and Laurie Koeck, APHIS. Sarah Bregant arrived at 8:33 am and Scott Zimmerman arrived at 8:37 am.

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 December Agenda

The December agenda was reviewed by the committee members.

5. Review and Approval of the November Meeting Minutes

Foelker made a motion to approve the December meeting minutes as written, Zentner seconded. Motion carried, 3/0.

6. Communications

There were no communications at this time.

7. Citizens Comments

Greg David, Jefferson County Board member, spoke to encourage the use of biomass plantings on County land holdings. Christensen requested that David send him an e-mail with more information so that he can determine if the item should be on a future agenda.

8. Non-Metallic Mining Report

Gerry Kokkonen presented his report on the Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation Program that is administered by the LWCD. Report is attached.

9. Animal Damage Claims

Laurie Koeck, APHIS, presented the 2012 claim summary for the Wildlife Damage Program. Handout is attached. There was one payable loss for abatement of geese. Foelker motioned and Zimmerman seconded the motion to approve the damage claim for Jaeckel Brothers of \$433.91. Motion carried, 5/0.

10. Town and Country RC&D Membership

Greg David and Earlene Ronk presented information on the activities and County membership dues for the Town and Country RC&D. Two handouts are attached. Foelker motioned and Bregant seconded the motion to renew the County's membership in the Town and Country RC&D for \$150. Motion carried, 4/1, with Zentner dissenting.

11. Personnel Changes and Update

Watkins reported that Beth Klotz resigned her position as Administrative Clerk. The position was advertised and interviews will be held in the afternoon of February 20, 2013.

- 12. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report**
Dennis Vollmer presented the attached Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) report.
- 13. 2012-2013 Tree Seedling Program Update**
Watkins reported that almost all of the trees have been sold and the distribution will be in April.
- 14. Infrastructure Committee Update Regarding the Purchase of Old Countryside**
Molinaro stated that the City of Jefferson passed all of the required zoning changes on February 19, 2013. The Infrastructure Committee received a summary of the final inspection report – there was nothing unusual reported. The RFP for a site plan and building design was approved and sent out. It is expected that the selection of contractor for that work will be done at the April County Board meeting. The City of Jefferson requires that the final site plan be submitted in January 2014. The site and building plan will also include the projected amount of money needed for implementation of the plan. Once this is known, the County Board will discuss the Bond issue.
- 15. Discussion and Possible Action on Highway Facility Study**
Please see item 14.
- 16. Discussion and Possible Action on Information Land Values Study**
Please see item 14.
- 17. Notice of Noncompliance with Soil and Water Conservation Requirements – Farmland Preservation Program (FPP)**
The list of landowners up for consideration of a notice of noncompliance (voluntary and non-voluntary) with the Farmland Preservation Program is attached. Foelker moved and Zimmerman seconded to removal all of the landowners on the attached list from the Farmland Preservation Program. Motion carried, 5/0.
- 18. Cancellation of Notice of Noncompliance with Soil and Water Conservation Requirements – Farmland Preservation Program**
William L. Laird requested that his notice of noncompliance be cancelled and that he be reinstated into the Farmland Preservation Program. Foelker moved and Bregant seconded to cancel William L. Laird’s notice of noncompliance and reinstate him into the Farmland Preservation Program. Motion carried, 5/0.
- 19. Monthly Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) Financial Report**
The most current revenue and expenditure sheets were distributed. See attached. The LWCD was \$1,800 over budget for 2012 due to a reduction in expected contract revenue from NRCS.
- 20. Set Next Meeting and Possible Agenda Items**
It was decided by the members that the next scheduled meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Committee will be held on Wednesday, March 20, 2012 at 8:30 am in Room 202. Possible agenda items include: monthly financial report, and discussion and possible action on issues related to new highway facility.
- 21. Adjournment**
Motion to adjourn was made by Foelker and seconded by Zimmerman at 9:55 am. Motion carried, 5/0.