

**Land & Water Conservation Committee
Minutes
June 19, 2013**

1. Call to Order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Walt Christensen at 8:35 a.m. Committee members Sarah Bregant, Walt Christensen, Matthew Foelker, Carlton Zentner (@ 8:37), and Scott Zimmerman were present. Also in attendance were Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; Gerry Kokkonen, LWCD; John Molinaro, County Board Chairman/Supervisor; and Laura Watson, NRCS.

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 June Agenda:

The June agenda was reviewed by the committee members.

5. Review and Approval of the May Meeting Minutes

Matthew Foelker made a motion to approve the May meeting minutes as written, Sarah Bregant seconded. Motion carried 5/0.

6. Communications

There were no communications at this time.

7. Citizen Comments:

There were no citizen comments.

8. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

Laura Watson discussed the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) report. See attached.

9. Notice of Noncompliance with Soil and Water Conservation Requirements - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP):

None at this time.

10. Cancellation of Noncompliance - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP):

None at this time.

11. Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) Update - Mark Watkins:

The LWCD department set up a new system this winter. The objective of this system is to make our seasonal spot checks more efficient. The county was broken up into 4 quadrants. See attached. We will check one quadrant each season. Nancy Lannert, LWCD; and Joe Strupp, LWCD; are currently conducting checks in the northeast quadrant.

All Nutrient Management Planning for our county is complete. Much sooner than the 2015 state deadline.

The Joint Finance Committee may change the FPP tax credit to a grant program. This hasn't been decided yet. Details will be forthcoming.

12. Non-Metallic Mining (NMM) Policy - Gerry Kokkonen, LWCD

Gerry Kokkonen discussed a clarification of the NMM ordinance. See attached. This policy will clearly state when a reclamation permit is revoked and the financial assurance is released. The ordinance will need to be looked over by corporation council to find the best way to put this policy into effect. Motion to postpone a decision on adding the clarification until the July meeting made by Carlton Zentner, seconded by Matthew Foelker. Motion carried 5/0.

13. ATCP 51 Livestock Siting Fee Structure - Mark Watkins, LWCD

Mark Watkins discussed a new fee structure for livestock siting. See attached. This is for informational purposes only at this time. We will revisit this during the July meeting. If approved by the committee, it will be submitted to the board with a request to make it an amendment.

14. Status of Cropland at Old Countryside Home Farm - Mark Watkins, LWCD

The old farm has 22 acres of cropable land. John Molinaro said the fate of the building has yet to be determined. At this time, without knowing what will happen with the building, it's not feasible to rent out the land. Too much would have to be done to get it ready and we don't know where the spoils would go. The committee decided to leave the land the way it is for the time being. We may know more in a few months. If and when that happens we'll discuss renting out the land.

15. Discussion and Possible Action on Highway Facility:

Nothing new at this time.

16. Monthly Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) Financial Report

The most recent statements of revenues and expenditures were distributed. See attached. As per Mark Watkins, we are right on budget. Half way through the year and just under budget. We will be applying for the first half of the DATCP staffing reimbursement by June 27, 2013.

17. 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 July 17, 2013 at 8:30 in Room 202. Possible agenda items include: Revisiting items 11 - 15 and transitional planning for retiring employees.

18. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Matthew Foelker and seconded by Scott Zimmerman at 9:38 a.m. Motion carried 5/0.