

**Land & Water Conservation Committee
Minutes
August 21, 2013**

1. Call to Order:

The monthly meeting was called to order by Walt Christensen at 8:30 a.m. Committee members Walt Christensen, Matthew Foelker, Carlton Zentner, and Scott Zimmerman (@ 8:32) were present. Also in attendance were Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; Gerry Kokkonen, LWCD; Ben Wehmeier, County Administrator; John Molinaro, County Board Chairman/Supervisor; and Dennis Vollmer, NRCS. Committee member Sarah Bregant 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 August Agenda:

The August agenda was reviewed by the committee members. Walt Christensen requested that item # 13 be moved up in the agenda because of a visiting speaker. Item # 13 has been moved to # 8.

5. Review and Approval of the June Meeting Minutes:

Matt Foelker made a motion to approve the July meeting minutes as written, Carlton Zentner seconded. Motion carried 4/0.

6. Communications:

There were no communications at this time.

7. Citizen Comments:

There were no citizen comments.

8. Town & Country Discussion - Erlene Ronk, Vice Chair of Town & Country

See attached.

9. BR Amon Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation Update - Gerry Kokkonen (LWCD)

60 day notice sent to Lake Mills Blacktop c/o Hometown Bank in Fond du Lac. See attached paperwork for additional information on the BR Amon Reclamation status.

10. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:

Dennis Vollmer discussed the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) report. See attached. Due to budget short falls, Jody's (NRCS assistant) hours will be reduced. She will be in Jefferson County 2 days a week and the other 3 will be in Rock County. Dennis mentioned that Brian Risky would be leaving Jefferson County NRCS September 20, 2013 for a position in Altoona.

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

Timothy Marsden, Dale & Nancy Zastrow. Carlton Zentner made a motion to accept the notices, Matt Foelker seconded. Motion carried, 4/0.

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

Bernard Partoll, Curtis & Mary Pernat, Robert & Laurel Selberg. Matt Foelker made a motion to accept the cancellations, Scott Zimmerman seconded. Motion carried, 4/0.

13. Transitional Planning for Retiring Employees:

Ben Wehmeier, County Administrator, informed the committee after the 2014 budget season has completed, he will meet with the department heads to discuss a plan of action. The department heads, the administration department and Ben Wehmeier will work together to make this happen.

14. 2013/2014 Tree Sale - Mark Watkins (LWCD)

See attached form. Our cost from the nursery has increased slightly and in turn our sale price has increased. Carlton Zentner showed some concern as to whether or not this was a cost effective program. Mark Watkins indicated that even with the increases, it is cost effective and the sale is well-received within the members of the County.

15. Monthly Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) Financial Report: Mark Watkins

See attached. One item not listed on this report is the staffing grant money we recently received. We are on track with our current budget and see no indication that it will change.

16. Set next meeting and possible agenda items:

Revisit items 10, 11, 15. The County Farm lease will expire in September. Carlton Zentner would like the status of the farmland on the new Highway Shop site to be reintroduced to the agenda as a reoccurring item. John Molinaro would like to discuss grant opportunities for the wetland on that site also. Scott Zimmerman indicated that we should discuss using the "four corners" of the highway site as a "best display" of our county mission so we can show the taxpayers and other counties what we do.

17. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Scott Zimmerman and seconded by Matt Foelker at 9:26 a.m. Motion carried 4/0.