

**Land & Water Conservation Committee  
Minutes  
October 16, 2013**

**1. Call to Order:**

The monthly meeting was called to order by Walt Christensen at 8:32 a.m. Committee members Walt Christensen, Matthew Foelker, and Carlton Zentner were present. Also in attendance were Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; Ben Wehmeier, County Administrator; Philip Ristow, County Corporation Counsel; John Molinaro, County Board Chairman/Supervisor; and Dave Terrall, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wildlife Services. Committee members Sarah Bregant and Scott Zimmerman were 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 October Agenda:**

The October agenda was reviewed by the committee members.

**5. Review and Approval of the September Meeting Minutes:**

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

**6. Communications:**

There were no communications at this time.

**7. Citizen Comments:**

There were no citizen comments.

**8. Animal Damage - Dave Terrall, USDA Wildlife Services**

Dave Terrall spoke to the committee in regard to animal abatement, crop pricing and financial plan. See attached. The crop prices are based on a 12 month average. Carlton Zentner didn't think the price of field corn was a correct representation. He made a motion to change the price to \$5.35. Walt Christensen seconded. Motion carried 3/0. Matt Foelker made a motion to accept the financial plan as written. Carlton Zentner seconded. Motion carried 3/0.

**9. County Farm Lease Bid Opening - Walt Christensen**

The bids were opened and read aloud as follows;

Gerner	~	\$317,064
Habeck	~	\$266,000
Kutz	~	\$275,616
W.D Hoard	~	\$304,128
Walter	~	\$290,400

The committee chose to accept the high bid submitted by Gerner who is also the current tenant. A resolution will be forwarded to the full County Board for approval.

**10. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:**

Dennis Vollmer was absent due to the government shutdown.

**11. 2014 - 2019 Memorandum of Understanding with USDA/NRCS - Mark Watkins**

See attached. This is a beneficial agreement that we have been a part of for the last 30 years. This isn't a binding, just an agreement to share resources between the agencies.

**12. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Update - Mark Watkins**

Mark Watkins discussed the EAB information we've added to the County website. See attached.

**13. Federal Farm Bill & Possible Resolution Development - Walt Christensen**

Walt Christensen spent time looking over the bill. As he was going through it he found many items that are cause for concern. Being that the bill is somewhat confusing, he thought it might be best for the committee members to call their legislators and express their thoughts as he has done. Due to the complexities of the bill trying to draft a comprehensive letter wouldn't work.

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

None at this time.

**15. Cancellation of Noncompliance - Farmland Preservation Program:**

Allen J Luebke, Wayne & Donna Martin, Paul & Yvonne Paquet. Carlton Zentner made a motion to accept the cancellations and Matt Foelker seconded. Motion carried 3/0.

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

The most recent statements of revenues and expenditures were distributed. See attached. Per Mark Watkins, we are awaiting our 2<sup>nd</sup> staffing grant reimbursement. It will be sent out before the end of the year. The remainder is approximately \$12,000.

**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 November 20, 2013 at 8:30 in Room 202. Possible agenda items include: Items # 10 and # 14 - # 16

**18. Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn was made by Matt Foelker and seconded by Walt Christensen at 9:13 a.m. Motion carried 3/0.