

Meeting Minutes
Forest County Land Conservation Committee
Tuesday, January 16th, 2018

1. The call to order was given by Chairman Paul Millan in the County Boardroom at 5:00 p.m.
2. The roll was called and members present included; Paul Millan, Chairman, Karl Tauer, Dan Huettl, Larry Sommer, Lance Laabs, and Dave Bula. Member Al Marvin was absent. Administrator Pam LaBine was present.
3. Motion by Karl Tauer to approve the agenda, second by Larry Sommer, all in favor, motion approved.
4. Motion by Larry Sommer to approve the minutes of the last meeting, second by Karl Tauer, all in favor, motion approved.
5. Discussion was held on the four applications for the position of Land and Water Technician. The administrator explained to the committee that this is a “government to government” position and it was important that the applicant understand how government works. In addition, GIS skills are very important to my office. A short discussion was held on the future of the LCC and Zoning departments. Motion by Karl Tauer to forward one application, that of Al Murray, on to the Personnel Committee, second by Larry Sommer, all in favor, motion approved.

Discussion continued as the administrator showed the committee the wage reimbursement form for the DATCP grant due shortly for moneys spent in 2017. She is having a difficult time gathering enough reimbursable wages and allowable items to receive the full amount of the grant. In 2018, because the technician’s chair is already vacant for a month, the administrator will be leaving in June and we will not have recoverable expenses such as the computer and Land and Water Plan expenses, it will be harder to meet the grant maximum. The administrator suggested raising the technicians wage an additional 2 dollars or 18.28 per hour. Motion by Karl Tauer to amend the motion to include recommending an additional 2 dollars per hour increase in the pay rate of the LCC Technician. The motion was seconded by Larry Sommer, all in favor, motion approved.

6. The Committee discussed Land and Water Plan items. The administrator floated a tentative plan to the state and the committee has copies of their reply. We have to do more with farming. The administrator told the committee that if the tech position is hired we would be able to assist private woodland owners. These are landowners that have forests but are not in the MFL program. Discussion continued on the 19K available in 2018 for projects. Lance Laabs suggested we build and own a suction weed harvester. Marinette County built, trained and outfitted their rig for approximately 15K. The administrator has to find out if this item is eligible for that funding as this is in our plan.

7. Discussion was held on the three bills being put forward for payment. Each is for different land and water conservation groups. The Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association billed for 1339.00. The local North Central Land and Water Conservation group billed for 200.00 and the Lumberjack RC & D billed for 200.00. Motion by Karl Tauer to not join the state Land and Water Association but to increase by 100.00 dues forwarded to the two local groups, second by Lance Laabs, all in favor, motion approved.
8. There being no further business, motion by Dave Bula to adjourn, seconded by Larry Sommer, all in favor, motion approved.

Submitted by: _____ 1/17/2018