

Minutes
Forest County Land & Water Resources Committee
Lands Conservation
Thursday, April 12, 2018
Room 107, County Boardroom
Crandon, WI 54520

1. **Call to Order:** The call to order was given by Chairman Pro Tem Karl Tauer at 4:40 p.m. Note that there was not a quorum of the committee until 4:40 when additional members arrived.
2. **Roll Call:** The roll was called, members present were: Karl Tauer, Lance Laabs, Dave Bula, and Larry Sommer. Al Marvin came in late. Others present were Jeannie Fannin and Al Murray. Members of the audience included: Steve Bunda, Ron Karl, Dave Campbell, Tom Tallier, David Meier, Judy Tackes, Jane Severt, Tim Shimek, Carol Tallier, and Randy Burl. Motion by Larry Sommer to have Karl Tauer act as chairman, second by Dave Bula, all in favor, motion approved.
3. **Approval of the Agenda:** Motion by Dave Bula to amend and approve the agenda with the addition for recommendation of 2 citizen members to the committee. , second by Lance Laabs. All in favor, motion approved.
4. **Approval of Last Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting by Larry Sommer, second by Lance Laabs. All in favor, motion approved.
5. **Discussion and Possible Action on DATCP Soil and Water Resource Management (SWRM) Grant Application for staff and support funds :**

- **Option 1- Keep** same structure (Administrator 70%, Conservation Tech 100%)
- **Option 2-** Keep same structure, bump technician position up to forester status (Administrator 70%, Forester 100%)
- **Option 3-** Combine with forestry department (administrator-combined with forestry administrator, Conservation tech (shared) 100%, Forestry Technician (shared) 70%, Forestry Clerk (shared) 50%.

Al Murray explained the advantages and disadvantages of each option listed above. It was also confirmed that this was strictly a forester status not a position to be hired. It is anticipated this status will help procure more funding through DATCP in the future. Al explained that we are on the bottom of DATCP funding due to the fact that we have not had many reportable projects. It is his hope that with the new status we can find more reportable projects because we do not have a lot of farming in this county, we have more private forest lands. It was also clarified by Al that forestry work and resource assessments are authorized conservation activities and that additional cost share programs exist outside of

DATCP that may be utilized by landowners. The discussion also noted the need to push for changes in DATCP ATCP 50 to include forest products, such as maple sap, to be included in DATCP programs as “agricultural” products. Federal programs recognize forest products as “agricultural commodities” whereas ATCP 50 excludes forest products, this limits use of DATCP funding in Forest County.

Motion by Larry Sommer to go with option 2, second by Dave Bula. Voting Aye, Sommer, Bula, Tauer and Marvin, voting Nay, Laabs. Motion carried.

6. **Discussion and Possible Action- DATCP Soil and Water Resource Management 2018 Annual Work Plan- Locally Identified Priorities:** Motion by Al Marvin to approve the 2018 annual work as presented, second by Larry Sommer. All in favor, motion approved.
7. **Discussion and Possible Action SWRM Cost Share Assistance Projects:**
 - a. **Continuation of Lake Metonga Rip Rap:** Motion by Lance Laabs to complete the Lake Metonga project, second by Dave Bula. All in favor, motion approved.
 - b. **County N Peshtigo Culvert-Cooperative with Trout Unlimited:** Motion by Al Marvin to move ahead with the culvert project on County N after notifying and including the Highway Dept., second by Dave Bula. All in favor, motion approved.
8. **Discussion on North Central Land and Water Conservation Assoc. Spring Meeting:** Al informed the committee that it was our turn to host this meeting. The meeting will be held at Lafetta’s on May 17, 2018.
9. **Other Issues as Identified by Committee Members:** Motion by Al Marvin to recommend Larry Sommer for appointment to another term on the LCC committee, Dave Bula still has one year left to serve, second by Dave Bula. All in favor, motion approved.
10. **Adjourn:** Motion by Larry Sommer to adjourn, second by Dave Bula. All in favor, motion approved.

Submitted by: ALLAN J. MURRAY 06/15/2018

These minutes were approved by Land Conservation Committee Action on 6/13/2018