

## FOREST COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Committee: Forest County Land Conservation Committee

Date: Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Time: 2:00 P.M.

Place: Room 107 County Boardroom

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### CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Tallier called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. and read the agenda

### ROLL CALL

Members Present: Tallier, Tauer, & Huettl

Absent: Bula

Others Present: Larry Sommer, Judy Savard (later in meeting), Jeanie Fannin (later in meeting)

### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Tauer to approve the agenda, seconded by Huettl. All present voting AYE. Motion carried.

### APPROVAL OF THE LAST MINUTES

Motion by Tauer to approve the minutes of last meeting, seconded by Huettl. All present voting AYE. Motion carried.

### DISCUSSION ON ISSUES WITH DATCP

There was a discussion on e-mail from Richard Castelnuovo from the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) with concerns regarding use of Soil and Water Resource Management Plan (SWRM) staffing monies. Tallier had questions about if a plan existed to direct the Land Conservation activities and it was verified that there is a plan.

Discussion also included the increased intensity of reviews of the Land and Water Plan by the State Land and Water Board from 1 per 5 years to 1 per 2 years. The DATCP grant is limiting with major limits to agricultural lands mostly. DATCP wants to discuss with LCC at a meeting in July. **Information only- no action required.**

### DISCUSSION ON DATCP SOIL AND WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (SWRM) GRANT APPLICATION FOR STAFF AND SUPPORT FUNDS

DATCP questioned the percentage of time in the grant application for the Zoning administrator position. At request of DATCP the 2019 grant application was modified to reflect the time for the conservationist to be funded at 100%, the administrator was reduced to 50%. DATCP expects 2019 funding approval to be near \$83,000 which is up from approximately \$78,000 in 2018

Tallier started a discussion on USFS Stewardship agreements and how the county may be able to access that funding. Tallier asked if LCD staff would accept work related to USFS stewardship if approved the committee? Staff would be willing to accept that responsibility if approved the committee and explained that this would provide additional cost share opportunities outside of

DATCP. Recommendation from staff was for County to request a stewardship agreement from the USFS. **Tallier requested that Stewardship agreements be added to future agenda of the LLC.** Updated grant application was resubmitted electronically with Pam Labine's signature. **Information only- no action required.**

#### DISCUSSION ON LIDAR AND GIS MAPPING

There was a discussion on the LiDar data, topography mapping and how LCD has already utilized that data for drainage and zoning issues. The data can be utilized by contractors, landowners, Towns and other County departments. Staff presented the agricultural land maps and property listings which show that there are 429 farmers in the county. Staff presented the non-MFL woodland owner maps and property listing which show that there are 2741 non-MFL woodland owners in the County. Staff discussed that these maps and listings will be utilized as customer listings to establish landowner contacts. **Information only- no action required.**

#### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON PARTNERS AND POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS/PROJECTS

##### Discussion and Potential Action on Forest County Town's Association-

There was a discussion on interaction with LCD staff and Towns. Tallier suggested increased contact with Towns and Town departments as part of an overall plan. LCD staff would like to establish a stream crossing workshop working with other partners including DATCP and TU. **Motion by Huettl to approve of LCD working with external partners to establish a workshop for road crews, second by Tauer. All present voting AYE. Motion carried.**

##### Discussion and Potential Action on Trout Unlimited- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Project

There was a discussion regarding TU projects across the county. There are projects completed southeast of Blackwell and they have identified other projects. Tallier displayed support of working with TU as a partner with particular interest in working with private landowners. LCD staff requested authorization to work with the private landowners who have stream crossings identified as TU priorities. **Motion by Tauer to approve of LCD collaborating with TU to contact and assist private landowners for potential cost share on this project, second by Huettl. All present voting AYE. Motion carried.**

##### Discussion and Potential Action on Nature Conservancy- Swanson/Hanson Creek Project-

There was a discussion regarding contact with TNC contacts and about a current project near Nelligan's pond. Tallier relayed information that he had about the project and also displayed support of working with TNC as a partner. LCD staff requested authorization to work with the private landowners who are intermingled across the project currently on USFS. **Motion by Huettl to approve of LCD collaborating with TNC to contact and assist private landowners for potential cost share on this project, second by Tauer. All present voting AYE. Motion carried.**

#### Discussion and Potential Action on FCAL-Robert's Lake Resort

There was a discussion regarding interaction with the Forest County Association of Lakes and their support for finding potential LCD projects. A letter of support for a potential project at Robert's Lake Resort regarding erosion was presented from the Robert's Lake Association. The land owner at Robert's Lake Resort contacted LCD pertaining to potential assistance with erosion issues on his land. LCD has visited the site and pictures were presented. The LCD staff requested authorization to work with the landowner for potential cost share assistance on this project. **Motion by Huettl to approve of LCD working with the owner of Robert's Lake Resort for potential cost share on this project, second by Tauer. All present voting AYE. Motion carried.**

#### Discussion and Potential Action on Laona School Forest- Demonstration Project

There was a discussion regarding interaction with the UW Extension Department pertaining to assisting with finding conservation related projects for youth. The discussion also brought up a potential project at the stream in the Laona School Forest which could benefit from current TU actions in the county. Tallier discussed concerns pertaining to lack of natural resources knowledge from our youth. He relayed a question regarding other school forests across the county and LCD staff indicated the willingness to work with all schools and the UW Extension Department to establish better facilities and programming. Tallier also questioned the Laona School Forest Timber Sale and how that appeared. LCD staff affirmed that the sale had been completed, invasive species addressed and planting had been completed by the school. LCD requested authorization to work with the Laona School District to re-establish the Laona School Forest facilities. **Motion by Huettl to approve of LCD working with the Laona School District to re-establish and re-develop natural resource educational items at the Laona School Forest, including potential cost share, second by Tauer. All present voting AYE. Motion carried.**

#### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL ON LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE AND EMPLOYEES

There was a discussion regarding the structure of the Land Conservation Department. The Land & Water (Zoning) has taken action to separate the Land and Water (Zoning) Department from the Land Conservation Department, however no action pertaining to this split has been taken by LCC. LCD staff explained that this split would have advantages when it comes to clarity with the DATCP grant. The discussion went to the presentation of a propose new job description "Land and Water Conservation Director/County Conservationist". Tallier recommended that this new job description be held over until the County can finish its "re-organization" and comprehensive planning. Huettl verbally supported no changes to the job description until a later date. The discussion then proceeded to wages and the need to increase the wages in the LCC department to adequately spend the DATCP staffing grant money. LCD staff explained that if we do not spend the money, the County would need to return the money to DATCP and future grant funding would likely go down. LCD staff also explained that current wage rate was at \$14.98 per hour in spite of the wage recommendation from LCC at the January 16, 2018 for the beginning rate to be

a \$18.28 per hour. Huettl confirmed that the \$18 per hour rate was approved. Tauer expressed concern that LCC needs to have pay rates at the level to insure that the grant funding is spent in 2018 to insure future grant funding levels. **Motion by Huettl to recommend to the personnel committee to increase wage rates for LCD staff to insure spending of DATCP Staffing Grant in 2018, second by Tauer. All present voting AYE. Motion carried.**

#### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF CITIZEN MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE

There was a discussion on the citizen member of the LCC also known as the FSA alternate. LCD staff discussed the need for this member because of the low overall number of committee members which often leaves the LCC short for a quorum and also for attendance at external groups. The LCC took action to approve Larry Sommer as the FSA alternate in the April 12, 2018 LCC meeting but that approval was never made official. Tauer expressed that the County Board Chair has authorization to make the final appointment. Tallier stated that he would go directly to the County Clerk to get that item on the agenda to finalize the appointment.

**Information only- no action required.**

#### DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ON NON-METALLIC MINING STATUS (GRAVEL PITS)

This item was not officially on the agenda and there was no action taken. The LCD staff presented a report of the non-metallic mines (gravel pits) in Forest County. LCD complete a review of the reclamation bonds in May and all operators who required additional bonds provided increased bonds to bring their pits back into compliance. LCD also explained that it completes GPS surveys of pits each year to determine size of growth or reclamation. Tallier stated that he was unaware that Forest County had so many pits. Judy Savard who had entered into the meeting, requested a copy of the report, LCD staff provided her a copy of the report.

**Information only- no action required.**

#### DISCUSSION ON OTHER ISSUES AS IDENTIFIED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS- FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Tallier asked about LCD involvement with the Pine Lake Association proposed dredging. Tauer provided input from his perspective to confirm the project. LCD staff provided information about joint meetings that staff attended with the Pine Lake Association and DNR where future permitting was discussed. Also discussed were the changes in DNR regulation which allow for 25 cubic yards of dredging by landowners if they meet the requirements for a general permit.

**Information only- no action required.**

LCD staff provided a comment from LCC member, Bula, about concerns with meetings scheduled early in the day with a request from Bula that meeting be held in the evening, after 5:00 p.m. LCD staff took responsibility for meeting time. Huettl confirmed that prior meetings were scheduled later and that too works better for him. **LCD staff will try to schedule future meetings for 5:00 p.m.**

ADJOURN

**There being no further business, motion by Huettl to ajourn, second by Tauer. All present voting AYE. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m.**

These minutes are not official and are subject to change. They will be officially approved at the next scheduled Land Conservation Committee meeting.