

# GRANT COUNTY LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

September 1, 2009  
9:00 a.m.  
Ag Services Building  
Lancaster, Wisconsin

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Paul Landon at 9:00 a.m. Present in addition to Chairman Landon were Don Splinter, William Biefer, Steve Adrian, Vince Loeffelholz, David Klar, and Marvin Kettler. Others present were, Ryan Gerlich, Lynda Schweikert, Jared Reuter, Kevin Lange, and Annette Lolwing

Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by William Biefer that the Committee was in compliance with the Open Meeting Law. Motion carried.

Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Vince Loeffelholz to approve the minutes from the August 4, 2009 meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by Marvin Kettler to approve the agenda with the change that Lynda Schweikert will be giving Greg Cerven's report. Motion carried.

## **WDACP Budget Amendment: Lynda Schweikert**

Lynda reported that Amendment #1 is a \$600.00 increase to the Abatement budget. Increasing the Abatement budget from \$15,550.00 to \$16,150.00. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Don Splinter to approve the \$600.00 increase. Motion carried.

Lynda reported that Amendment #2 is a \$400.00 increase to the WDACP – Deer Donation Program administrative budget from \$1,200.00 to \$1,600.00. This increase is for Annette's time spent on the WDACP. County is also requesting a \$21,000.00 increase for venison processing for the food pantries. This results in a total budget increase of \$21,400.00, increasing the total budget for Grant County from \$16,150.00 to \$37,550.00. County will pay \$50.00 per deer for the processing of venison for the Wisconsin Deer Donation. Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by William Biefer to approve the \$21,400.00 increase. Motion carried.

## **RC & D Coordinator: Steve Bertjens**

Steve reported that he had worked for the Lower Grant River Watershed from 1993 – 1997. He now works for NRCS as the RC & D Coordinator. Steve has been working with Bill Johnson a representative of Alliant Energy on the six farm scale switchgrass plots in Grant County. They are looking for the best management practices for maximizing switchgrass yields in SW WI. There will be a field day on September 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1:00 to 3:30 at the Jim and Terry Schaefer farm. Steve will report back in early winter to report the tons. Steve will also let Lynda know when they will be harvesting the switchgrass.

Steve reported that they are still working on the last 1.5 miles of the bike trail between Platteville and Belmont. Angie Wright wrote the grant and was fortunate to receive a \$1 million grant from the DOT. The original railroad bed is being farmed through, and would like to build the trail in

an area that DNR owns access to. They don't know if DNR will give permission or not to finish the bike trail. RC & D would really like to be able to utilize the grant money that Angie worked hard to receive.

Steve mentioned that RC & D is made up of 9 counties, 9 members and 1 at large member. John Schindler, Grant County, is the at large representative and Vince Loeffelholz, LWCC member is the county representative.

**Bills: Annette Lolwing**

Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Vince Loeffelholz to approve the bills. Motion carried.

**County Board Chairman: John Patcle**

John reported that they are working on the 2010 budget that is due next week.

The county will be having a strategic planning meeting to discuss the use of some UW-Platteville students to go around the county and analyze all the county buildings to determine if it would be more feasible to rent vs. building a new structure. They will be starting with the Highway Department to determine if they should build on site or out at the Orchard Manor property. They will also be studying the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Administration Building and the parking situation.

**Cost Sharing: Lynda Schweikert**

Lynda reported that John Ragatz, Waterloo Twp., is requesting an extension until December 1, 2009 for a stream bank repair project. Motion by Vince Loeffelholz, seconded by William Biefer to grant John's request. Motion carried.

Lynda reported that there are three county cost share cancellation requests. Phillip Schwabe, Muscoda Twp., well decommissioning, \$427.50; Fred Kieler, Paris Twp., grade stabilization structure, \$3,500.00 and Irvin Koethe, Clifton Twp., grassed waterway, \$3,500.00. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by Marvin Kettler to approve the three cancellations. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing on a well decommissioning project for Jerry Anthony, Paris Twp., \$500.00. Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by William Biefer to approve payment. Roll Call: 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing on a grade stabilization structure project for Mark Hudson, North Potosi Twp., \$3,500.00. Motion by Vince Loeffelholz, seconded by Steve Adrian to approve payment. Roll Call: 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for county cost sharing on a grassed waterway project for Doug Leibfried, Harrison Twp., \$1,095.00. Motion by Marvin Kettler, seconded by William Biefer to approve payment. Roll Call: 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent. Motion carried.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for county cost sharing on a grassed waterway project for Robert Page (Renter), Muscoda, Twp., \$2,450.00. Motion by William Biefer, seconded by Marvin Kettler to approve Robert's request. Motion carried.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for county cost sharing on a manure storage facility for Dan Pagenkopf, Ellenboro Twp., \$3,500.00. Motion by Vince Loeffelholz, seconded by Steve Adrian to approve Dan's request. Motion carried.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for county cost sharing on a grade stabilization structure for Lyle Schauff, Beetown Twp., \$2,800.00. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by William Biefer to approve Lyle's request. Motion carried.

Lynda presented tentative approval request for county cost sharing on a stream bank protection project for John Patcle, Waterloo Twp., \$3,500.00. Motion by Vince Loeffelholz, seconded by Steve Adrian to approve John's request. Motion carried. John Patcle abstained.

Lynda presented tentative approval requests for county cost sharing on a well decommissionings for Carl Uppena, East Cassville Twp., \$500.00 and Steve Schneider, South Lancaster Twp., \$500.00. Motion by Marvin Kettler, seconded by Don Splinter to approve both requests. Motion carried.

Lynda presented final approval request for DATCP cost sharing on a nutrient management plan for Steve Mulrooney, Mt. Ida Twp., \$4,816.00. Motion by Don Splinter, seconded by William Biefer to approve payment. Roll Call: 7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent. Motion carried.

**Approval of LWCD Budget: Lynda Schweikert**

Lynda handed out an amended copy of the proposed budget for 2010. Lynda mentioned that she added the MALWEG grant. Lynda did amend the cost per meeting for LWCC members from \$25.00 to \$90.00 and \$25.00 to \$50.00 for the FSA representative per committee meeting. Lynda stated that we were to have a 0% increase in the budget which she had, until the difference between \$25.00 and \$90.00 per meeting rate increased \$5,400.00. The increase in the budget is strictly due to the increase of meeting costs. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by William Biefer to pass this budget on to the finance committee on September 22, 2009.

**Land & Water Conservation Report: Lynda Schweikert**

Lynda reported that she has completed the 2009-2010 MALWEG grant application for \$12,000. The Malweg grant is stipend for \$10,000 for 10 applicants, \$150.00 for supplies and \$1,850 for staff and salary. Lynda sent in the grant application as the deadline was August 31, 2009. Motion by William Biefer, seconded by Dave Klar to approve the application. Motion carried.

Lynda presented a document to delegate Lynda signatory authority for all the Contribution Agreements between the LWCD and the USDA – NRCS. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by William Biefer to approve Lynda's signature authority. Motion carried.

Lynda reported that the Standards and Oversight Committee dues are \$350.00. Motion by Marvin Kettler, seconded by Vince Loeffelholz to approve the payment of the dues. Motion carried.

Lynda reported that the total hail damage on all 4 vehicles was \$8,399.30. Bryhan's Body and Paint Specialist gave the bids. The toppers were the largest cost.

Lynda mentioned that she has \$5,000.00 in the vehicle fund and \$29,450.00 in the contribution agreement account and would like to replace the 2000 Dodge Grand Caravan that has 72,139 miles on it. The van did not qualify for the cash for clunkers program. The Kelly Blue Book

estimates the value of the van at \$3,200.00. Motion by Steve Adrian, seconded by William Biefer for Lynda to solicit for a new or used van. Motion carried.

Lynda reported on the department/staff training. Kevin Lange and herself attended a training session on Nutrient Management Planning Training in Richland Center from 8:30 to 2:30; 50 miles in county vehicle; no lodging; lunch; no overtime, no compensatory time, no replacement staff required. Al Neises attended training at the Arlington Research Station Field Day from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm; 100 miles in county vehicle; no lodging; lunch; no overtime, 2 hour compensatory time, no replacement staff required.

Lynda reported that the landowners in FPP that will be writing their own NMP and landowners that will be working with our office on a NMP will be invited to a soil sampling seminar on September 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1:00 to 3:00 at the Lancaster Agriculture Research Station. There is a Working Lands Initiative meeting on September 29<sup>th</sup>. A group meeting will be held in the near future for those landowners in FPP to educate them on the new Working Lands Initiative Program.

**FPP Report:**

Kevin reported that he has been working on a lot of CREP. He has one contract signed and two more landowners ready to sign their contracts.

Kevin reported that he will be attending the Working Lands Initiative Program meeting on September 29<sup>th</sup>.

**NRCS Report: Ryan Gerlich – Acting DC**

Ryan Gerlich introduced himself. He is from Lafayette County and will be the acting DC for September.

Ryan reported that the applications for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) are being accepted until September 30<sup>th</sup>. In this CSP sign up the landowners will need to be more responsible in providing us with information from FSA and providing us with their farm records. There is a packet of information that has been given/sent to the producer to complete before they sign up the 1200 form (application). Appointments will last approximately 2 hours. Field reviews will be completed by November 30<sup>th</sup>. Contracts will be a 5 year contract with approximately \$18.00 per acre. The CSP will be an ongoing sign up.

Ryan reported that Janet Vosberg will be down to do spot checks.

Ryan reported that the payback/liquidation damages for the cancellation of the 2009 EQIP contract has positive changes coming. Liquidation damages for cancelling a project were based on 20% of the money that was allocated to them.

Ryan mentioned that September 30<sup>th</sup> is the end of the fiscal year.

**FSA Report: Jared Reuter**

Jared mentioned that building rent is at \$15.00 per square foot until the new lease is in place. Jared stated that they will no longer negotiate for the LWCD. In the past FSA would pay the rent and then the LWCD would reimburse FSA for their portion of the rent. FSA has two options: 1. Solicitation for the current space would only be for three years, lease expiring in December of 2011. 2. Then after the three years it will go to a full open solicitation. A full and open

solicitation would be a 10 year contract. Jared has asked to stay co-located with the LWCD, RC&D and DNR. The county agrees with the 3 year option and will look into other options in attempt to keep all the agencies together. In regards to setting budgets in 3 years, we are looking at FSA and NRCS needing 7,000 square feet and with the LWCD, RC&D, and DNR needing 9,000 square feet. Right now we are using 6,775 square feet.

Jared spoke about the new Biomass Crop Assistance Program. It is a program to provide cost share for the harvest, storage and transportation costs associated with the delivery of eligible materials to a designated biomass conversion facility.

Jared stated that they are preparing payments in October for DCP, ACRE, and CRP.

Jared reported that he had a meeting to submit the storm damage reports. Damage in Grant County and Lafayette County will run contiguous with Iowa County to ask for state and federal assistance with crop and building losses. Damage in Grant County was significant enough to be a secretarial designation for assistance.

Jared reported that the new (SED) State Executive Director, Brad Pfaff will be visiting the Grant County office on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, late morning.

Jared reported on the new ACRE program. The state had a huge rush of sign ups at the end, nearing the June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. The state has 2600 contracts and Grant County has 250 ACRE contracts.

**Other Business:**

Motion by Vince Loeffelholz, seconded by Marvin Kettler to adjourn until October 6, 2009.  
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Annette Lolwing for Dwight Nelson