

DRAFT
Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: Land Conservation Committee

Date of Meeting: Thursday, May 3, 2018

Electronic and Hardcopy Filing Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2018

The regular meeting of the Land Conservation and Resource Management Committee was called order at 2:00 p.m. by Acting Chairperson Ms. Nettie Rosenow. Roll call showed that Mr. Don Black, Mr. Don Hillert, and Mr. David Linse were present for all or part of the meeting. Others present for all or part of the meeting: Ms. Carrie Olson

Public Comments regarding posted agenda items: None

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Mr. Don Hillert made a motion to approve the April 5, 2018 minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Linse. All in favor. Carried.

Election of Chairperson Mr. Linse made a motion to nominate Ms. Rosenow for chairperson, seconded by Mr. Hillert. Ms. Rosenow called three times for other nominations. Mr. Hillert made a motion to close nominations, seconded by Mr. Black. All in favor. Carried. Ms. Nettie Rosenow is elected the chairperson of the Land Conservation Committee.

Election of Vice Chairperson Mr. Black made a motion to nominate Mr. Hillert for vice chairperson, seconded by Mr. Linse. Ms. Rosenow called three times for other nominations. Mr. Black made a motion to close nominations, seconded by Mr. Linse. Mr. Don Hillert is elected the Vice Chairperson of the Land Conservation Committee.

Agency Reports: No reports

Resolution to Adopt the Farmland Preservation Plan: Ms. Olson presented the “Resolution to Adopt the Buffalo County Farmland Preservation Plan”. The original farmland preservation plan was adopted in 1983 and the updated 2018 plan as presented provides for the continued preservation of farmland and will allow participation in the farmland preservation program. The farmland preservation plan area includes any agricultural land, woodland, or land in conservation, while non-farmland preservation areas are the commercial, industrial, and residential areas of the county. Those landowners with farmland included in the plan area will have the opportunity to claim tax credits under the voluntary farmland preservation program through Farmland Preservation Zoning or participation in a certified Agricultural Enterprise Area. Motion by Mr. Hillert, seconded by Mr. Black to sign and approve the resolution and forward to County Board of Supervisors for consideration of adoption. All in favor. Carried.

Garden Valley Pond Restoration Project Update: Ms. Olson reported that a pre-construction conference administered by Ayres Associates was held on April 27 for the Garden Valley PL-566 Dam embankment repair project. Adjacent landowners attended, along with WI-DNR Dam Safety Engineer, Mark Stephenson, contractor, Jason Fitzgerald, Town of Belvidere representatives and, Land Conservation staff and committee members. The project timeline was discussed along with funding requirements for the WI-DNR Municipal Dam Grant.

2018 Conservation Practices: The 2018 selected construction conservation practice list was reviewed. Six new projects are planned and ready for construction, while seven projects were approved for carry-over from the 2017 season.

Public Comments Not Relating to the Agenda None given.

Monthly Fiscal Report: A fiscal status report was provided showing 2018 expenses by category for the non-metallic mining reclamation budget. Ms. Olson explained that tracking expenses and staff time will provide data to support the annual permit fee structure.

County Conservationists Report: Ms. Olson presented trout stream easement data in the county and pointed out the varied buffer widths as required through the stream access easements. A discussion was held on distributing the trout stream access information to support economic development opportunities.

Chairperson Report Chair Rosenow questioned the opposition from the Town of Maxville on the Xcel Energy land sale to West Wisconsin Land Trust for WI-DNR land acquisition. A discussion was held on concerns and if any action should be taken as the County Board supervisors received a copy of the letter.

Chair Rosenow spoke about the WI Land and Water's "Food, Land and Water" Report which provided recommendations and strategies to conservation challenges. A discussion was held on strategies to minimize farmland loss, with erosion depleting Wisconsin farmland at a rate of over 60 million tons a year. Strategies discussed included using model contracts for absentee landowners and working with community stakeholders, such as crop consultants, to protect key farmland.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, June 7 at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie Olson
County Conservationist