

DRAFT
Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: Land Conservation Committee

Date of Meeting: Thursday, June 7, 2018

Electronic and Hardcopy Filing Date: Friday, June 8, 2018

The regular meeting of the Land Conservation and Resource Management Committee was called order at 5:00 p.m. by 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.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Mr. Hillert made a motion to approve the May 3, 2018 minutes as printed, seconded by Mr. Black. All in favor. Carried.

Public Comments regarding posted agenda items: None

Agency Reports: None

2018 Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grants: As a result of a recent state bill, the Waumandee Watershed farmer-led group was awarded full grant funding for the 2018 Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant. Ms. Olson explained that a recent bill triples funding for these grants through 2019. The Waumandee group is one of 17 other watershed groups across the state leading land and water conservation efforts through the installation of agricultural conservation practices funded by a state grant match. Ms. Rosenow requested review of final data from the previous year's cover crop trials and demo cropland plots.

Conservation Cost Share Projects: The June Cost Share Project Report was presented. The county flood repair cost share program included 4 repaired Grade Stabilization Dams. Invoices for completed projects under the repair program were submitted for landowners: Brian Tamke, Marie Drescher, and Allen Dittrich. Projects costs and estimates were reviewed; landowner shares were paid with a total of \$15,624.00 and county share due is \$11,950.00, paying only up to the estimate.

CapX restoration project contractor invoices were presented for the Loren and Ruth Wolfe bluff prairie and the Justin Wolfe streambank protection project. The county CapX share for the bluff prairie project is \$1,133.81 and \$2,520.75 for the streambank CapX share on Waumandee Creek. All landowner proof of payments for cost-sharing have been received. An additional application for bluff prairie restoration was reviewed for the Loren and Ruth Wolfe bluff prairie site #2, for restoration of a 2 Acre prairie remnant.

Motion by Mr. Hillert, seconded by Mr. Black to approve payment and approval of projects listed on the June Cost Share Project Report as presented. All in favor. Carried.

Economic Impact of Trout Fishing & Stream Restoration: A Trout Unlimited 2017 study of economic impact of trout fishing and stream restoration in the Driftless Area found that the total spending and economic impact of angling equated to \$1.6 billion. A discussion was held on restoration, signs, maps,

and other ways to promote trout streams in Buffalo County. Ms. Rosenow suggested presenting the 2017 'Economic Impact of Trout Angling in the Driftless Area' Report to the Economic Development Committee meeting for their review.

Strategic Planning Goals: Discussion was held on strategic planning process, including review of short-term and long-term goals for the Land Conservation Department. The strategy includes department goals, costs, staffing needs, expected outcomes, and other planning details. Discussion of the goals included action steps to promote conservation awareness, local natural resource importance, and available conservation cost-share funding and technical support available. Trout stream restoration funding to improve economic development was discussed. An important long-term goal includes supporting the protection of Rose Valley pond by encouraging land-use management and sediment control practices. It was recommended that a map of the rose valley watershed with landowners identified be presented at a future committee meeting. Mr. Hillert suggested encouraging promotion of conservation cost-sharing programs to minimize sediment cropland runoff into the newly dredged pond. Ms. Rosenow suggested including a goal to 'Collaborate with Partners' with an expected outcome of identifying conservation benefits and improvements needed.

Conservation Awards: Discussion was held on promoting conservation through a landowner-farmer recognition program. Ms. Rosenow suggested posting a photograph once a month of good conservation practices that are protecting cropland with recognition of the farmer. Awards and incentivizing good farming practices were discussed. Mr. Black suggested collaboration with other organizations or counties to identify and support farmers with good conservation ethic through awards programs.

County Conservationists Report: Staff are currently running the County Transect Survey, measuring cropland erosion, conservation practices, and crop reporting. Data will be collected and presented at an upcoming meeting.

Chairperson Report No report

Public Comments Not Relating to the Agenda None given.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, August 2nd at 2PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie Olson
County Conservationist