

**DRAFT**  
**Buffalo County Minutes**

**Committee/Board:** Land Conservation Committee

**Date of Meeting:** Thursday, August 2, 2018

**Electronic and Hardcopy Filing Date:** Wednesday, August 8, 2018

The regular meeting of the Land Conservation and Resource Management Committee was called order at 4:30 p.m. by Chairperson Ms. Nettie Rosenow. Roll call showed that Mr. Don Black and Ms. Nettie Rosenow were present for all or part of the meeting. Mr. Don Hillert and Mr. David Linse were excused. Others present for all or part of the meeting: Carrie Olson, Tim Wucherer, and Dennis Reimers.

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Mr. Black made a motion to approve the June 7, 2018 minutes as presented, seconded by Ms. Rosenow. All in favor. Carried.

**Public Comments regarding posted agenda items:** None

**Agency Reports:** Mr. Dennis Reimers, NRCS District Conservationist, presented the NRCS August Report. Conservation funding programs were discussed, including EQIP contracts, CSP application review, and the Statewide Soil Health Initiative funding cover crops. Mr. Reimers discussed the upcoming Local Work Group meeting on August 16<sup>th</sup> which provides an opportunity to locally decide funding priorities within the Big River area.

**Rose Valley Watershed Project:** Ms. Olson presented a Lidar map showing the Rose Valley pond watershed with existing conservation dams mapped. Letters were mailed to landowners in the Rose Valley Watershed to encourage participation in the cropland conservation cost-share program established by the Town of Belvidere. Parcel land ownership and conservation practice need was reviewed. The committee members suggested different communication methods to reach critical landowners with areas of highest conservation need. Alternate funding opportunities were discussed.

**2018 Transect Survey:** Mr. Tim Wucherer presented results from the spring transect survey. Results showed that annual soil loss in Buffalo County was slightly higher than last year, however since 2009, erosion and soil loss has significantly decreased in the county. Cropping data showed a large percentage of cropland in corn, soybeans, and grass hay. Mr. Wucherer noted that acres of hay had decreased as compared to previous year's data.

**2019 Department Budget:** The draft department budget was presented. Ms. Olson explained the budget includes adjustments to non-metallic mining staff time as well as proposed changes to the 2019 non-metallic mining annual user fees. Discussion was held on the challenges of meeting strategic planning goals without additional funds. Motion by Mr. Black, seconded by Ms. Rosenow to approve the 2019 Budget as presented. All in favor. Carried.

**Conservation Cost Share Projects:** The July-August Cost Share Project Report was presented. The county flood repair cost share program included 2 Grade Stabilization Dams cleaned-out under the flood repair program. Invoices for completed projects under the repair program were submitted for Ron Brenner and Dennis Palmer with a county share due of \$4,002.59.

Conservation cost share contract approvals and contractor invoices were presented for the conservation projects at Pat Brovold's Dam View Farm, Noll's Dairy Farm, and Tom Huber's Seiberling Farm. The county share for all total projects is \$13,619. All landowner proof of payments for cost-sharing have been received. Motion by Ms. Rosenow and seconded by Mr. Black to approve and pay for the Cost Share Projects as presented. All in favor. Carried.

**WI Land and Water Updates:** Statewide updates to county conservation programs were discussed. Ms. Olson provided information on the following topics: new targeted NR 151 rule, Farmland Preservation program, outreach and success stories, and upcoming deadlines and events schedule.

**County Conservationists Report:** The County as cooperator with WI DNR Wildlife program was awarded the WI Habitat partnership grant for \$13000.

**Chairperson Report** Chair Rosenow suggested several local projects that could be considered for media outreach stories. Ms. Rosenow inquired about minimizing flood damage to county owned roads through conservation practice installation.

**Public Comments Not Relating to the Agenda** None given.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, September 13 at 4:30 p.m.

**The meeting was adjourned** at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carrie Olson  
County Conservationist