

## Buffalo County Minutes

**Committee/Board:** Land Conservation Committee

**Date of Meeting:** Thursday, November 15, 2018

**Electronic and Hardcopy Filing Date:** Tuesday, November 20, 2018

The regular meeting of the Land Conservation and Resource Management Committee was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chairperson Nettie Rosenow. Roll call showed that Don Black, David Linse, and Don Hillert were present for all or part of the meeting. Others present for all or part of the meeting: Carrie Olson, Dennis Reimers, and Brent Weaver.

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Hillert made a motion to approve the October 18, 2018 minutes as presented, seconded by Linse. All in favor. Carried.

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

**Agency Reports:** Dennis Reimers, NRCS District Conservationist, presented the NRCS Report. Conservation program application deadlines and participant payments were discussed. Conservation staff have been performing field checks for cover crops and for completed conservation practices. He explained how programs are affected without a reauthorized 2018 Farm Bill.

**Woodland Management and Erosion:** DNR Tax Law Forestry Specialist, Brent Weaver presented information relative to erosion and woodland management. He shared that 45% of landowners in Buffalo County are enrolled in the Managed Forest Law (MFL) tax program. When asked, Weaver explained that gully erosion is challenging to manage due to the complexity of forest management, runoff water from cropland and ridge sites, and the recent intense rain events. He explained the atypical heavy rains caused initial damage to the gullies and since then have not had a chance to heal, resulting in persistent erosion and sedimentation. Discussion included forestry best management practices during logging operations, including logging roads, timber harvesting, water quality, and seeding.

**Garden Valley #10 Dam (Rose Valley) Repair:** Olson explained that since the previous committee meeting at the project site, there were significant project delays due to rain, material ordering and shipping delays, and freezing temperatures. A stop work order was posted on November 7<sup>th</sup> to temporarily suspend work until spring. She shared that a conference call was held with the contractor and bonding agency to discuss potential penalties and to establish a timeline. Currently the site is getting seeded and stabilized for the winter and work will progress in the spring provided an updated submittal log and timeline are approved.

**Conservation Cost Share Projects:** The November Conservation Project Report was presented. The county flood repair cost share program included 9 Grade Stabilization Dams cleaned-out for 3 landowners. Invoices for completed projects under the repair program were submitted for: Chuck Schultz, Ben Schams, and Modena Farms. The total cost for all projects is \$23,770.50, with the county share due \$10,384.75.

Conservation cost share contract approvals and contractor invoices were presented for 2 CCC Dam repair projects at Larry Michaels. The State share for the project is \$2,971.85. All landowner proof of payments for cost-sharing have been received.

Conservation CapX2020 trout stream restoration projects included 2 phases of stream restoration on Shoe Creek, near Pepin County boundary. Total project costs were \$32,032.64 with the county share of the project at \$10,000.00.

Motion by Black seconded by Linse to approve and pay for the Cost Share Projects as presented. All in favor. Carried.

**Rose Valley Watershed Project:** Discussion was held on utilizing a public-private partnership to accomplish conservation goals in the Rose Valley Watershed to prevent sedimentation from entering the Rose Valley (Garden Valley Dam) Pond. Committee members defined project steps as being: (1) Inventory and identify all problem areas that are causing erosion and sedimentation; (2) Establish a subcommittee with Township, County, landowners, and farmers to develop a watershed plan with local input; (3) Identify private companies, including local and regional companies, that may have foundations for funding or acquire other funding opportunities.

**Conservation Recognition:** Conservation department will promote conservation through various media outlets. Photographs of good conservation practices will be posted on the website to recognize landowners across the county that are practicing conservation farming. Landowners will be encouraged to submit photos of their family farm.

**WI Land and Water Updates:**

- Buffalo County transferred SEG cost-share funds to Racine County
- 2019 joint allocation plan for DATCP and DNR grants was finalized. Buffalo County was awarded cost-share funds for conservation practices, including Soil and Water Conservation funds, Producer-led watershed grant for Waumandee Watershed, Nutrient Management Farmer Education (NMFE) grant, and 1 Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) grant.

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

**County Conservationists Report:** Land Conservation and Zoning Departments collaborated with Department of Public Health on private well water test kit training to assist landowners with sampling in the field. All test results since 2011 were compiled and sent to UWSP for mapping. A report will be drafted by Public Health staff that includes mapping results.

**Chairperson Report** No report.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, December 13 at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Olson  
County Conservationist