

**Draft**

**Buffalo County Minutes**

**Committee/Board:** Land Conservation and Ag & Extension Committee

**Date of Meeting:** February 1, 2021

**Electronic and Hardcopy Filing Date:** February --, 2021

**Call to order:** Meeting called to order by Dwight Ruff, Chair, at 6:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Dwight Ruff, Brad Schmidtknecht, Steve Nelson, John Sendelbach, Bill Bruegger, and Dave Linse.

**Others present for all or parts of the meeting:** Kristin Foehringer, Time Wucherer, Joe Krumrie, Anissa Glaus, Pat Malone,

**Attending via video:** Carl Duley, Annie Lisowski, Mary Campbell Wood

**Public comments regarding agenda items:** None

**Review/Discussion/Action- Minutes of the December:** A Motion was made by Mr. Bruegger and Seconded by Mr. Schmidtknecht to approve the minutes of the last Land Conservation & Ag and Extension Education Committee meeting from December 7, 2020 as presented. Motion carried.

**Ag & Extension**

**Review/Discussion/Action- Alec Sundelius- 2020 WDACP Crop Price Approval:** Alec gave a summary of crop damage from a bear, needs approval for prices to set per ton for the loss of Alfalfa. Hay was considered a complete loss with 17.5 tons for damage claim with 32% moisture. A motion was made by Mr. Schmidtknecht and seconded by Mr. Bruegger to approve the \$174 per ton price.

**Review/Discussion/Action- Alec Sundelius- 2020 WDACP Damage claim Approval:** Bales were a complete loss. Total for claim was \$3045 with a \$500 deductible. Claim total is \$2545. Motion was made by Mr. Schmidtknecht to approve the claim for \$2545 and seconded by Mr. Nelson. Motion Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action- Extension Summer Interns:**

- A. Ag Intern: Job internship 2021- Carl Duley sent out info to nearby universities. Job description is made up, waiting on funding options. The inter will help with data collection, monitoring plots, the tractor safety program, and maybe more depending on the number of interns. There will be enough grant funds to cover the interns. No impact on county budget. Motion was made by Mr. Bruegger and seconded by Mr. Sendelbach to approve the summer Ag Intern.
- B. Youth Intern: Annie Lisowski- Unusual year with a new committee. No action is needed as youth inter is funded by the 4H leaders' association in its entirety. No county money is needed for the youth intern. Waiting to hear about guidelines and approval before posting job. Should have more information by March 15<sup>th</sup> with hopes to have the job posting up by early April.

**Review/Discussion- Introduce 4-H Program Assistant:** New 4-H program assistant Paige Dewitt, serving as 4-H assistant and working 40% of the time.

**Educator Report:** The educators shared highlights from their reports. Their reports are on file in the extension office.

**Land Conservation:**

**Review/Discussion/Action: Land and Water Resource Management Plan Advisory Committee:** Ms. Foehringer presented her plan for an advisory committee as well as the people she would like to have on the committee. This is a 10-year plan that the county must write for the state with a 12-month checklist which determines how we receive cost share funds. She explained about the current priority watershed and implementing and tracking strategies for once the plan is developed. Motion made by Mr. Sendelbach to approve the core group of nominees and seconded by Mr. Schmidtknecht. Motion Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action: Roller Crimper Update:** Mr. Duley provided a brief overview of the roller crimper for rent. He explained that there are two different options for us to access one and purchasing one this year won't be necessary. There is one in Arlington that will be available to rent when we need it as well as one in Vernon County from the Land Conservation Department that we can rent if needed. No motion or action was needed on this update.

**Review/Discussion- Natural Resources Summer Intern Program:** Summer internship program is collaborative among NRCS, DNR, and Land Conservation. They are agreeing to move forward with an intern in light of covid. There will be enough to keep them busy and give them field work throughout the summer. The summer internship stipend is donation-based and funds from the county are not needed. The internship is a 12-week program and offers a \$6000 scholarship. Mr. Ruff entertains a motion to offer support and Mr. Schmidtknecht seconds this motion.

**Review/Discussion/Action- Perpetual Rud CREP easement-potential conservation cover damage:** Ms. Foehringer provided an overview of the landowner request to dredge sediment within a perpetual easement and needs approval to allow modification to a perpetual easement. DATCP requires all FSA, NRCS, Land Conservation and the landowner to have an approved plan to replace damaged conservation cover after earthwork activity. Motion was made by Mr. Sendelbach and seconded by Mr. Nelson to support the conservation cover replacement plan in perpetual CREP easement.

**Review/Discussion/Action-County non-metallic mining program update:** Mr. Wucherer discussed the nonmetallic mines in the county and the requirement for financial assurance. He also discussed the Buffalo White Sands mine and how their financial assurance bond was cancelled without notice. The operator is found to be in violation of their permit and NR 135 without proper financial assurance. A Motion was made by Mr. Schmidtknecht and seconded by Mr. Nelson to assess a \$25 per day fine, from the time their financial assurance was cancelled, and to raise the fine to \$100/day if no contact/response is made after 30 days of written notice.

**Review/Discussion/Action- Letter to natural resources board regarding proposed land acquisition:** Brief overview of the railroad site in the Tiffany Bottoms. 11.2 miles long, from Durand to highway 35.

Approximately 166 acres. If it is sold to a private entity it could restrict public access and given the natural resources logistical problems to manage land they can't get to. Motion by Mr. Bruegger and seconded by Mr. Schmidtknecht to support DNR acquisition of railroad bed in Tiffany Bottom Wildlife Refuge.

**Review/Discussion/Action- Proposal for Thrive! Center Donation:** Ms. Foehringer explained that the county and Village of Nelson received a proposal for the donation of Thrive! Center, 3.6 acres within Thrive! Park, to the Village of Nelson and/or Buffalo County. Discussion was held on operation and maintenance costs and long-range planning of the property. No action needed as it is an evolving discussion.

**Agency Reports:** FSA: Interviewing for new CV next week.

**Chairperson Report:** No report.

**Conservationist Report:** Ms. Foehringer gave a Tell Farms update and offered a tour of the completed DNR-funded cost-share project in spring of 2021. Tim Wucherer to sponsor snap plus training sessions starting this Thursday. Soil seminar on Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:30. Update given on Town of Montana Bridge replacement with undersized culverts.

**Next Meeting Date/Time:** March 1, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.

**Public Comments:** There were no public comments.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Dwight Ruff at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by

Anissa Glaus

Administrative Assistant