

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

**Committee/Board:** Land Conservation Committee

**Date of Meeting:** Thursday, May 02, 2019

**Electronic and Hardcopy Filing Date:** Friday, May 3, 2019

The regular meeting of the Land Conservation Committee was called order at 3:00 p.m. by Chairperson Nettie Rosenow. Roll call showed that David Linse, Don Hillert, and Don Black (arriving at 3:07 p.m.) were present for all or part of the meeting. Others present for all or part of the meeting: Carrie Olson, Tim Wucherer, Dennis Reimers, Candy Andersen, Lee Engfer.

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Hillert made a motion to approve the March 7, 2019 minutes as presented, seconded by Linse. All in favor. Carried.

**Public Comments regarding posted agenda items:** Candy Andersen introduced herself, along with colleague, Kaitlen, as being representatives of Milestone Materials. They came to listen to the Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation Fee discussion.

**Agency Reports:** Dennis Reimers, NRCS District Conservationist, presented the NRCS Report. Conservation program contracts and timelines were discussed. 2019 EQIP contract funding practices were described, including Soil Health, Beginning Farmers, Forestry, and Trout Stream Restoration. EQIP program includes a third application with deadline of May 17<sup>th</sup>, while the CSP program has an upcoming deadline of May 10<sup>th</sup>. He also reported work has started for Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland compliance inspection checks.

**Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation Report and Annual Fees:** Tim Wucherer, Land Conservation Resource Specialist presented the 2018 non-metallic mining (NMM) annual report. He described the inspection process and GIS boundary mapping project to more accurately capture annual disturbed and total mine site disturbed acres. There was a discussion on workload and job duties. Financial Assurances, permit timelines, and reclamation standards were discussed.

A discussion was held on NMM reclamation annual fees, which are set by county resolution. Olson explained that state law requires fees must be used for reasonable expenses associated with administration of the program. Committee members reviewed possible administrative expenses including: inspection, trainings, plan review, equipment purchases, or surveys. Olson presented annual NMM program budget numbers from 2015 to 2018 showing that the budget surplus for the past four years averaged \$25,000. Committee recommended annual fees be reduced to balance the NMM budget. Olson was tasked to draft a proposed reduced fee schedule to present during next month's committee meeting, along with a resolution to amend non-metallic mine reclamation annual fees.

**Garden Valley #10 (Rose Valley) Dam Update:** Olson reported that rain and high water in the rose valley pond has delayed the start of embankment construction activities. All materials have been staged at the site. Construction will begin with an approved construction schedule as soon as water levels drop. Lee Engfer expressed concerns with the amount of sediment that has accumulated at the upper end of the pond. He felt the contractors should be held liable for removal of the 6-8' of fill.

**Conservation Cost Share Projects:** The April Cost Share Project Report was presented. Conservation cost share contract approvals and contractor invoices were presented for 2 CCC Dams restoration projects. The State share for the Fredrickson project is \$7,997.50 and for the Cooke project is \$7,542.50. All landowner proof of payments for cost-sharing have been received.

Conservation CapX2020 bluff prairie restoration included Lone's Peak in Nelson. Total project costs were \$5,650 with the county share of the project at \$2,150.00.

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

**WI Land and Water Updates:** A press release from WI Land and Water describing budget priority solutions to improve local land and water resources was shared. Water quality budget priorities included: fully funding county conservation staffing and support grants, fund groundwater mapping programs, and support Governor's clean water initiatives.

**County Conservationists Report:** Olson shared an event poster for the annual Trout Celebration Day, held Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> on Trout Creek at Barry Johnson property.

**Chairperson Report** Chair Rosenow shared DATCP and the UW System's, 'Dairy Task Force 2.0 Final Recommendations' report. She observed that conservation, manure management, and water quality were not included in the final endorsements list. She is looking for the LCC to make a recommendation to the Dairy Task Force to include conservation. Chair Rosenow shared carbon use emissions on a national map scale. CO2 emissions were reported by country, with statistics to compare other country's emission use to the United States.

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

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, June 6th at 3:00 p.m. at the Rose Valley Pond, W1481 Rose Valley RD., Cochrane, WI.

**The meeting was adjourned** at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carrie Olson  
County Conservationist