

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

**Committee/Board:** Land Conservation Committee

**Date of Meeting:** Thursday, June 06, 2019

**Electronic and Hardcopy Filing Date:** Friday, June 7, 2019

The regular meeting of the Land Conservation Committee was called order at 3:07 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, April Loeffler (Public Health Supervisor, Department of Health and Human Services), and Kaitlynn Filkins (Milestone Materials).

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Hillert made a motion to approve the May 2, 2019 minutes as presented, seconded by Black. All in favor. Carried.

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

**Agency Reports:** None.

**Public Health Department Presentation on Private Drinking Water Quality:** Buffalo County Public Health Supervisor and Health Officer, April Loeffler, reported on private well water testing services offered in DHHS and potential health concerns when wells have been reported as being contaminated with nitrate, bacteria, or arsenic. She described the history of private well water sampling efforts in Buffalo County and outreach efforts by the Health and Human Services Department. There were discussions on analyzing sources of nitrates (fertilizers, animal manure, and septic waste), land use impacts to groundwater, and mapping Buffalo County well and nitrate data (using the UW-Steven's Point Well Water Viewer).

Land Conservation Committee members recommended evaluation of private well water data with a goal of providing outreach to specific areas in the county shown to have elevated nitrate levels above safe drinking water levels. Conservation cropping and nutrient management planning education and awareness were suggested as being important tools committee members can promote. A suggested task force that would include county staff from several departments could be formed to assist with outreach.

**Resolution to Amend Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation Annual Fees:** Olson presented a "Resolution to Amend Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation Annual Fees". Annual fees collected are based on the un-reclaimed area of disturbance and by state law, should reflect the reasonable and actual costs for administering the program, including reclamation plan review, inspection, reporting, and compliance. Previous fees adopted by resolution in 2014 were \$170 per acre, regardless of size. The proposed fees follow a flat fee schedule. Time tracking and program expense review were used to adjust fees based on the reasonable and actual program administration costs. Motion by Hillert, seconded by Black to approve the Resolution to Amend Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation Annual Fees as presented. All in favor. Carried.

**Conservation Cost Share Projects:** The May Cost Share Project Report was presented. Conservation cost share contract approvals and contractor invoices were presented for one flood dam cleanout project.

The Landowner has paid \$5,197.50 and the County share for the Stoltz project is \$2,000.00. All landowner proof of payments for cost-sharing have been received. Six flood cleanout projects remain and will be completed by the end of the year.

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

**The Committee May Go Into Closed Session to Discuss Employee Review:**

Rosenow made a motion to enter into closed session, seconded by Black. Roll call vote was taken: Black – yes, Hillert – yes, Linse – yes, and Rosenow – yes. Motion Carried.

**The Committee May Return to Open Session:**

Linse made a motion to return to open session, seconded by Hillert. Roll call vote was taken: Black – yes, Hillert – yes, Linse – yes, and Rosenow – yes. Motion Carried.

**County Conservationists Report:** Olson presented information on the following topics:

- Garden Valley #10 (Rose Valley) Dam Repair project has been on-hold due to rain and wet conditions. An extension to the substantial completion timeline will be granted with a July 1, 2019 deadline.
- Land Conservation approved the first Farmland Preservation Certificate of Compliance under the new County Zoning Ordinance to landowner, Carol Iberg. Additional certificates will soon be approved to other landowners meeting requirements with land in Farmland Preservation Zoning Districts.
- Trout Stream Easement maps will be published on the county website soon. Jason Poser (GIS) has created a map layout for each public access point describing access location and stream easement information.

**Chairperson Report** No report.

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

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, July 11 at 3 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Carrie Olson  
County Conservationist