

DRAFT
Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: Land Conservation Committee

Date of Meeting: Thursday, August 15, 2019

Electronic and Hardcopy Filing Date: Monday, August 19, 2019

The regular meeting of the Land Conservation Committee was called to order at W1481 Rose Valley Road, Cochrane, WI at 3:00 p.m. by Chairperson Nettie Rosenow. Roll call showed that David Linse and Don Hillert were present for all or part of the meeting. Don Black was excused. Others present for all or part of the meeting: Carrie Olson, Tim Wucherer, Tom Schultz, Larkin Hoepner, Erik Prochnow, and David Danzinger.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Hillert made a motion to approve the July 11, 2019 minutes as presented, seconded by Linse. All in favor. Carried.

Public Comments regarding posted agenda items: None

Garden Valley (Rose Valley) PL-566 Dam Project: Committee members elected to take a tour of the Rose Valley pond and dam restoration project site at the end of the meeting. Project details, project change orders, and project budget were discussed. A list of items requiring contractor correction and final completion were described. Use of the drawdown gate was conveyed as being for maintenance purposes only, and not for flood control. The committee inquired about public access and future recreational fishing opportunities, which were explained to include an accessible fishing pier donated by the Town of Belvidere with access from the town road and DNR fish stocking early next spring.

There was a discussion on the amount of sedimentation in the pond. Future proposed sediment dams in the Rose Valley Watershed that would minimize sedimentation and protect the repaired dam were discussed.

Natural Resources Intern Report: Larkin Hoepner introduced herself as this year's Natural Resources Intern. She described her educational background and the highlights of her internship working with multiple agencies.

Erik Prochnow, the Highway Department/Land Conservation summer Intern introduced himself. He described the culvert inventory data management and conservation cost-share practice mapping projects. Approximately 1100 culverts were inventoried and over 600 conservation practices digitized over the course of the summer internship.

2019 Transect Survey Report: Tim Wucherer reported on the 2019 annual Soil Transect Survey. According to the data, the average annual soil loss in Buffalo County has been below the annual tolerable soil loss (T) since 2016, with the 2019 county average being 1.7 tons/acre. Tim noted that these calculations are a snapshot in time and do not include extreme rain events. Tim shared cropping data, pointing out that between 2018 and 2019, corn increased from 39% to 46%, while soybeans decreased from 25% to 16%. Both gully erosion and idle land were observed during the survey.

Rose Valley Watershed Project: Tom Schultz presented information relative to the Rose Valley Watershed project. Tom reported on inspections performed with landowners in the Rose Valley Watershed to encourage participation in the cropland conservation cost-share program set up by the Town of Belvidere. He described project locations where conservation dams have been selected for funding. Funding sources and conservation practice need were discussed.

Conservation Cost Share Projects: The August Cost Share Project Report was presented. The county flood repair cost share program included 4 Grade Stabilization Dams cleaned-out for 1 landowner. Invoices for completed projects under the repair program were submitted for: Joe Bragger. The landowner portion was paid at \$10,976 and county share due is \$9,000. Motion by Linse, seconded by Hillert to approve and pay for the Cost Share Projects as presented. All in favor. Carried.

Committee Structures: Discussion was held on County Board and Committee structure, including the number of members (as set by state statute 92), the need for monthly meetings (as priorities necessitate), and the committee's role (advocates for conservation).

County Conservationists Report: Olson reported that Tom Schultz has been working to organize a Structures Technical Training for statewide staff to be held September 25th with a tour of grade stabilization and flood control structures on various farms in the county. Buffalo County Trout Stream Field Guide and Access maps are now available on-line, with a direct link on the Land Conservation webpage.

Chairperson Report No report.

Public Comments Not Relating to the Agenda None given.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. A tour of the completed project was provided after the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie Olson
County Conservationist