

Draft
Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: Land Conservation & Ag and Extension Committee

Date of Meeting: November 2, 2020

Call to order: Meeting called to order by Dwight Ruff, Chair, at 6:10 p.m.

Members present: Mr. Dwight Ruff, Mr. Steve Nelson, Mr. William Bruegger, Sr., and Mr. John Sendelbach appeared in person. Mr. Dave Linse and Mr. Brad Schmidtknecht appeared via Teams.

Others present for all or parts of the meeting: Ms. Sonya Hansen, Ms. Kristin Foehringer and Mr. Tim Wucherer.

Public Comments regarding Agenda Items: None

Review/Discussion/Action ~ Minutes of the Previous Meeting: A motion was made by Mr. Bruegger, Sr. seconded by Mr. Nelson to approve the minutes from October 5th and October 16th as sent. Motion Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action ~ Recommendation to Appoint Kristin Foehringer as County Land Conservationist to County Board of Supervisors: A motion was made by Mr. Nelson seconded by Mr. Sendelbach to recommend the appointment of Ms. Kristin Foehringer as the County Land Conservationist to the County Board of Supervisors at their November meeting. Motion Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action ~ Fill Vacant Land Conservation Technician Position, Review Position Justification and Requisition Form: A motion was made by Mr. Bruegger, Sr. seconded by Mr. Sendelbach to approve moving forward with recruitment and hiring of the Land Conservation Technician due to the promotion of Ms. Foehringer to retain state funding levels and meet the goals of the department. Motion Carried. The Interview Committee will consist of the Chair, Land Conservationist and the Personnel Advisor.

Review/Discussion ~ LCC Member Training Materials Provided by WI Land and Water “Trainings for Counties”: Ms. Foehringer provided the committee members with the following resources:

Land and Water Training: <http://wislandwatermedia.org/webinars>

LCC Handbook: https://wisconsinlandwater.org/files/pdf/2020_LCC_Handbook_FINAL.pdf

She indicated that in the past, these trainings were held in person and allowed committee members to connect with other county leaders to share ideas and keep current on local activities. She encouraged the members to review this training material as it will assist them in

understanding the roles and responsibilities of the Land Conservation Committee, as well as, the statutes that govern soil and water practices and cost-share programs.

Review/Discussion/Action ~ Update on PL-566 Program and Schedule Presentation with Scott Mueller, NRCS Assistant State Engineer: Ms. Foehringer informed the committee that Buffalo County is responsible for the safe operation and maintenance of the twelve (12) PL 566 watershed structures located in the County for flood prevention for their expected lifespan. She indicated that there are budgeted funds set aside to be used for annual maintenance of flood water retarding and grade stabilization. These structures are inspected and there are some upcoming challenges and concerns with a couple of the structures that will need to be addressed. She stated that Scott Mueller, NRCS Assistant State Engineer, is willing to meet with the committee to review and discuss the current status of our PL 566 watershed structures. It was the consensus of the committee to invite Mr. Mueller to our December meeting.

Review/Discussion/Action ~ Review and Approve Proposed Cost-Share Practice Application and Screening Process: A motion was made by Mr. Bruegger, Sr. seconded by Mr. Nelson to approve the Cost-Share Practice Application and Screening Process as presented. Motion Carried.

Review/Discussion ~ Update on Tell Farms: Ms. Foehringer shared photos from the project and identified areas of concern that will be addressed with the owners. Mr. Wucherer stated that he was going to be seeding some sections on the project. Ms. Foehringer indicated that the engineer has been on site and at this time, the project timeline appears to be on track.

Agency Reports ~ USDA-NRCS/FSA: Dennis Reimers was unable to attend this meeting and will have a report for the next meeting.

Chairperson Report: Chair Ruff encouraged the members to view the webinars and training information provided to them so that when the department brings ideas forward, that the committee has a general understanding of the programs. He also indicated that he would like to see the contract for the Bluff Prairie Restoration Project include language for the landowner to maintain the property, using tools such as prescribed burning, after being awarded funding.

Land Conservation Report: Ms. Foehringer indicated that they held their first meeting to look at the Outdoor Recreational Plan. She indicated that assistance is being provided by Abbey Nicewander from Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission and that as the plan develops, it will be brought back to the committee. She discussed the need to begin the process of updating the County's Land and Water Resource Management Plan starting in December 2020.

Public comments not regarding Agenda items – There were no public comments.

Review/Discussion/Action – Next Meeting Date: The next meeting date will be December 7, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Mr. Sendelbach seconded by Mr. Bruegger, Sr. to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m. Motion Carried.

Submitted by:

Sonya J. Hansen, Recording Secretary