

LWCC MEETING MINUTES

VERNON COUNTY LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE May 13th, 2021 MEETING

Present:

Committee: Will Beitlich-Chairman, Kevin Larson-Vice-Chair, Frank Easterday, Kelli Mitchell, and Rod Ofte
Staff: Ben Wojahn, Sarah McDowell, Monique Hassman, Marty Kennedy, Nick Gilman, Matt Albright, and Mark Erickson
Guests: Max Kane-Landowner, Nikki Swayne-Corporation Council, Phil Peterson-USDA-APHIS, Alycann Taylor, County Board, Mary Henry-County Board, Christine Walrath-WI DNR.

1. Call to Order
Beitlich called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.
2. Affirmation of Proper Public Notice of meeting
Wojahn affirmed.
3. Review (amend if needed) and approve minutes from March 11th, 2021 meeting.
A motion was made by Easterday to approve the minutes, second by Mitchell. All ayes, motion carried.
4. Review and Approve Bills for Payment
A motion was made by Ofte to approve the bills for payment, second by Easterday. All ayes, motion carried.
5. Agency Reports (NRCS, DNR, FSA, RC &D, UW-Ext., any others)
None
6. Audience to Visitors
None
7. Schedule next LWCC meeting(s)
June 10th @ 9:30 location to be determined
July 8th @ 9:30 location to be determined
8. Approval to Purchase Runge Hollow Property
A motion was made to go into closed session by Easterday, second by Mitchell. All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made to go back into open session by Mitchell, second by Easterday. All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made to purchase the Runge Hollow property for \$12,500 by Larson, second by Easterday. All ayes, motion carried.

9. Consideration of Special Activity at Sidie Hollow

Nikki explained that she didn't think it was a good idea to allow this and we should do it because of liability.

10. Approval of Outdoor Recreation Plan

A motion was made to approve the Outdoor Recreation Plan by Easterday, second by Mitchell. All ayes, motion carried.

11. Approval for Snowmobile Grant Resolution

A motion was made to approve the Snowmobile Grant Resolution by Larson, second by Beitlich. All ayes, motion carried.

12. Approval for Outdoor Recreation Aids Resolution

A motion was made to approve the outdoor recreation Aids Resolution by Mitchell, second by Larson. All ayes, motion carried.

13. Tree Planting Update

Gilman stated that they hired the football team through a grant to plant trees. They planted 4,000 trees in about 5 hours.

14. Timber Sale Update

Gilman stated that Jersey Valley is closed out, Duck Egg we will received a payment soon and Sidie Hollow public relations have started as that is one that people will have a lot of opinions about.

15. Parks Update

Camping and parks are very busy. The revenue is high and we expect it to stay that way.

16. Approval for Camping Site Expansion at Sidie Hollow

The tobacco shed has been torn down and we are seeking approval to put three new full hook up sites where it was. A motion was made to not exceed \$10,000 by Larson, second by Easterday. All ayes, motion carried.

17. Approval for Rustic Camping at Lost Creek

A motion was made to do one time special permit camping at Lost Creek for 2021 season by the staff's discretion.

18. Ostrem Dam (WF-03) Hazard Rating

Erickson stated that there is only one landowner to get out of the floodplain by doing some carpentry work to get the hazard rating. The committee asked Erickson to get prices and come back to the committee.

19. Powertrac Sale and Sealed Bid Approval

The highest bid that they received is \$5,500. After discussion Ofte decided to rescind the motion to sell the powertrac and second by Larson. All ayes, motion passed.

20. Dams Emergency Action Plan Update and Approval

A motion was made to approve the updates to the Dams Emergency Action Plan by Larson, second by Mitchell. All ayes, motion carried.

21. Approval to Renew Avalanche Farm Rental Lease

A motion was made to approve an additional three year lease at the same rate by Easterday, second by Mitchell. All ayes, motion carried.

22. Wildlife Damage Permanent Fence Budget Amendment (Phil Peterson-USDA-APHIS)
Phil Peterson from USDA-APHIS recommended approving the Ethan Bolstad orchard increase in the budget of an additional \$13,000. A motion was made by Larson to approve the recommended increase, second by Beitlich. All ayes, motion carried.
23. Manure Storage Update
Wojahn stated that they are working with Monroe County and some other to revise the ordinance.
24. Accounts Manager Report
McDowell gave the balances in all the accounts and discussed the VSN shared position balance.
25. Watershed Planning Update
Wojahn stated there isn't much of an update since the County Board Presentation.
26. Reports from Committee Members and Announcements
The Friends of Vernon County Parks is having lots of events this summer including hikes, music and yoga.
27. Adjourn Meeting
Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Easterday, second by Larson. All ayes, motion carried.