

LWCC MEETING MINUTES

VERNON COUNTY LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE July 9th, 2020 MEETING Esofea Park Shelter

Present:

Committee: Will Beitlich-Chair, Kevin Larson-Vice-Chair, Frank Easterday, Rod Ofte, and Kelli Mitchell

Staff: Ben Wojahn, Sarah McDowell, Marty Kennedy, Matt Albright, and Mark Erickson

Guests: Mary Henry-County Board, Loren Oldenburg-WI Assembly, Renee Valk-GCS, Doug Avoles-LIO, Dawn Nemec-Register of Deeds

1. Call to Order
Beitlich called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.
2. Affirmation of Proper Public Notice of meeting
Wojahn affirmed.
3. Review (amend if needed) and approve minutes from the June 11th, 2020 meeting.
A motion was made by Mitchell to approve the minutes, second by Larson. All ayes, motion carried.
4. Review and Approve Bills for Payment
A motion was made by Larson to approve the bills for payment, second by Ofte. 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)
August 13th @ 9:30 a.m. @ Sidie Hollow County Park
September 10th @ 9:30 a.m.
8. Camping Update
Kennedy stated that the Parks have been really busy with campers since they were able to open. We did get a really late start to the year not being open until after Memorial Day that we missed out on all that revenue early on. The shower and restroom facility is finally done at Esofea after many Covid delays.
9. Project and Equipment Needs Update
Wojahn stated that we have many project and equipment needs and passed out a list of some of those. Some of which we hope to complete or purchase this fall, some of which we have budgeted for in 2021 and some that will have to wait.
10. 2021 Budget Approval
McDowell stated that she has done the 2021 budget as requested with a 0% increase from 2020. However, \$50,000 was taken from our Dams budget each year and coming in at

0% means another \$50,000 is taken plus the \$30,000 that was taken in 2019, so we are starting \$80,000 down. The committee discussed some things related to the dams and then approved the budget at the 0% increase. A motion was made by Easterday, second by Mitchell. All ayes, motioned carried.

11. Accounts Manager Report

McDowell stated that these are the balances of our accounts as of June 30th and there are somethings like FEMA and other grants in them for projects that need to be completed so the balances don't really reflect what money we have to spend.

Ben Froiseth is our new Intern this summer. Ben stated that he is going to UW-L for biology and he is really enjoying his work this summer.

12. Approval to designate Aquatic Invasive Species Coordination

Wojahn stated that Upper Sugar Watershed was going to help DNR money come into Vernon County for work that they are doing for Aquatic Invasive Species. A motion was made to designate them to do the work for one year by Mitchell, second by Easterday.

All ayes, motion carried.

13. Watershed Planning Update

Wojahn stated that we are really just waiting right now on the Federal government for this to move forward.

14. Runge Hollow Dam Easement Discussion

A motion was made to enter into closed session by Larson, second by Easterday. All ayes, motion carried.

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

15. GCS Contract

Renee from GCS stated that she started in October 2019 with GCS and we are now delinquent on payments and she has come to discuss this. Wojahn stated that he would like to enter into closed session and Renae stated that she didn't even know what was wrong with their contract.

A motion was made to enter into closed session by Mitchell, second by Ofte. All ayes, motion carried.

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

A motion was made to have Nikki send the letter that was drafted to GCS to get out of our contract by Ofte, second by Mitchell. All ayes, motion carried.

16. Reports from Committee Members and Announcements

No announcements were made since we were over on time and Extension Committee was waiting to start.

17. Adjourn Meeting

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Larson, second by Easterday. All ayes, motion carried.

DRAFT