

LWCC MEETING MINUTES

VERNON COUNTY LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE September 10th, 2020 MEETING Blackhawk Park Shelter

Present:

Committee: Will Beitlich-Chair, Kevin Larson-Vice-Chair, Frank Easterday, and Rod Ofte
Staff: Sarah McDowell, Matt Albright, Nick Gilman, Monique Hassman, Marty Kennedy, Casey Kirking, and Mark Erickson
Guests: Mary Henry-County Board, Ben Gald and his children-Landowner, Vern Britt-Landowner

1. Call to Order
Beitlich called the meeting to order at 10:22 a.m.
2. Affirmation of Proper Public Notice of meeting
McDowell affirmed.
3. Review (amend if needed) and approve minutes from the August 13th, 2020 meeting.
A motion was made by Ofte 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 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)
October 8th @ 9:30 a.m.
November 12th @ 9:30 a.m.
8. Camping Update
Kennedy stated that camping is good and extra busy this year as everybody wants to be outside due to Covid.
9. Approval to Purchase Survey Grade GPS
Albright stated that they demoed both of the models and Turning Point out performed Topcon. Turning Point is also less expensive so Albright would recommend Turning Point. A motion was made to approve the purchase of the Turning Point model and trade our current model in by Larson, second by Ofte. All ayes, motion carried.
10. Timber Sale Bid Opening
Gilman stated that they received one bid from Rockbridge and they were above the estimated bid price. A motion was made to accept the Rockbridge bid by Easterday, second by Beitlich. All yes, motion carried.

11. County Forest 15 Year Plan Approval

Gilman spoke of the changes that have been made to the plan. A motion was made to approval the plan by Larson, second by Ofte. All ayes, motion carried.

12. Camping Permit for Chaseburg Saddle Club

Gilman stated that is camping permit request is for their annual get together. A motion was made to approve the permit by Easterday, second by Larson. All ayes, motion carried.

13. Accounts Manager Report

McDowell gave the balances in all the accounts.

14. Watershed Planning Update

Hassman updated the committee on what she has been working on for Watershed Planning. She talked about working with different groups to maximize our efforts and dollars. Hassman stated that Doug Avoles has built a tracking tool for these disaster events and they are currently trying to enter data into the tool.

15. Approval for Shared Internship

Hassman stated that Niya, the intern that was helping with data entry for the tool that Doug built is interested in continuing to work with us to continue this project. A motion was made to approve more hours for the intern by Ofte, second by Larson. All ayes motion carried.

16. Dam Inspection Update

Erickson stated that they have been hired to inventory the quality of the tubes at all of the West Fork and Coon Creek dams in the watersheds for the ongoing study. They have ordered some equipment to assist in “shutting off” the water to some of the tubes and will be renting a fancy camera to push through the smaller tubes.

17. Pricing for Mowing Dams Discussion

A motion was made to approve \$140/hour for mowing dams and \$90/hour for the travel by Beithlich, second by Easterday. All ayes, motion carried.

18. CC-17 Melby Dam Toe Drain Repair

Erickson stated that the cost estimate is \$3,452.00 and would come out of the dams account. A motion was made to do the repairs by Larson, second by Ofte. All ayes, motion carried.

19. Discussion of Buildings and Storage

The committee informed our staff that the old Highway building may be demoed and/or sold which would cause some other storage needs in the County. Erickson stated that we really don't have extra room where we are because we have expensive equipment to store and need the heated part for certain thing. The committee just asked that we tidy it up.

20. GCS Contract Update

McDowell stated that Nikki sent them the letter and we haven't heard anything back from them.

21. Jersey Valley Land Rental Approval

McDowell stated that Daniel Thies currently rents the Jersey Valley cropland and his lease will be running up soon. He would like to renew the lease for the same amount. A motion was made to approve a renewal to the lease by Larson, second by Ofte. All ayes, motion carried.

22. Reports from Committee Members and Announcements

Hassman stated that there was a Tainter Watershed Group meeting coming up on Saturday, Sept. 19th at 1 pm at Brad Robson's farm.

McDowell stated that the DAWS water testing will be taking place on October 26th.

McDowell stated that we are working to submit another Tainter Creek Watershed Grant which is due on Sept. 21st.

Easterday asked about the bathroom cleaning service at Peaceful Valley, Kennedy stated that it is supposed to be locked due to Covid.

23. Adjourn Meeting

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

DRAFT