

LWCC MEETING MINUTES

VERNON COUNTY LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE October 8th, 2020 MEETING LWCD Shop

Present:

Committee: Kevin Larson-Vice-Chair, Frank Easterday, Kelli Mitchell, and Rod Ofte
Staff: Ben Wojahn, Sarah McDowell, Nick Gilman, Monique Hassman, Marty Kennedy, and Mark Erickson
Guests: Phil Peterson-USDA-APHIS, Shelly Brenneman-VSN, Sam Skemp-NRCS

1. Call to Order
Larson called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.
2. Affirmation of Proper Public Notice of meeting
Wojahn affirmed.
3. Review (amend if needed) and approve minutes from September 10th, 2020 meeting.
A motion was made by Easterday to approve the minutes, second by Ofte. 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 Mitchell. All ayes, motion carried.
5. Agency Reports (NRCS, DNR, FSA, RC &D, UW-Ext., any others)
Sam Skemp with NRCS stated that they have been working with Matt Albright a lot on projects and he will be getting paid through a contribution agreement. There is a mid-November deadline for EQIP sign up. CSP they had 40-50 application and they were able to fund about half of them.
6. Audience to Visitors
None
7. Schedule next LWCC meeting(s)
November 12th @ 9:30 a.m.
December 10th @ 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. The campgrounds have even stayed busy late in the season which normally never happens.
9. Permission to Apply and Authorize Representative for DNR Surface Water Grant
Wojahn stated they need the committees approval to apply for funding and he would also like to be appointed the Authorize Representative for the grant. A motion was made to apply for the grant and appoint Wojahn as representative by Mitchell, second by Ofte, all ayes, motion carried.
10. Forestry Annual Workplan Approval

Gilman stated that this is brought to the committee annual and there have been little changes including the new timber sales that should be done. A motion was made by Easterday, second by Mitchell to approve the plan. All ayes, motion carried.

11. Approval to Apply for Conservation Aids Grant

Gilman stated that we apply for Conservation Aids Grants almost every year and he would like to apply for another. A motion was made to approve applying for Conservation Aids by Mitchell, second by Ofte. All ayes, motion carried.

12. Accounts Manager Report

McDowell gave the balances in all the accounts. She announced that they have recently closed two accounts and that our funding for the Watershed Planning position is about 1/3 of the way done.

13. Watershed Planning Update

Hassman was asked to speak on her VSN side of her position. She stated that they have EPA funding for her position. She also works with the Tainter Creek Watershed group to turn land to managed grazing to reduce phosphorus. Shelly Brennemen with VSN stated that Monique has been such a great fit to both teams, VSN and Land & Water.

14. GCS Contract Update

We still haven't heard anything from GCS.

15. Approval of the Wildlife Damage Budget

Phil Peterson with USDA-APHIS presented his budget, the total that would run through our department in 2021 is \$59,392.31. A motion was made by Mitchell to approve the budget as presented, second by Ofte. All ayes, motion carried.

16. Crop Price Establishment

Peterson suggested the following crop prices: Honeycrisp \$55/bushel, Chicken \$15, Corn \$3.50, Soybeans \$9.55. A motion was made to approve those crop prices by Ofte, second by Easterday. All ayes, motion carried.

17. 90% Harvest Date

Peterson stated that we often set 90% harvest date at Dec. 1st. A motion was made to set Dec. 1st as 90% harvest date by Easterday, second by Mitchell. All ayes, motion carried.

18. Reports from Committee Members and Announcements

McDowell stated that the tree sale was going on and people can place orders. We would love the committees help in getting the word out.

19. Adjourn Meeting

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