

## **Buffalo County Minutes**

**Committee/Board:** Land Conservation & Ag and Extension Committee

**Date of Meeting:** Monday, January 10, 2022

Chair Mr. Dwight Ruff called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Board Members Present:** Mr. Dwight Ruff, Mr. Steve Nelson, Mr. John Sendelbach, Mr. Brad Schmidtkecht, Mr. William Bruegger.

**Others Present for All or Portions of the Meeting:**

Mr. John Behling, Mr. Joe Krumrie, Mr. Cale Severson, Ms. Candy Anderson, Mr. Ryan VanDeWalle, Mr. Tom Bilski, appeared in person. Ms. Mattison Hackensmith, Ms. Mary Wood, Ms. Roberta Walls, Mr. David Brommerich, Mr. Alan Olsen, and Mr. Nels Anderson appeared remotely.

**Minutes:** Mr. William Bruegger made a motion seconded by Mr. Brad Schmidtkecht to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 as sent. Motion Carried.

**Public Comments Regarding Posted Agenda Items:**

None

**Review/Discussion regarding an Update on the Land and Water Resource**

**Management Plan:** Buffalo County Land Conservationist Cale Severson stated that DATCP had officially awarded Buffalo County their waiver for one (1) year and that a complete plan will be finished in December of the year 2022

**Review/Discussion regarding an Update on the Buffalo White Sands Project:**

Land Conservationist Cale Severson started discussion about what is needed from Buffalo White Sands (BWS) in terms of coming into compliance with Buffalo County's Non-Metallic Mining Ordinance. Mr. John Behling, BWS attorney, held discussion about BWS future, that they do not intend to mine anymore, and that they intend to start reclamation of the site this spring. Mr. Behling stated that landowners Steve and Beth Segerstrom are on board with reclamation moving forward. Mr. John Behling discussed the law firm of Weld-Riley's support of the Milestone Materials takeover of a portion of the BWS mining footprint. Mr. Tom Bilski, Corporation Counsel, stated that Buffalo County is looking for a guarantee from BWS on the reclamation of buildings, high capacity well, roads, wash ponds, and concrete. Mr. John Behling led discussion on reclamation plans going forward, working with Land Conservationist Cale Severson and the Land Conservation office of site reclamation. Ms. Roberta Walls, Wisconsin DNR Non-Metallic Mining Coordinator, led discussion on the reclamation bond amount, and rules with NR135. Ms. Candy Anderson, Milestone Materials, gave an update on the Buck Ridge Quarry that the reclamation plan is complete, bond is in place, and they are

proceeding as planned. Mr. Cale Severson stated that any information regarding a different reclamation outcome other than agriculture is missing and is not in the approved, permitted reclamation plan on file.

**Review/Discussion/Action ~ Manure storage closure permit-Danzinger and Pyka**

A motion was made by Mr. William Bruegger and seconded by Mr. John Sendelbach to approve the NRCS designed manure closure plans and to issue permits for Pyka and DS Farms. Motion carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action ~ CAP X Bluff Prairie Funding Allocation**

Conservation Technician Mr. Joe Krumrie discussed the use of CapX funds to allocate five (5) hundred dollars (\$500) to the Anderson prairie restoration project which piggy backs County funds onto funds from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Xerces Society in bluff prairie restoration. A motion was made by Mr. Steve Nelson and seconded by Mr. John Sendelbach to allocate said funds. Roll call vote—Chair Mr. Dwight Ruff-yes, Mr. Steve Nelson-yes, Mr. John Sendelbach-yes, Mr. Brad Schmidtknecht-yes, and Mr. William Bruegger-yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Joe Krumrie presented another bluff prairie project for funding. Discussion was held regarding the allocation amount. A motion was made by Mr. Steve Nelson and seconded by Mr. Brad Schmidtknecht to hold in escrow from the CapX bluff prairie account two-thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) to potentially fund the project following a success determination from previous projects on the site. Motion carried.

**Land Conservationist Report:**

Mr. Cale Severson stated that the resource management specialist offer had been accepted and that Ms. Mattison Hackensmith will start on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Ms. Hackensmith introduced herself to the committee. Mr. Severson also held discussion about approximately eighteen thousand dollars (\$18,000) being carried over in DATCP SRWM funding to be used this year during field season for one (1) earthen dam grade control structure and one (1) grassed waterway. The contracts have been signed by landowners and the carryover was authorized by DATCP. Mr. Cale Severson updated the committee on a manure spreading on frozen ground violation the DNR received and is addressing. He is also looking forward to future training and meetings, namely the meeting with the La Crosse Area River AIS Partnership regarding aquatic invasive species.

**Review/Discussion ~ Division of Extension Educator Plans/Goals/Expectations for 2022.**

- o Mary Campbell Wood and Carl Duley provided brief overviews of their upcoming work for 2022. Mary will be continuing her efforts with the Literacy Link and broadening its access to other counties. She will be providing training to the Sheriffs' Departments and to related workers in the criminal justice system. Carl's efforts in 2022 will focus on his research projects. He is currently applying for grants to maintain his research efforts. He will also be conducting strategic planning for the Ho Chunk Nation with their newly created agriculture department. Annie will report her work efforts at a later meeting.

**Review/Discussion ~ Update on MOU with the Buffalo County Agricultural Fair Association.**

- Malone updated the committee on the status of the MOU. A meeting is scheduled this week to review the MOUs and discuss what worked and what needs to change.

**Review/Discussion/Action ~ 4-H Program Assistant vacant position – initiate hiring process.**

- Malone updated the committee on the 4-H Program Assistant. Paige DeWitt has resigned because she has graduated and taken a full-time position with a local employer. Malone only needs to complete a Request to Fill (RTF) to get the process started since it is a county-funded position. She prefers to have the county committee's approval to move forward with the process. MOTION: Mr. John Sendelbach moved to initiate the hiring process for the 4-H Program Assistant. Second by Mr. Bill Bruegger. Motion Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action ~ Upcoming Wisconsin Extension Association (WEXA) Meeting.**

- Malone provided some background on the Wisconsin Extension Association (WEXA). It evolved from the Wisconsin Association of County Extension Committees. The meetings provide an opportunity for committee members to meet each and discuss concerns that are common to them. It is also an opportunity for Extension administrators and specialists to share updates and other information. WEXA will be holding a virtual meeting for the northern region on January 27<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 to 12:30. Malone will have Ms Weisenbeck send out information on the meeting. You are all encouraged to attend.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Next Meeting Date and Time:**

Mr. William Bruegger made a motion to hold the next meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Mr. Steve Nelson second, motion carried.

**Chairperson's Report:**

Mr. Dwight Ruff welcomed Ms. Hackensmith to the team and is excited for her to begin work with Buffalo County. He also led discussion on the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance and about the upcoming meeting for said ordinance.

**Public Comments Not Related to Agenda Items:**

None

**Adjournment:** Mr. William Bruegger made a motion to adjourn at 8:12 p.m., seconded by Brad Schmidtkecht. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cale Severson  
Recording Secretary