

Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: Land Conservation & Ag and Extension Committee

Date of Meeting: Monday, May 2nd, 2022

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by acting Chair, Mr. Dennis Bork

Board Members Present: Mr. Dwight Ruff, Mr. John Sendelbach, Mr. Brad Schmidtknecht, Mr. Gary Stanton and Mr. Dennis Bork.

Others Present for All or Portions of the Meeting:

Mr. Cale Severson, Ms. Matison Hackensmith, Mr. Joe Krumrie, Mr. Ryan VanDeWalle, Mr. Carl Duley, Ms. Annie Lisowski, and Ms. Patricia Malone.

Nominations and Vote for Committee Chair:

Mr. Dennis Bork called for the nomination of a chair. Motion by Mr. Brad Schmidtknecht seconded by Mr. John Sendelbach to nominate Mr. Dwight Ruff as chair. Motion by Mr. Sendelbach seconded by Mr. Schmidtknecht to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Mr. Ruff as chair. Carried.

Nominations and Vote for Vice Chair:

Mr. Dennis Bork called for the nomination of a vice chair. Mr. Gary Stanton/Mr. John Sendelbach nominated Mr. Brad Schmidtknecht for vice chair. Motion by Mr. Ruff/Mr. Sendelbach to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Mr. Schmidtknecht as vice chair. Carried.

The committee's new officers are Mr. Dwight Ruff as Chair and Mr. Brad Schmidtknecht as vice chair. Mr. Bork turned the running of the meeting over to Mr. Ruff.

Minutes: Mr. Brad Schmidtknecht made a motion seconded by Mr. John Sendelbach to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as presented. Motion Carried.

Public Comments Regarding Posted Agenda Items:

None

Discussion ~ Welcome to Extension - Orientation

Ms. Malone presented an overview of Extension to help orient the new committee. The presentation began with introductions. Ms. Malone shared the mission, vision, and basic organization of Extension, stressing that it is a partnership between the federal government through USDA, the state, and the county. The county pays an annual fee to the university to cover a portion of the costs of the educators. Mr. Carl Duley presented a brief overview of the Agriculture Institute, and he highlighted his local educational programming and research. Ms. Annie Lisowski shared information about the Positive

Youth Development Institute. She then shared the work that she does with 4-H and with community youth programming. Ms. Malone provided an overview of the Human Development and Relationship Institute. She highlighted the work that Ms. Mary Campbell Wood is doing with justice involved families. She spoke of its importance as a long-term prevention strategy to strengthen families. Ms. Malone also shared the FoodWise program with the committee. It is a program that provides low-income families information and education on nutrition and how to best use limited resources to have safe and nutritious meals. Ms. Malone highlighted the fact that the federal government, through USDA, covers the costs of the FoodWise program. The county does not have to invest any direct county dollars into the program.

Review/Discussion/Action ~ A Resolution to Authorize Unspent CapX 2020 Funding Under Resolutions #17-05-01 and #17-05-02 to be Reallocated to PL-566 Repairs and Maintenance Fund

County conservationist Cale Severson spoke on the topic. A resolution was passed by the committee in October, 2021 and went to the Finance committee. It was sent back pending further information. Mr. Severson brought the resolution back to committee to move on it. Discussion was held regarding the amount of money left from each resolution and was it all needed in that account right now. Discussion was held on the fact that an old resolution that authorized four thousand dollars (\$4,000) per year go into the PL-566 account and that had not been happening. Mr. Schmidtkecht made a motion seconded by Mr. John Sendelbach to table this until the June meeting. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action ~ A Resolution to Fill the 90% Zoning/10% Land Conservation Administrative Assistant

Mr. VanDeWalle gave an overview of the position and recommended to the Committee to fill the position. Pepin county has also reached out to offer any help they can to our zoning dept in the meantime but is not looking to partner with Buffalo long term. Trempealeau County would be looking to partner with Buffalo County long term but there are reservations as they have a high turn over in their zoning department. Mr. John Sendelbach made a motion to support this resolution, second by Mr. Brad Schmidtkecht. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action ~ Linse/Klevgard Cost Share Invoice

The Land Conservation Committee approved the \$2,100 non-budgeted expense to pay the invoice for the original berm removal last meeting, but it was returned by finance. So far, landowner has paid in \$2,700 and the county has paid in \$0. Mr. Brad Schmidtkecht made a motion to send the topic back to finance to pay the invoice of \$2,100, second by Mr. Gary Stanton. Roll call Mr. Dwight Ruff-yes Mr. Brad Schmidtkecht-yes, Mr. Gary Stanton-yes, Mr. Dennis Bork-yes, Mr. John Sendelbach-yes, motion carried.

Review/Discussion/Action ~ CapX funding allocation for trout streams

Mr. Joe Krumrie spoke about the project. The LCD is asking for \$5,000 from CapX funding towards this project for Chuck Johnson. Mr. Gary Stanton made motion to allocate \$5,000 to the trout stream project from the CapX funding, second by Mr. John Sendelbach. Roll call, Mr. Dwight Ruff-yes Mr. Brad Schmidtknecht-yes, Mr. Gary Stanton-yes, Mr. Dennis Bork-yes, Mr. John Sendelbach-yes, motion carried.

Review/Discussion/Action ~ DNR County Conservation Aids grant transfer from Rossman project to Waumandee Creek

Mr. Cale Severson spoke about the project, The Rossman project is not going to happen by the end of the grant cycle. This is a chance to get money allocated to the Waumandee Creek project to utilize the funds. Mr. John Sendelbach made a motion to transfer Rossman Project CCA grant to Waumandee project CCA grant funding with caveat that renter is notified. Seconded by Mr. Brad Schmidtknecht. Motion carried.

Land Conservationist Report

Mr. Cale Severson spoke about the easements for the CCC structure. He spoke about upcoming projects – bank stabilization projects for trout streams, a grade stabilization structure, a continuation of a waterway, and a manure stacking pad. The LCD has upcoming site visits of landowners who are looking for help for future conservation practices. The LCD is on track to spend all bonding money and the money that was carried over. He spoke about wanting to get Mattie out to promote SEG funding and nutrient management planning and make landowner contacts.

Review/Discussion/Action Regarding the Next Meeting Date and Time:

First Monday of June-June 6th at 6 pm

Chairperson's Report:

Chair Mr. Dwight Ruff spoke about wanting a Buffalo White Sands update at the next meeting. At the next meeting he would also like have a discussion on a farmer representative on the Committee. He would also like to appoint a committee member to the Buffalo County Fair Board at the next meeting.

Public Comments Not Related to Agenda Items:

None

Adjournment: Mr. John Sendelbach made a motion to adjourn at 8:26 p.m., Seconded by Mr. Brad Schmidtknecht, Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cale Severson
County Conservationist