

## **Buffalo County Minutes**

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

**Date of Meeting:** Monday, August 1st, 2022

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

**Board Members Present:** Mr. Dwight Ruff, Mr. Brad Schmidtknecht, Mr. John Sendelbach, Mr. John Hadley, Mr. Gary Stanton, Farmer Representative Mr. Joe Bragger

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

Mr. Cale Severson, Ms. Patricia Malone, Mr. Carl Duley, Ms. Mary Cambell-Wood, Mr. Briar Golden, Mr. Tim Barth, Mr. Chris Passauer, Mr. Steve Segerstrom in person, Ms. Annie Lisowski, Ms. Marie Ritscher, Mr. Nels Anderson-virtual

**Minutes:** Mr. Brad Schmidtknecht made a motion seconded by Mr. John Sendelbach to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on June 6th and special meeting on June 25th, 2022 as sent. Motion Carried.

**Public Comments Regarding Posted Agenda Items:**

The committee took this time to introduce themselves and staff to John Hadley, newly appointed to the board. Mr. Hadley shared some of his background with us.

**Ag and Extension Portion**

1. Educator Reports:
  - a. Annie Lisowski shared highlights of the 4-H/Youth Development summer.
    - i. The C-FC afterschool program was awarded national recognition for program quality.
    - ii. 400 + youth participated in Farm Safety Day.
    - iii. Highlighted the learning occurring at STEAM Days.
    - iv. They have had a record number of teen court cases.
    - v. They are in final preparation for the fair, and a number of pre-fair events have occurred (horse show, clothing revue, etc.)
    - vi. Getting ready for fall programming.
  - b. Mary Campbell Wood is getting caught up on her court ordered parenting classes. Evaluation has shown that the program reduces stress and improves co-parenting skills.
    - i. She updated the committee on the “Moving Forward” program for re-entry of justice involved individuals. The new jail administrator in Buffalo County is making a big difference in allowing her to provide programming to inmates.

- ii. Her work with Veterans Service Officers to train providers help veterans transition back to civilian life is going well.
    - iii. We will be moving our office to the first floor next week.
  - c. Carl Duley provided his report.
    - i. He worked with a local school district to provide Tractor Safety Day. All participants passed.
    - ii. He is entering into harvest season for his experimental plots starting with industrial hemp. The small grain results are mixed.
    - iii. Hazelnut work was updated. He received word that the seedlings/trees will be ready soon. There will only be about half the budgeted number (2000 out of 4000), but Cale was able to get the grant to carry over. Our hazelnut tour will be coming soon. There will be a tour in La Crosse on 8/15/22. The Alma Hemp Field Day will be on August 19.
- 2. Annual Report – Malone presented a summary of the 2021 Annual Report to the committee. It is on file in the Extension Office and will be presented at the next county board meeting.
- 3. FoodWise and staffing changes. Marie Ritscher will retire from her FoodWise position on August 5. The plan as we know it is to replace her with a half time educator to cover both Pepin and Buffalo Counties. She will also be retiring from her 4-H position in Pepin County. This can provide us an opportunity to look at how best to provide 4-H and community youth development education in both counties.
  - a. Malone also shared an invitation to attend an Area 9 meeting on August 11 in Arcadia.

## **Land Conservation Portion**

### **Review/Discussion~ BWS Update**

County Conservationist Mr. Cale Severson led discussion on how he had received correspondence from Mr. John Behling about the memorandum that was prepared by his office for the Land Conservation and Ag and Extension Committee. The memo stated that a sale was still in process. Mr. Barth and Mr. Segerstrom both spoke to this topic and they had hoped to have it be done by the end of August.

### **Review/Discussion/Action ~ A Resolution to Authorize Unspent CAPX2020 Funding Under Resolution #17-12-02 To Be Reallocated to PL-566 Repairs and Maintenance Fund**

Mr. Cale Severson spoke about the topic. This resolution was presented to move funding from a non active account to a usable account for the repairs and maintenance of structures. There are several thousands of dollars needed over what the present dollar amount is in the account for these repairs and to do them, funding is needed. Mr. Sendelbach made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Schmidtknecht. Roll call vote- Mr. Dwight Ruff-yes, Mr. Brad Schmidtknecht-yes, Mr. John Sendelbach-yes, Mr. John Hadley-yes, Mr. Gary Stanton-yes, Mr. Joe Bragger-yes. Motion carried.

**Review/Discussion ~ Update on PL-566 and CCC repairs**

Mr. Severson led discussion on the repairs that are needed on the Greenheck PL-566 structure and the Hoksch CCC structure. Dirt work and concrete repair on the Greenheck structure could total \$22,000. The dirt work on the CCC is \$21,000. Mowing of approximately four PL-566 structures is about \$4,000. This totals to \$47,000, barring any repairs that might be needed on the other 11 structures. The County puts in \$4,000 per year into the account which will be taken up by the mowing rotation, but future costs of professional inspections and other damages will need to be addressed once the bonus CapX funds are exhausted.

**Review/Discussion/Action ~ Change of Verbiage and Allocated Amounts for Trout Stream CapX2020 money**

Mr. Cale Severson held a discussion about changing the maximum of \$5,000 per project and \$10,000 per landowner to a higher amount. Discussion was held to maintain the current numbers. Mr. Schmidtknecht made a motion to leave the amounts as they are. Mr. Sendelbach second, motion carried.

**Review/Discussion ~ Computer purchase for the Conservation Technician**

Mr. Severson spoke on this topic. He said the computer was in need of replacement in March of 2023. The current computer doesn't have enough power to run Civil 3D and needed much more memory and a stronger video card. Itechra quoted the needed computer at \$4,050 but on the website the computer was \$2,489 that week as it was 40% off. Mr. Ryan VanDeWalle made the decision to purchase it at that low price to save money for the County. Mr. Joe Bragger made the motion to approve the purchase with a second by Mr. John Sendelbach. Roll call vote- Mr. Dwight Ruff-yes, Mr. Brad Schmidtknecht-yes, Mr. John Sendelbach- yes, Mr. John Hadley-yes, Mr. Gary Stanton-yes, Mr. Joe Bragger-yes. Motion carried.

**Land Conservationist Report:**

Mr. Cale Severson discussed attending the summer County Conservation meeting and meeting counterparts from other counties, and hearing about the work that is happening. He discussed doing CREP inspections with DATCP and future follow up that is required. Discussion was held on Water Quality Trading and what is needed. He said he went to the Buffalo County Conservation Alliance meeting and met folks. He spoke of the audit and what that has taken in time commitment. He has met with the Aquatic Invasive Species partnership. He finally spoke on the West-Central Conservation tour. They visited many good projects and saw good conservation going into the landscape.

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

Tuesday September 6th, 6 pm.

**Chairperson's Report:**

Nothing to report

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

**Adjournment:** Mr. Joe Bragger made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m., Seconded by Mr. Gary Stanton, Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cale Severson  
County Conservationist