

BUFFALO COUNTY MINUTES

Committee of the Board:

Land Management Committee

Date of the Meeting:

Friday, September 1st, 2023

Chair Max Weiss called the Public Hearing portion of the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Land Management Committee Members Present: Mr. Max Weiss, Mr. Dwight Ruff, Mr. Chris Lindstrom, Mr. Gary Stanton, Mr. John Sendelbach

Others Present for All or Parts of the Meeting: Mr. Lee Engfer, Mr. Cale Severson, Mr. Brock Lederman, Mr. Briar Golden, Mr. Ron Jasperson, Mr. Dennis Reimers, Mr. Wyatt Puent, Mr. Steve Duellmann, Mr. Tyrone Lingenfelter, Ms. Annie Lisowski. Online-Ms. Margo Traun, Ms. Mary Wood, Ms. Pat Malone, Mr. Joe Krumrie, Mr. Steve Okonek, Mr. Carl Duley

Reading of the Notice for Public Hearing and Hovey Rezone Application: Mr. Lederman read the information that was published in the Buffalo County News on August 17 and 24

Public Testimony Regarding the Rezone Application: Mr. Lingenfelter spoke on the rezone and making the zoning the same as the adjacent parcel to allow special event camping. He stated this would clarify the situation. Steve Duellman spoke regarding the rezone and asked questions about the rezone.

Correspondence Regarding the Rezone Application: A town's acknowledgement form had been submitted in favor of the rezone.

Adjournment of the Public Hearing: Mr. Ruff made a motion to adjourn the public hearing at 8:09 a.m. Mr. Stanton second, adjourned.

Chair Max Weiss called the Land Management Committee meeting to order at 8:09 a.m.

Land Use Committee Members Present: Mr. Max Weiss, Mr. Dwight Ruff, Mr. Chris Lindstrom, Mr. Gary Stanton, Mr. John Sendelbach.

Others Present for All or Parts of the Meeting: Mr. Lee Engfer, Mr. Cale Severson, Mr. Brock Lederman, Mr. Briar Golden, Mr. Ron Jasperson, Mr. Dennis Reimers, Mr. Wyatt Puent, Mr. Steve Duellman, Online-Ms. Margo Traun, Ms. Mary Wood, Ms. Pat Malone, Mr. Joe Krumrie, Mr. Steve Okonek, Mr. Carl Duley

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Previous Meeting Minutes: Mr. Stanton motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Lindstrom. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding An Ordinance to Amend the Official Buffalo County Zoning District Map – Town of Milton (Racetrack Properties Management, LLC Rezone)

Mr. Ruff made a motion to approve the Rezone, second by Mr. Stanton, carried.

Review/Discussion regarding an NRCS update

District Conservationist Mr. Dennis Reimers spoke on the current status of EQIP funding and how that funding looks into the future. He discussed the ranking criteria that is used to rank projects to fund or not.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Comprehensive Land Use Plan

Mr. Golden spoke on this topic. He asked for feedback regarding the intensity of update and timelines of completion. The project will aim for an update by 2024.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Land Management Budget Presentation

Mr. Severson and Mr. Engfer gave a preliminary draft of the budgets for Land Conservation, Zoning, Land Information, Nonmetallic Mining, and Surveying. Discussion was held on replacement of a work truck in the near future.

Extension portion

Review/Discussion/Action regarding 2024 proposed Extension budget.

Malone shared the proposed 2024 budget with committee members. We will add the numbers for the support staff, including benefits and health insurance, when the data is available. The wage increase for Roxane will be moderate, but it is unknown how insurance will be impacted.

The budget reflects a significant decrease from the 2022 budget the committee approved. The set fees for educators have increased from 44,900 to 46,250 (FTE). However, the decrease is a result of Carl Duley's retirement. Malone put in a best estimate that is based on the new regional ag model, but the committee will have to discuss this. The committee directed Malone to share the proposed budget with the Executive Committee at their September 5th meeting.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding update on Buffalo/Trempealeau Farmer Led Watershed. Carl Duley and Steve Okonek presented a brief update on the work they have been doing in the Buffalo/Trempealeau Farmer-led Watershed. Steve is currently the ag educator for Trempealeau and Jackson Counties. The watershed lies in both counties. This watershed is continuing its operations because it still feels there is valuable work to be done.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding computer purchase using Teen Court funds.

Malone shared a proposal for a computer purchase. The new computer will replace the existing intern computer. It will be available for the intern, other staff if needed, and for the fair. Motion by Mr. Stanton, second by Mr. Sendelbach to approve the request. Carried.

Review/Discussion regarding Fair Report

Annie Lisowski provided a brief fair update. The fair went very well. Exhibitor numbers are returning to pre-covid levels. The food stand, which is the major 4-H fundraiser, had another year with increased gross profits.

Review/Discussion/Action ~ Educators Reports

Annie Lisowski updated the committee on her activities. She highlighted the work she did this summer with Kailey Herbenson on Restorative Justice in Rural Areas. The data gathered through Kailey's study will be used to work with the Mondovi school district to start a school specific restorative justice program. She also shared that the afterschool programs in Mondovi and C-FC have started.

Mary Campbell Wood updated the committee on her work with criminal justice programs in Buffalo, Pepin, and Dunn Counties. She shared a testimonial letter with the committee to illustrate the value people are receiving with the educational programs. She also shared that she will be working with the ADRC on Powerful Tools for Caregivers. They will be offering the program to county employees since many of them are in the challenging position of both working and caring for someone with a chronic condition.

Carl Duley gave a brief update. He is planning on retiring before the end of the year. No specific date has been set yet. He also briefly discussed the challenges they have been having getting adequate amounts of hazelnuts to meet the demand.

Review/Discussion regarding the Surveyor's Report: Mr. Jasperson gave an update regarding his work recently.

Review/Discussion regarding the GIS/LIO Report: No update.

Review/Discussion regarding the Land Management Director/ County

Conservationist Report: Mr. Severson spoke on the several zoning violations that have come in and the investigations that are ongoing.

Review/Discussion regarding the Chairperson Report: Mr. Weiss spoke on the confusion over the citizen committee member and have it first on the agenda at the next meeting.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Next Meeting Date and Time: The next meeting date and time will be October 6th, 2023

Public Comments Not Related to Agenda Items: none

Adjournment: Mr. Ruff made a motion to adjourn at 10:25 a.m., Mr. Sendelbach seconded. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cale Severson