

Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: Land Conservation & Ag and Extension Committee

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, September 6th, 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. Tim Wucherer, Mr. Ryan VanDeWalle

Minutes: Mr. Brad Schmidtknecht made a motion seconded by Mr. John Hadley to approve the corrected minutes of the previous meeting on August 1st. Motion Carried.

Public Comments Regarding Posted Agenda Items:

none

Ag and Extension Portion

1. Malone presented the proposed budget to the committee. There is a modest increase which is a largely a result of the increase in insurance costs and an increase in wages. It is being noted in the minutes that the budget was reviewed and is being sent on to the Finance committee.
2. FoodWise update. The position will most likely not include coordinator responsibilities, but there will be an educator assigned to Buffalo/Pepin Counties. They most likely will refill the position for the first of the year. Just a reminder, this position is not paid for with county dollars.
3. Educator reports.
 - a. Lisowski provided a written report. She highlighted a number of activities including a robots program that reached over 300 youth and parents. She worked with her peers to conduct a one day extended Camp Kinnissippewa in a new location on Lake Pepin. The 4-H Food Stand grossed over \$22,000 at the fair this year. This is a major fundraiser for the 4-H program.
 - b. Mary shared highlights of her programs. The Veterans Program will be training staff in Jackson and Dunn Counties. The program will be ready for statewide release later this year. She has seen significant growth in her Better Beginnings program for divorcing or separating parents. In 2019 she had 19 participants that increased to 24 in 2020; 41 in 2021; and it is

- on track to break 100 this year. A new venture will be co-facilitating Powerful Tools for Caregivers. She will be taking the training this month.
- c. Carl Duley shared his highlights. He is finishing up his plot harvests and will begin data analysis. He noted that there are increasing issues with chicken litter not providing the amount of nitrogen it used to provide. He will be working with Francisco Arriaga and a researcher from Mississippi on what is changing so better recommendations can be made. Finally he is looking at a grant for a couple that wants to develop a business plan for a dairy value-added operation.

Land Conservation Portion

Review/Discussion/Action ~ Approval of SEG Funding For Stanton in combination with Eau Claire County LCD

Mr. Tim Wucherer of the Eau Claire Land Conservation Department spoke on this topic. He would like Buffalo County to give SEG dollars as cost share to Tim and Darin Stanton. They are working with them in Eau Claire and they farm ground in Buffalo as well. The nutrient management SEG cost share is \$5,800 for the Buffalo County acres. Roll call vote Mr. Gary Stanton-abstain, Mr. Dwight Ruff-yes, Mr. Brad Schmidtknecht-yes, Mr. John Hadley-yes, Mr. John Sendelbach-yes, Mr. Joe Bragger-yes. Motion carried.

Review/Discussion/Action ~ Trout Unlimited Letter of Support for RCPP

Severson spoke on this letter of support for Trout Unlimited's Regional Conservation Partnership Program. TU is applying for this and it would mean match dollars for trout stream work in the County. Mr. Bragger motioned to approve the letter, Mr. Stanton second, motion carried.

Review/Discussion/Action ~ Resource Management Hire at Step 4

Mr. VanDeWalle spoke on this. Briar is currently at a step 3 in zoning and would like to see him hired at a step 4 for Land Conservation. Mr. Schmidtknecht motioned to approve this, Mr. Bragger second, motion carried.

Review/Discussion/Action ~ Truck Lease

Mr. VanDeWalle spoke on the Land Conservation truck getting old and in need of replacement. Severson stated the transmission is starting to clunk. Mr. Ruff would like to see bids on rebuilding the transmission and keeping the truck running. Mr. Bragger made a motion to table the discussion. Mr. Hadley second, motion carried.

Review/Discussion/Action ~ Proposed NMM Fee Structure

Mr. Severson showed the committee a proposed fee schedule of \$150/un-reclaimed acre. The committee said to bring back a resolution at the next meeting.

Review/Discussion/Action ~ Present Draft Budget for Land Conservation and NMM

Mr. Severson presented a draft budget for Land Conservation and Non-Metallic Mining. Mr. Bragger made a motion to send the budgets to finance with a second by Mr. Stanton. Carried.

Land Conservationist Report:

Mr. Cale Severson discussed the various field days and meetings that were attended. He also discussed all the workload issues with being shorthanded without a RMS.

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

Monday October 3rd, 6 pm.

Chairperson's Report:

Mr. Ruff commented on the work that got completed on the Greenheck PL-566 structure and that a lot of soil was removed.

Public Comments Not Related to Agenda Items:

none

Adjournment: Mr. Joe Bragger made a motion to adjourn at 8:04 p.m., Seconded by Mr. Brad Schmidtknecht, Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cale Severson
County Conservationist