

**Ashland County Land Conservation Committee**  
**September 30, 2013**  
**Ashland County LWCD Office**



**Present:**

George Mika	Tom Fratt
Gerry Richardson	Mike Pero
Charlie Ortman	Dave Schultz
Ken Lindquist	Scott Caven
Randy Richardson	Gary Haughn (NRCS)

Excused: Jim Oakley

**Call to order:** by George Mika @ 9:33 AM. The meeting had been properly noticed.

**Minutes:** **Motion to approve minutes of 7-26-13 by Ortman/Lindquist MC.**

**Public Comments:** Ortman relayed concerns about continuing financial problems for the Department of Health and Human Services.

**Agenda Items**

**1. Authorization to Participate in WDACP Deer Donation Program**

Schultz explained that he budgeted \$2,000 each for program management costs in Douglas and Ashland Counties. If needed, Dave could come back with a budget amendment if funds run short.

- **Motion to approve participation in the deer donation program by G.Richardson/R.Richardson MC.**

**2. Approval of WDACP 2014 budget for Ashland County**

Dave provided a handout that showed the deer donation and program management budget for Ashland County. The WDACP program budget is at no cost to Ashland County as all costs are reimbursed by the WDNR.

- **Motion to approve WDACP budget by Lindquist/Ortman MC.**

**3. WLWCA Poster and Speaking Contest Changes**

Fratt reviewed the changes in the contest happening at the state level and the schedule that the counties and regional association should maintain to dovetail with the state contest. Ortman reported that he was on schedule with his contacts for the contest, but had some follow-up to do. Charlie had received some questions about what type of awards would be provided for the speaking contest. Kleinsteinber was not present at the meeting to report her progress.

**4. Tree and Shrub Program Changes**

Fratt relayed conversations with Heather of Iron County who is uncertain about continuing to partner with Ashland County on the sale. She is considering her options and plans to put the alternatives in front of her LCC, but with the likelihood that 2013/2014 would be a transition year. There is strong support from the Ashland LCC to continue the program in some form regardless of what Iron County does.

**5. Operational Agreement between Ashland County and NRCS**

Haughn summarized the agreement that was drafted with each county in the State. The agreement with Ashland County is unique for the ABDI counties because we retained a clause that would allow Fratt and Pero to drive NRCS vehicles for co-funded projects if necessary.

- **Motion to approve the operational agreement by Ortman/G.Richardson MC.**

## **6. Metallic Mining in Ashland County**

The Ashland County mining impact committee met to discuss GTAC's application for a bulk sampling permit. Ashland County has developed a bulk sampling ordinance very similar to the one in Iron County. The ordinance will be reviewed by zoning and legal counsel, approved, and sent to County Board for final approval after a public hearing. There is to be a mining educational event at Whitecap Mountain sponsored by the Penokee Hills Education Project. There is lots of interest and a large crowd is expected. A recent university poll showed that 80% oppose the development of a mine in the Penokees. Ortman raised the question about if the need exists to hold more information and education events in Ashland County, potentially sponsored or facilitated by the LWCD.

7. **Conservationist Report:** Fratt provided a report of his activities since the last meeting and highlighted some upcoming deadlines and important dates. Tom is investigating the potential of using revenue from service fees to fund another vehicle and a part-time administrative assistant.
8. **Engineering Technician Report:** Pero provided a handout with information about project status for 2013. Weather delays and slow starts continue to be a concern.
9. **Wildlife Damage Specialist Report:** Schultz provided a handout detailing his program activities since the last LCC meeting.
10. **AIS Coordinator Report:** Caven discussed a handout of his recent activities.
11. **Grazing Specialist Report:** Tim Mika provided a handout of his activities since the last meeting.
12. **Agency and Partner Reports:** Haughn reported that a federal government shutdown is looming. There has been no new news on progress with the federal farm bill. Construction activities are slow again this year, and they are considering imposing start and end dates for contractors and landowners.

**Other Business:** The resource concerns and planning criteria of the NRCS EQIP program presented at the recent local work group meeting were briefly discussed.

**Approval of Bills:** A summary list of bills submitted for payment since the previous LCC meeting was handed out.

- **Motion to approve the bills by G.Richardson/Ortman MC.**

**Next meeting date:** Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 @ 9:30 a.m.

**Adjourn:** 11:45 a.m. by Chairman Mika