

**Ashland County Land Conservation Committee
December 17, 2013
Ashland County LWCD Office**



Present:

George Mika	Tom Fratt
Gerry Richardson	Mike Pero
Charlie Ortman	Dave Schultz
Ken Lindquist	Scott Caven
Randy Richardson	
Jim Oakley	

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

Minutes: **Motion to approve minutes of 11-8-13 by Lindquist/Oakley MC.**

Public Comments: None

Agenda Items

1. Set wildlife damage corn and soybean prices for 2013 claims

Schultz provides the details of his research to determine crop prices needed to settle the 2013 wildlife damage claims.

- **Motion to approved the 2013 crop appraisal prices for Ashland County by G. Richardson/R.Richardson MC.**

Schultz continued on his specialist report, indication that overall bear damage is slightly less than last year. Turkey damage continues in Bayfield County, and there is growing concern of contamination from wildlife feces. Discussion over bear shooting permits as this continues to be a sensitive issue. Deer donations to local food pantries have dropped off in recent years.

2. Land and Water Conservation Board Elections – Discussion and Potential Action

There have been no nominations from any of the NW counties or from the Area Association. Discussions with the LCC felt that it would be best to have some information from WLWCA as to duties and responsibilities.

3. Resolutions for Area Association and WLWCA Annual Conference – Discussion and Potential Action

No resolutions from the LLC or the Area Association have been submitted, but if any county is inclined to do so, there is a possibility of getting it on the floor with a resolution presented during the conference.

4. Ashland County Poster and Speaking Contest Update - Discussion

Extensive outreach was conducted by Ortman and Kleinsteiber, but only luke-warm reception. Most teachers want to have the information earlier so that they have time to work it into their class work. There was little to no response from clubs like 4H, and FFA, despite personal contacts. A news release was sent to local newspapers, and the BRWA conducted an email blitz to get the information out, but still little interest was generated.

5. Project Status and Potential Cost-Share Extensions – Discussion and Potential Action

Pero recounted project status including a couple of projects that are still underway. Although we are fairly confident that the projects can be completed yet this year, we may need to extend a project at the last minute.

- **Motion to allow George Mika to approve and sign a cost-share extension request if needed in 2013 by Oakley/Lindquist MC.**

6. Metallic Mining in Ashland County

Committee deferred discussion of this until the “other business” segment of the agenda.

- 7. Conservationist Report:** Fratt provided a report of his activities since the last meeting and highlighted some upcoming deadlines and important dates. Fratt announced that Scott Caven will be resigning in mid-January to take a position in LaCrosse. There is the potential to combine AIS duties with another position such as an administrative assistant. The committee wants to have a position description and a summary of the AIS grant status by the next meeting in January.
- 8. Engineering Technician Report:** Pero provided a handout with the status of projects for 2013.
- 9. Wildlife Damage Specialist Report:** Schultz reviewed his handout earlier in the agenda along with the agenda item of setting crop prices.
- 10. AIS Coordinator Report:** Caven has resigned his position with his last day falling toward the middle of January.
- 11. Grazing Specialist Report:** Tim Mika provided a handout of his activities since the last meeting. He is preparing for a late winter/early spring conference. He attended a grazing seminar in Green Bay and learned about managed grazing systems for dairy farmers. We do not have good examples up here, which is probably what it will take to get others to follow suit. The concept of using seasonal milkers was discussed.
- 12. Agency and Partner Reports:** Haughn reported that this is the last week for EQIP sign-ups. It is possible, but not likely, that there would be a second round if funds still remain. The sign-up period for the CSP program continues through January 17th. Gary is still working to process payments and other paperwork that he got behind on during the government shutdown.

Other Business:

- Polk County is planning a spring conservation tour with an invitation to the NW WLWCA to attend.
- Jason Fischbach has been assigned to half-time to work as a hazelnut production coordinator for the state. It is hoped that he will get some back-up help, but we are likely to lose some support because of these other duties.
- Mining discussions revolved on the recent presentation by the Wisconsin Wetlands Association in Ashland and actions being taken by Iron County to deal with the harvest camp. Fratt pointed out several new documents related to permits that are now available on the WDNR mining web site.

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, January 24th, 2014 @ 9:30 a.m.

Adjourn: 12:07 p.m. by Chairman Mika