

Ashland County Land Conservation Committee
January 24, 2014
Ashland County LWCD Office



Present:

| | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| George Mika | Tom Fratt |
| Gerry Richardson | Mike Pero |
| Charlie Ortman | Dave Schultz |
| Ken Lindquist | Tim Mika |
| Jim Oakley | Pete Russo |
| Gary Haughn (NRCS) | |

Call to order: by George Mika @ 9:31 AM. The meeting had been properly noticed.

Minutes: **Motion to approve minutes of 12-17-13 by G. Richardson/Lindquist MC.**

Public Comments: None

Agenda Items

1. Landowner Installed Conservation Practices: Local Custom Equip. & Labor Rates

Pero presented the list of equipment and labor rates, based on current fuel prices and the average of commercial rental rates. Notes changes from last year were the addition of a UTV category and rounding amounts to the nearest \$0.50.

- **Motion to accept rates as proposed made by Oakley, Motion failed due to the lack of a second.**

Additional discussion about raising all rates 10% because of a feeling that the numbers were too low. Pero and Fratt explained that the numbers were based on actual rental costs averaged for the area, and this process was previously agreed to.

- **Motion to accept rates as proposed made by Oakley and seconded by G. Richardson. Chairman Mika called for a roll call vote where the motion passed 3 to 2.**

2. Wildlife Damage Claims Approval

Schultz has 1 claim signed and returned, is waiting for signatures on several others, and is also waiting for the DNR determination on shooting permits.

- **Motion to approve claims dependent on DNR approval and obtaining landowner signatures. Mika will sign 1 permit that is ready, and Fratt can sign others as County Representative by Lindquist/Ortman MC.**

3. Recommendation to Purchase Forestry Truck

Fratt explained the opportunity to acquire a truck from the Forestry Department, and outlined a strategy to fund the purchase through a bank loan. A draft resolution was reviewed.

- **Motion to approve the vehicle purchase, forward the resolution to the full County Board, and obtain bank financing by Oakley/Ortman.**

4. Position Description for Department Vacancy

The AIS coordinator vacancy has presented an opportunity to refill the position with a different mix of job duties and funding sources. Fratt ran out of time before completing a draft position description, but felt that looking at a full-time position funded 50-75% by the AIS program would be workable. The other duties would be as a program assistant and office manager, with funding coming from as many as 6 other grant sources in 2014. Fratt

should bring a final position description and job announcement back to the LCC at the next meeting, but in the meantime could be putting out feelers for potential candidates, including through WITC and the Northland College Job Fair.

5. Metallic Mining in Ashland County

Ashland County recently re-formed the Joint Mining Impact Committee, a move that was necessary due to revision of the ferrous mining legislation.

6. Conservatoinist Report: Fratt provided a report of his activities since the last meeting and highlighted some upcoming deadlines and important dates. A head count was taken for the upcoming NW WLWCA Meeting (4 – Ken, Gerry, Charlie, Tom). A head count was also taken for the WLWCA annual conference. Mika, Lindquist, and Ortman will attend for the LCC and Fratt, Pero, and Mika will attend as staff. Tim Mika has already registered for the conference and reserved a room for George and him. Fratt will take care of other registrations and room reservations.

7. Engineering Technician Report: Pero provided a handout with the status of projects and year-end closeout for 2013.

8. Wildlife Damage Specialist Report: Schultz reviewed his handout.

9. AIS Coordinator Report: None. Position vacant.

10. Grazing Specialist Report: Tim Mika provided a handout of his activities since the last meeting.

11. Agency and Partner Reports: The sign-up period for the CSP program has been extended to February 7th. Still no farm bill. EQIP has 17 applications for Ashland County and are in the process of ranking and project selection with notification coming in February.

Other Business:

Ashland County Poster Contest Judging. Received one entry.

- **Motion to forward poster on to the area contest and award participant with certificate, check, and t-shirt by G. Richardson/Ortman. MC.**

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 Ortman/Oakley MC.**

Next meeting date: Tuesday, February 25th @ 9:30 a.m.

Adjourn: 12:25 p.m. by Chairman Mika