

**Ashland County Land Conservation Committee**  
**June 27, 2014**  
**Ashland County LWCD Office**

Minutes  
Approved  
7-25-14

**Present:**

George Mika	Tom Fratt
Jim Oakley	Mike Pero
Ken Lindquist	Dave Schultz
Caryl Peck	Todd Norwood
Joe Rose	Tim Mika
Charlie Ortman	Gary Haughn (NRCS)
Gerry Richardson	Judy Derricks (NRCS)

**Excused:**

**Call to order:** by George Mika @ 9:30 AM. The meeting had been properly noticed and a quorum was present.

**Minutes:** **Motion to approve minutes of 5-16-14 by Richardson/Lindquist MC.**

**Public Comments:** None

**Agenda Items:**

**1. LCC 101 - Land Conservation Committee Training Presentation**

- Fratt presented PowerPoint slideshow from Jim Vandebrook of WLWCA that outlines the roles and responsibilities of LCC's and LWCD's.
- G Mika stated more info was provided in handouts.

**2. Land and Water Resource Management Plan Update - Discussion**

- Fratt reported that a 5 year plan extension request needs to be completed by July 1, 2014. Additional information needed include: an updated work plan for the next 5 years, a completed checklist for the LWCB, and a presentation that summarizes accomplishments and emerging issues for Ashland County.
  - **Motion to approve a 5-year plan extension request by Richardson/Lindquist. MC.**

**3. Consideration of Agricultural Ordinances - Discussion**

- General discussion of manure pits leaking into county water resources and the need for appropriate closure. N.R. 151 already provides laws on closure but enforcement is an issue. Ashland County currently doesn't have an ordinance addressing manure pit closure.
- Many counties are moving toward developing livestock siting ordinances to limit resource impact. Ashland County currently doesn't have power to suggest where agricultural operations can or can't occur. State has siting law in ATCP 51 which counties can adopt and include less restrictive standards.
- G Mika proposes question regarding whether Ashland County needs to develop ordinances and states the committee should begin thinking about this and recommends the topic be added to future LCC agendas.
- Ortman states there is interest in Ashland County by big farms and having ordinances in place is important.

- Fratt mentions the Comprehensive Plan needs updating and should be integrated with the revised Farmland Preservation Plan. Funding may be available for Farmland Preservation Plan development in 2015.
- More discussion on agricultural ordinances is needed at future meetings.

#### **4. Lake Superior Landscape Restoration Partnership - Discussion**

- Fratt mentions the county wants to be a partner in the program, however county staff already being impacted, and don't have the staff to deal with a substantial workload increase.
- Haughn provided a report with project ranking/funding. Stated funding gone for 2014 and more will become available for 2015.
- Derricks stated she is very impressed with the projects in this region. Mentions NRCS staff will be shifted around to where ever needed and burden won't be placed on counties but will be a partnership.
- G Mika states the need for another county employee but the county cannot provide funding.
- Fratt questions whether an engineer shared between counties is a possibility.
- Derricks stated she will bring concerns to Madison and hopefully find additional help and/or funding.

#### **5. Metallic Mining in Ashland County - Discussion**

- Oakley: Joint Impact Committee meeting July 9th @ Morse Town Hall - Mellen.
- Fratt: Mining company collecting data w/ DNR but no 3rd party affiliate.
- Ortman: Libby, Montana study shows airborne asbestos possibility. Northland College beginning study of tree bark to test for asbestos particles outside of 600ft buffer restricted area.

#### **6. Conservationist Report**

- Fratt provided a report of activities. Mentions WI Farm Bureau handout and legislative issues for this year. Allows comments from LCC to local Farm Bureau which are forwarded to statewide Bureau.
- \$530 profit on tree and shrub sale.

#### **7. Engineering Technician Report**

- Pero provides report of activities and projects and their current status.

#### **8. Wildlife Damage Specialist Report**

- Schultz provides report of activities.
- Bear/bee-hive conflicts.
- No-till drill in use for past month with 150-200 acres during spring use.
- Fratt: No-till funding gone for Schultz from original grant. There is the possibly to use funding from the grazing program

#### **9. Grazing Specialist Report**

- T Mika provides report of activities.
- No-till research: conditions for success/failure

## 10. AIS Coordinator's Report

- Norwood provides report of activities.

## 11. Agency and Partner Reports

- Haughn: EQIP Local Work Group meeting regarding revised program practice/process/procedure under new Farm Bill - July 24, 2014 @ 9am -12pm.
- G Mika: Request meeting approval from Pete Russo so LCC members can attend EQIP meeting.
- Haughn: Honeybee initiative - 2 people applied. Partner with LWCD to use no-till drill for bee plot planting. Would also like to use drill in fall @ NGLVC planting site.

## Other Business

- Fratt: Forgot to mention nomination of G Mika as NW Area LWCB representative at NW Area meeting in June. Need bio for G Mika for WLWCA meeting in August.

**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 Oakley/Lindquist. MC.**

**Next meeting date:** Friday, July 25, 2014 @ 9:30am

**Adjourn:** 11:57am by Chairman Mika