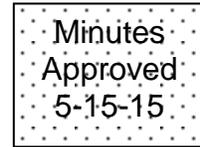


Ashland County Land Conservation Committee
April 10, 2015
Ashland Co LWCD Conference Room



Present:

George Mika	Tom Fratt
Ken Lindquist	Mike Pero
Charles Ortman	Todd Norwood
Caryl Peck	Dave Schultz
Gerry Richardson	Pete Russo (County Board Chair)
	Kathy Schutte (Agriculture & Extension Committee)

Excused:

Jim Oakley

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 from 2/17/15 with addition of "right to farm" under Richardson's comment by Richardson/Ortman - MC**

Public Comments: Pete Russo informed committee he is traveling to Madison for Xcel Energy lawsuit. Introductions for Kathy Schutte. Recommended to move agenda item #5 to agenda item #1 since Pete Russo and Kathy Schutte attended in interest of agricultural ordinances.

Agenda Items:

5. Agricultural Ordinances - Discussion and Potential Action

- Fratt provided update on draft agricultural ordinance and comments/suggestions from DNR and DATCP
- General discussion on agricultural ordinances development and direction county should move
- Fratt suggests possible options as: do nothing (no ordinance); adopt draft ordinance ASAP and make changes while developing Farmland Preservation Plan/Comprehensive Plan revisions; ordinance development through the next 1.5 years as part of Farmland Preservation Planning
- Majority opinion of committee is that ordinance development at some scale is needed
- **Motion to develop and incorporate agricultural ordinances during the update of the county Farmland Preservation and Comprehensive Plans and to establish a Planning Committee to work on these issues by Ortman/Lindquist – MC.**

1. APHIS 2015 Bear Trapping Contract Approval - Action

- Schultz provided report on APHIS contract for 2015 bear trapping based on 2-year average
- **Motion to approve APHIS bear trapping contract by Richardson/Ortman - MC**

2. DATCP 2016 Staff and Support Grant Application - Action

- Fratt explained grant funding and possible budget cut funding amounts
- **Motion for LCC to sign and submit application by Richardson/Lindquist – MC**

3. Landowner Installed Conservation Practices: Local Custom Equip. & Labor Rates - Action

- Pero provided local custom equipment and labor rates for 2015 based on this year's research
- **Motion to approve equipment and labor rates by Ortman/Richardson - MC**

4. Countywide Farmland Preservation and Comprehensive Plan Updates - Discussion

- Fratt provided update on FPP grants
- Fratt states a "Planning Committee" needs to be established by June/July at latest
- Fratt and Wojciechowski will discuss committee and make recommendations to Russo and Beirl
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5. Moved to agenda item 1

6. Conservationist Report

- Fratt provided handout and illuminated some highlights.
- Fratt provided letter to State Representative Janet Bewley regarding potential budget cuts to county conservation and could provide letter to Joint Finance Committee
- **Motion for Fratt to develop resolution and letter for submittal to Joint Finance Committee with G Mika signature by Ortman/Lindquist - MC**

7. Staff Reports

- Written staff reports were provided by Pero, Schultz, and Norwood. There were no additional questions.

8. Agency and Partner Reports

- Gary Haughn provided report and discussed Lake Superior Restoration Initiative
- Paul Tikusis (recently-hired Soil Conservationist for NRCS) was introduced

Other Business

- None

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/Lindquist - MC**

Next meeting date: Friday, May 15, 2015 @ 9:30am

Adjourn: 12:02pm by Chairman Mika