

Ashland County Land Conservation Committee
May 22, 2016
Ashland County LWCD Office



Present:

George Mika	Tom Fratt
Jim Oakley	Mike Pero
Ken Lindquist	Dave Schultz
Caryl Peck	Gary Haughn - NRCS
Joe Rose	
Charlie Ortman	
Gerry Richardson	

Call to order: by Tom Fratt @ 9:32 AM. The meeting had been properly noticed and a quorum was present.

Introduction of New Committee Members: County Board Chair Russo had appointed Frank Kempf as a new LCC member along with incumbents Mika, Ortman, Oakley, and Rose. Ken Lindquist and Gerry Richardson were appointed as citizen representatives and Caryl Peck remains as FSA representative.

Minutes: Motion to approve minutes of 3/11/16 by Ortman/Rose MC.

Public Comments: Ortman related clarification he obtained about the role of a National Marine Sanctuary in establishing new or more stringent regulations. He confirmed that a NMS (if approved) would not bring a set of standard regulations with them, but the research they conduct may lead to recommendations for changes in regulations.

Agenda Items

1. Nomination and Election of Land Conservation Committee Chair and Vice-Chair (Action)

Fratt called for nominations for Chairman. Richardson nominated George Mika for Chairman and was seconded by Ortman.

Fratt called 3 times for other nominations. None were heard.

- o **Lindquist moved to close the nominations and cast a unanimous vote for George Mika as chairman. MC.**

Mika called for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Ortman nominated Ken Lindquist for Vice-Chairman and was seconded by Peck.

Mika called 3 times for other nominations. None were heard.

- o **Members closed nominations and cast a unanimous vote for Ken Lindquist as Vice Chairman. MC.**

2. LCC Appointment of Citizen Representative (Action)

County Board Chair Russo had previously appointed Ken Lindquist and Gerry Richardson as citizen representatives of the LCC.

- o **Motion to affirm the appointment of Ken Lindquist and Gerry Richardson as citizen representatives to the LCC by Rose/Oakley. MC.**

Richardson and Lindquist both accepted their nominations as citizen representatives.

3. LCC appointment of NWLCA representative and alternate – Action

- o **Motion to appoint Ken Lindquist as Ashland County LCC representative to the NWLCA by Peck/Ortman. MC.**

If an alternate representative is needed then Chair Mika would act in that capacity or appoint another LCC representative.

4. LWCD appointment of NWLCA representative and alternate - Action

- o **Motion to appoint Tom Fratt as Ashland County LWCD representative to the NWLCA by Pero/Ortman. MC.**

If an alternate representative is needed then Fratt would appoint another LWCD representative.

5. Countywide Farmland Preservation and Comprehensive Plans - Discussion

- o Fratt provided an update on staffing. Brittany Goudos-Weisbecker was an intern last year working with Norwood on GIS and planning tasks and agreed to help out through the end of the year on a part-time basis.
- o Results from the agricultural land use survey are being tabulated and a summary report should be available later today. There are at least 50 responses, which is a good response rate. Unknown how many responses were received electronically at this point.
- o Fratt reported on a meeting with Fischbach and representatives of the Farms not Factories group where issues, concerns and opportunities related to water quality and agriculture were discussed and more public input was requested to the planning process. Fratt encouraged LCC members also on the planning committee to consider/propose formation of a facilitated focus group to address issues and collaborate on solutions.

6. Conservatoinist Report: Fratt provided a report of his activities since the last meeting and highlighted some upcoming deadlines and important dates.

7. Engineering Technician Report: Pero provided a handout with the status of projects. There was discussion about the vegetated treatment area component of some projects. There was additional discussion about how to address project requests not going through the EQIP program when funds and staff time are linked to NRCS priorities.

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

9. Agency and Partner Reports: Gary Haughn reported for NRCS. There is a new “boss” at the Spooner Area Office to replace Derricks. He reviewed safety considerations and discussed the responsibilities of construction inspectors to ensure contractors are working safely. The NRCS office is losing Paul Tikusis, leaving to work for the Forest Service. The NRCS is evaluating ways to get additional help to plan, survey and design projects for the Lake Superior Landscape Restoration Partnership.

Other Business:

- o Fratt reviewed the applications received for the PT program assistant. Five complete and very diverse applications. The committee left it up to Fratt to determine if to proceed with interviews, how many to interview, and how the selection would be made. Mika and Ortman will also talk with Beirl about establishing a “permanent” PT position and evaluating the potential to share staff from another department.
- o Mika wants to find out if the Lake Superior Advisory Team is still in existence or if it can be resurrected as a vehicle for public involvement.
- o Mika provided some background about the formation of the Bad River Watershed Association and asked if anyone from the LCC would want to participate on their Board of Directors. Ortman will investigate the opportunity.

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, June 3rd @ 9:30 a.m.

Adjourn: 11:41 p.m. by Chairman Mika