

Ashland County Land Conservation Committee
November 11, 2016
Ashland County LWCD Office



Present:

George Mika	Tom Fratt
Gerry Richardson	Dave Schultz
Ken Lindquist	Jeannine Welty
Caryl Peck	Mike Pero
Charlie Ortman	
Frank Kempf	
Joe Rose	

Call to order: by George Mika @ 9:31 AM. The meeting had been properly noticed and a quorum was present.

Minutes: Motion to approve minutes of 09/9/16 by Ortman/Kempf MC.

Public Comments: Ortman stated that Comprehensive Plan is done; now we need to work on ordinances for our water issues, an example, Kewaunee Co. is having problems with water. Rose brought up the fact that the DNR has been stripped of their authority. This comment will be continued under Agenda item #2.

Agenda Items

1. WDP 2016 Corn Prices

Schultz reviewed local corn prices and United Ag is at \$3.55 per bushel and Mix Right is at \$4.08 per bushel with an average of \$3.82 per bushel.

**Motion: Set the wildlife damage payment for corn at \$3.82/bushel.
Richardson/Lindquist MC.**

2. County Comprehensive Plan

Fratt gave update that plan had been approved by committee and that it will go to the full county board for adoption. Part of the agricultural portion of the Comp. plan was to recommend development of ordinances to address water concerns.

Ortman stated that we need a manure storage ordinance and see about a water study to find origin of pollution; we also need to gather all information from Bad River Watershed, Northland College and others as well. Mika stated that the Comp. Plan is a working document and right now Land & Water are not the county's top priority. Mika also stated we need to be aware of how to fund data gathering, and how an ordinance will be maintained and enforced. Kempf reminded everyone that the Comp. Plan has no power, it's a suggestion and we need to change laws and zoning to implement it.

Fratt spoke about his involvement with the City of Ashland drinking water source protection plan committee and the need to collect data that Ortman would like to see. The contribution watershed was enlarged for consideration, taking in all of the Bear Trap and Bad River watersheds and involving 3 counties. We need to get deliver a strong message that by implementing this plan we will protect and improve the drinking water, ground water and surface water quality for all. We do not want this to become a city vs. farm issue.

3. County Farmland Preservation Plan

The County Farmland Preservation Plan is part of the Comprehensive plan as Volume 3. DATCP comments were received that require a change to the township maps and project them all on a scale of 1:24,000. There are also some changes required in the text. Brittany

is working on the maps with her limited hours. We hope to accomplish all the changes by the end of next week. Certification should come soon thereafter from DATCP, allowing the county to adopt both plans in December. If the meeting cannot be completed in December, DATCP will probably allow that last step to occur in January.

4. Nutrient Management Planning Cost Share

Fratt reported we have 12 cost share agreements with Daryl Jolma equaling 233 acres, there are 12 contracts that need signatures. Stan Ford is also showing some interest and has 75 acres which would equal \$2,100 in cost share. Fratt that with these contracts there might be \$8,000 left for transferring to another county. Transfer deadline is December 1 and Fratt would like a permission to have Mika and/or Beirl sign the transfer agreement(s).

Motion: Allow Fratt, Mika, and Beirl to work out and sign the final transfer agreements prior to December 1 by Richardson/Rose. MC.

5. Grant Status and 2017 Applications

Fratt gave a status report on current grants and anticipation of new applications. Both the WCMP grant and the DATCP grant will expire the end of 2016. There is still watershed modelling work to complete along with the FPP changes, but all funds should be expended by the end of the year.

The NRCS is willing to extend the existing contribution agreement for another year, but without changes to the allocation. Gary, Tom, and Mike are working to clarify which projects will be covered. This extension will allow us to collect another \$7140 in 2017.

DATCP staff and support grant for 2017 is OK, accounting for about 73% of the salary costs for Pero and Fratt. The DATCP cost-share funding continues to decline, resulting in about a \$7,000 reduction in available cost share.

Fratt anticipates applying for an AIS coordinator grant from the WDNR on December 10, but funding projections are not good and the amount of work required to even get to the application point is increasing.

6. Conservationist & Staff reports

Tom spoke on work completed and recent meetings along with the emergency watershed program, and how he met with 3 land owners whose homes have been compromised because of the July 12 storm.

Mike gave an update on jobs completed, and how one person backed out of some work and NRCS ran out of funding. Discussion ensued about the level of landowners' financial participation in projects with some feeling that land owners should have to have some money in the game, and others questioning if that was possible due to the requirement to offer cost-share to correct agricultural issues.

Dave gave update on corn damage surveys and how he has been up flying and surveyed 1,645 acres; this was a slight drop but we have fewer corn producers. Dave also spoke on the deer donation program.

Other Business: None

Approval of Bills: **Motion to approve the bills by Ortman/Lindquist MC.**

Next meeting date: Friday December 16, 2016 ~ 9:30am

Adjourn: 11:27 a.m. by Chairman Mika