

Ashland County Land Conservation Committee
June 16, 2017
Ashland County LWCD Office

Minutes Approved 8-25-17

Present:

George Mika	Tom Fratt
Gerry Richardson	Mike Pero
Caryl Peck	Jeannine Welty
Charlie Ortman	Pete Russo
Tom Waby	
Joe Rose	
Frank Kempf	

Not present: Ken Lindquist

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 4/28/17 by Waby/Ortman MC.

Public Comments: Three people attended from public and two spoke.

- Mary Dougherty spoke on the need to have a moratorium in place regarding the CAFO before the work of the advisory group is completed. She mentioned that there are efforts underway to have a State-Wide moratorium on CAFOs.
- Tony Janisch Bad River Watershed Association spoke on post July 2016 flood review of culvert survivability. Along a corridor from Wild Cat Rd. to Delafield Road along County Hwy C, (7 miles) there are 30 culverts but only 7 of them blew out. Tony provided three relationships that they discovered: 1) Watershed slope. LiDar data may provide better average slope over current methods of calculation. 2) Land cover – field vs. forest. Do we convert farmland into forest? 3) Watershed size: Larger the basins (watersheds) may have proportionately smaller culverts. Ortman brought up an idea of renting land from farmers to plant forest areas to prevent culvert washouts and save big money down the road. BRWA is having their 15-year anniversary celebration on Saturday August 19 at Freehands Farm.
- Joe Rose provided data and maps from Naomi Tillison, Bad River Tribal Natural Resources Director concerning elevated phosphorus and e-coli in the Bad River watershed. Fratt stated that these items can be made available to the advisory group and general public through the county website. The discussion continued to Agenda Item #1.

Agenda Item #1: Ashland County Agricultural Ordinance Advisory Group Updates

- Fratt stated that meetings have been a challenge to schedule, but they hoped to have two meetings per month until August. The first meeting was productive but too much time was spent on logistics so that not all agenda items were covered. Fratt stated that moratoriums came up in the discussions, but Fratt and Beirl feel that there needs to be something in place to have a moratorium on. Ortman stated there was a good showing by advisory group members despite multiple conflicts. Eight out of 9 advisory group members were happy with the meeting times and the group is diverse and respectful. Fratt said that his general strategy is to start with existing laws such as NR 151 and ordinances that seem to have wide appeal and agreement, such as a manure storage ordinance before moving to the more complex and controversial issues such as livestock siting and CAFO operations ordinance or permits.
- Fratt and Goudos-Weisbecker have worked extensively to creating web pages for the Ashland County website to so that ACAO Advisory Group members and the general public have easy access to data needed to make recommendations to the LCC. All agendas, approved minutes, presentations and background material of the ACAO group are posted there.

- Rose reiterated his desire to institute a moratorium. Extensive discussion about the purpose, need and timing of a moratorium. Because a moratorium is not specifically on the agenda, Chairman Mika asked that the topic be on the next LCC agenda for discussion and possible action. Rose responded by making that a formal request.

Agenda Item #2: Wildlife Damage Abatement and Control Program Renewal of 5-year Plan of Administration

- Schultz provided a handout of the POA and stated that there were only minor administrative corrections made. The POA needs to be finalized and returned to the DNR by November 1, 2017. Richardson stated that the DNR reimburses the county 100% of the costs. **Motion to approve the 5-year POA and have Mika sign by Ortman/Kempf. M.C.**

Agenda Item #3: Advisors to the Land Conservation Committee

- Fratt read from Chapter 92 WI Stats. regarding the ability of the LCC to appoint advisors. He asked if the LCC wanted to invite particular people or organizations to advise the LCC, such as the new zoning administrator or to press for a DNR advisor. Mika stated ZA Josh Rowley should be included due to the potential of creating an agricultural zoning ordinance. After much discussion, it was determined that so long as key partners and organizations were being notified of LCC meetings that it was not necessary to make them official advisors.

Conservation and Staff Reports:

- Conservationist report was handed out. Fratt mentioned that invites and news releases concerning scholarship opportunities for conservation camp had gone out, but there was no interest from Ashland County students again this year. There will be a celebration at the home of Joe Rose on July 14. The new Agricultural Ordinance Advisory group is consuming a lot of his time. A representative from the Lake Galilee Association is planning to attend the NW Lakes conference and he is planning to provide a \$45 scholarship to defer the cost to attend.
- Schultz provided a handout but stated that he covered everything under Agenda Item #2.
- Pero provided an update on the River Protection Grant. The resolution passed The County Board and was forwarded to the DNR. Although it is likely that we will get the grant, the project still needs a DNR permit. If the funding is received and the permit delayed the project may be extended to 2018. Pero reviewed the remaining projects with the group.
- Reports from Jeannine and Brittany were provided.

Agency and Partner Reports

- None provided

Other Business:

- No other business.

Approval of Bills: Motion to approve by Ortman/Rose MC

Next meeting date: Friday, August 25, 2017 at 9:30am

Adjourn: 11:45 am by Chairman Mika