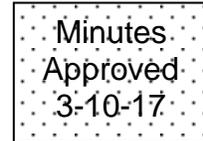


Ashland County Land Conservation Committee
January 27, 2017
Ashland County LWCD Office



Present:

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

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 12/16/16 by Ortman/Lindquist. MC.

Public Comments: 20 people attended the meeting and 7 people provided comment during this period. As was the case during the December 2016 meeting, most of the comments expressed concerns over “industrial” or “large scale” agriculture”, with everyone encouraging the county to develop agricultural ordinances to protect water quality and human health. Specific recommendations included instituting a ban on aerial spraying of manure, and adoption of a livestock operations ordinance similar to Bayfield County.

Agenda Items

1. Presentation of Potential Agricultural Ordinances

Allissa Stutte, along with Courtney Remacle, Chris Corrigan, Elizabeth Downey, and May___ presented an ordinance that they recommend to ban the use of 3 “manure spray irrigation” techniques including center pivot and travelling gun systems. They presented the DNR definitions of these techniques and provided photos of the tools in action. The group urged quick action on the “ban” before Madison moves to take that local control away. The possibility of a CAFO operations ordinance was also mentioned, but there was little discussion.

2. Consideration of Other Agricultural Ordinances

Fratt provided a handout with a range of agricultural ordinance options for the LCC to consider, including the “do nothing” alternative. He attempted to detail the positive and negative impacts to agricultural producers, the county, and the environment. Fratt also provided his opinion that a manure management ordinance that encompasses the conservation standards and prohibitions of NR151 would be the most equitable to all, and that it is possible to regulate manure spray irrigation (MSI), manure pipelines, and large CAFO operations through a permitting process.

Motion made to develop a manure spray irrigation ordinance and a large CAFO operations ordinance made by Ortman and seconded by Rose.

Discussion ensued about the need to develop ordinances of this type considering MSI and CAFOs do not presently occur in the county. Fratt reiterated his opinion that if the county were to develop ordinances they should apply to all farmers and that many of the concerns raised over MSI and CAFOs could be addressed through a permit process. Discussion continued about rescinding and replacing the motion, but Supervisor Richardson called the

question. In a roll call vote, the motion was defeated 6-1 with Joe Rose voting yes. Shortly after noon, the committee took a short break and Supervisor Waby and most of the citizen participants left the meeting. Discussion resumed and Ortman revised his motion.

Motion made to have Fratt draft a manure management ordinance that addresses manure spray irrigation, manure pipelines and large CAFO operations through a permit process made by Ortman/Rose. Motion carried 5-1 on a roll call vote: Mika – Nay, Ortman – Yes, Peck – Yes, Richardson – Yes, Lindquist – Yes, Rose - Yes.

3. Amendment to County CREP Agreement

DATCP provided amendment #6 to the CREP agreement, reducing the County's authority to spend down to \$40,000 to allow other counties greater utilization.

Motion to accept the CREP amendment and have Chairman Mika sign made by Richardson/Rose. MC.

4. Policy Handbook Update – Local Custom Equipment and labor Rates

Pero had researched average costs for equipment rental and added several pieces of equipment to the list. There was some discussion that several folks felt the rates were too low.

Motion to accept the 2017 Local Custom Equipment and Labor Rates for Ashland County made by Richardson/Ortman. MC.

5. 2017 LCC Meeting Schedule

The frequency of LCC meetings in recent years has exceeded the meeting budget and has a large impact on staff time. Fratt suggested a schedule of every other month, but the LCC wanted to keep things the same with meetings on an "as-needed" basis.

6. Annual Conference Registration and Environmental Education Support

Fratt asked who was planning to attend the annual conference so that he could complete registration and make room reservations. No commitment from anyone, but Ortman expressed an interest.

Fratt provided each LCC member with silent auction information and a bid sheet. Fratt asked for each of them to consider securing a donation for the conference.

Motion to allow LWCD staff to spend up to \$200 from the Tree & Shrub Scholarship Fund to help acquire donations made by Ortman/Rose. MC.

7. Conservation Poster and Speaking Contest

The LCC and LWCD staff took a break to vote on the first, second, and third place posters in 3 age divisions. Further discussion on who was planning to attend the NW Area Meeting and the Poster and Speaking Contest.

8. Conservationist & Staff reports

- Fratt, Pero, Schultz and Welty all provided handouts of their activities since the last meeting.

Agency and Partner Reports: None.

Other Business: None

Approval of Bills: Ortman/Peck. MC

Next meeting date: Friday March 10, 2017 ~ 9:30am

Adjourn: 1:24pm by Chairman Mika