

**Ashland County Land Conservation Committee**  
**October 1, 2019**  
**Ashland County LWCD Office**

Approved Minutes 10-1-19
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LCC Present: George Mika, Caryl Peck, Joe Rose, John Wiener

Others: Clark Schroeder (new Ashland County Administrator), Josh Rowley (Zoning), Dave Schultz, Mike Pero, Scott Caven, MaryJo Gingras, Gary Haughn (NRCS)

1. Call to order - Meeting called to order by George Mika at 9:02 am.
2. Introductions – Clark Schroeder introduced himself and told the committee a little about himself. Everyone introduced themselves.
3. **Approval of Minutes - Motion to approve July 8, 2019 draft minutes by Peck, second by Rose. MC.**
4. Public Comments – None heard
5. **Action: Approval of 2020 Wildlife Damage Budget** – Schultz distributed 2020 Wildlife Damage budget. \$223 salary increase. Overall budget decrease from 2019. **Motion to approve 2020 wildlife budget Rose, second by Wiener. MC.**
6. Review of 2020 Land Conservation Budget. Gingras reviewed 2020 revenues with an estimated increase of \$150,000+ from 2019. Discussed individual revenue sources and reviewed expenses. Overall budget increase from 2019-2020 is estimated at \$44.
7. **Action: Approval of 2019 Deer Donation Program Authorization - Motion to authorize the 2019 Deer Donation Program by Peck, second by Rose. MC.**
8. Agency Staff / Partner Reports – Haughn thanked staff and supervisors for attending the NRCS Workgroup annual meeting in Spooner. October 1 was the cutoff for 2020 EQIP signup requests. This year, we have paid out \$69,000 to Ashland County landowners for conservation practices, yet we have \$168,000-\$169,000 contracted in Ashland County to implement in the next year or two. Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) – landowner needs to make a conservation improvement on the landscape above and beyond efforts they are already making. This program is getting a lot of attention on the national level. Locally, the short growing season poses challenges for being able to plant cover crops. There are contracts in Ashland County. Enrollment varies from year-to-year based on what practices are available for implementation.
9. LWCD Staff Reports
  - a. Mike Pero, Conservation Technician – gave report and provided written report.
  - b. Dave Schultz, Wildlife Damage – gave report and provided written report.
  - c. Scott Caven, Aquatic Invasive Species – gave report and provided written.
  - d. MaryJo Gingras, County Conservationist – provided written report.

10. Other Business: Rowley asked Gingras about instituting launch fees and potential of managing county-owned boat landings (Second and Angler's All landings). Landings are currently free for use and managed by the Ashland County Forestry Department. Gingras contacted Forestry Administrator about it this summer and never heard back. Assistant Forestry Administrator responded and was unsure why previous County Administrator would have suggested LWCD to take over management. Gingras will contact Forestry to set up meeting to discuss. Rowley also mentioned that he has not heard back from state Farmland Preservation Program coordinator (Katy Smith) in regard to creating Farmland Preservation Zoning in Ashland County. Gingras will contact Smith.
11. Next Meeting Date: December (TBD)
12. Adjourned at 10:40 am by George Mika.

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