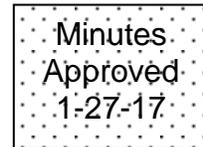


Ashland County Land Conservation Committee
December 16, 2016
Ashland County LWCD Office



Present:

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

Excused: Tom Waby (insufficient notice)

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 11/4/16 by Lindquist/Rose MC.

Public Comments: 14 people attended to provide public comment. In general, the issues revolved around concerns over “industrial” or “large scale” agriculture”. Most people commended the County for completing the update of the Comprehensive and Farmland Preservation Plans, but now look to the county to implement the plans including the development of agricultural ordinances to protect water quality and human health. Specific comments included instituting a ban on aerial spraying of manure, and adoption of a livestock operations ordinance similar to Bayfield County’s. Additional comments concerned over application of road salt by city and county crews, and the increasing threats to Chequamegon Bay and Lake Superior from a variety of modern-day and “legacy” impacts. After all the commentators had a chance to speak, Chairman Mika opened up the meeting for a general Q & A session.

Agenda Items

Ortman motioned to move Agenda items #2 and #3 to the top of the agenda. Lindquist 2nd MC

1. LCC membership and advisor updates

Fratt gave updates, there’s a new appointment, Tom Waby will replace Jim Oakley, Mika is still on board as chairman. Fratt reported he has not heard back from Nancy Larson from DNR (Retired?) regarding being a representative for LCC. Mika asked if we should be including DNR in meeting mailings. Fratt asked of the city and DNR, do we want more representatives? Should BRWS be considered as advisor?

2. WDP 2016 Damage Claims Approval

Schultz provided information on 3 WDP bear damage claims (Kretzschmar, Peck, and Kriskovich).

Motion made to approve the WDP bear claims by Peck/Ortman. MC

3. WDP 2017 Bear Relocation Contract with APHIS

Schultz stated that the August 2016 budget included \$325 to relocate per bear. Per APHIS, the October – November trapping was down, but the relocation price has now doubled. This change results in the need for a budget amendment. To cover the increased cost of bear trapping.

Motion to amend the WDP budget to reflect the change in relocation costs made by Richardson/Rose. MC.

4. County Farmland Preservation Plan Certification and Adoption

Fratt reported the FPP plan was Certified by DATCP 12/5/16 and adopted by the County Board on 12/15/16. Kempf brought up the issue that he would have liked the time to completely review hardcopy documents before voting on them at the county board meeting. Kempf also reminded us about the requirements to provide adjacent municipalities with a copy of the Comprehensive Plan. Fratt stated that Lori S. and Jeff B. will be asking county board supervisors how they want to receive the plans – hardcopy, CD, viewing on the website, or a combination.

5. 2016 to 2017 Cost-Share Extension Request

Fratt handed out a draft request to DATCP extend cost share contracts. There are 2 “bonding” Cost Share Agreements that were not completed (Nortunen and Ritola) totaling \$8,663 and 11 SEG Nutrient Management contracts with Jolma and Oliphant totaling \$6,534. Fratt indicated that the NMP contracts are still draft and there may be minor adjustments to the dollar amounts before the December 31 due date.

Motion to have Mika or Beirl sign the cost-share extension request after Fratt finalizes the contracts with Jolma and Oliphant made by Richardson/Ortman. MC.

6. 2017 Grant Status and Applications

Fratt summarized the status of various grant applications and agreements. Agreements in place include a Contribution Agreement with the NRCS. The agreement was recently extended for 1 year without additional funds, but approximately \$7500 remains. A mini-grant was also obtained from the Great Lakes Committee of WI Land+Water to host the 3rd Annual Chequamegon Bay Area Science Symposium. An application for a part-time AIS coordinator for the county was recently submitted and several options for GLRI grants are available. Two grants, the DATCP FPP grant and the WCMP Planning grant expire at the end of December this year.

7. Conservationist & Staff reports

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

8. Agency and Partner Reports

Gary Haughn of NRCS provided updates on the Emergency Watershed Program and review of 3 houses on failing high bluffs. Gary also spoke about other programs including wetland conversion and a Lake Superior Construction Equipment Fund.

Other Business: Fratt received a request from DATCP to amend the County CREP contract, reducing the authority to spend from \$200,000 to \$40,000. Because this item was requested after the agenda had been completed, a decision was postponed to the January meeting.

Approval of Bills: Lindquist/Ortman MC

Next meeting date: Friday January 27, 2017 ~ 9:30am

Adjourn: 12:26pm by Chairman Mika