

Ashland County Land Conservation Committee
February 4, 2019
Ashland County LWCD Office

Approved Minutes 2-4-19

Roll Call

Members Present: Gerald Richardson, John Wiener, Charlie Ortman, Joe Rose,
George Mika, Ken Lindquist, Caryl Peck

Others: Josh Rowley (Zoning), David Schultz, Mike Pero, MaryJo Gingras, Gary Haughn

1. **Call to order** - Meeting called to order by George Mika at 9:03 am.
2. **Introductions** - None
3. **Approval of Minutes** - **Motion to approve December 5, 2018 draft minutes by Wiener second by Ortman. MC.**
4. **Public Comments** - None
5. **Agency Staff / Partner Reports**
 - a. NRCS Update; Gary Haughn: Commented that NRCS was not laid off during the government shut down. EQIP money has been approved for 2019 projects: High Tunnels, WI Travel Advisory Council, Conservation Activity Plans, Grazing Plans, Energy Plans, GLRI for invasive species. In the first round of funding our region was able to fund all project requests; NRCS is currently working on engineering design plans. NRCS just emailed national annual report. Haughn will distribute hard copies at the next meeting, or folks can check NRCS website. Field success stories are reported from different areas. There have been a couple local projects reported in the national bulletin. Steve Thurber wildlife habitat project to improve a sedge meadow was reported. Haughn appreciates the partnerships in the four counties with engineering assistance to spend the federal money. Conservation projects require either conservation planning certification or job approval for ability to design the projects. The new Farm Bill has allocated \$28 Billion to conservation projects. Typical allocation is approximately \$22-\$24 billion. Wisconsin is in the top 15 in the nation for EQIP spending.
6. **Action:** Wildlife Damage Program 2018 Crop Damage Claims. For 2018 we have two damage claims to act on: Robert Riemer and Dave Kretzschmar. **Motion to accept damage claims by Ortman/ second by Richardson. MC.**
7. **Action:** Approval of Bills. **Motion to accept contract as proposed by Ortman, second by Lindquist. MC.**
8. **LWCD staff Reports**
 - a. Mike Pero, Conservation Technician – provided written report Provided update on Jackson Kyser project including DNR grant reimbursement of \$41,891.

- b. Dave Schultz, Wildlife Damage – Schultz reported that Pearce Sausage Kitchen in Ashland and Hursh Meat Processing in Douglas County participated in the 2018 Deer Donation Program. All donated deer were processed, packaged in one-pound bags and distributed to local food shelves at the end of the program. Pearce had three deer donated and Hursh had eight deer donated. Donated deer is way down compared to 15 years ago when there were 130+ deer donated through the program. Schultz is currently closing out 2018 finances, all bills and revenues are accounted. Audit will take place in early March.
- c. MaryJo Gingras, Conservationist - Provided written report. Updated committee on current Tree & Shrub Program and 2018 Annual Report. Currently working on 2018 year-end finances and reporting for the county, compiling information for the audit in early March, and preparing year-end DATCP reporting.

Other Business:

Conservation Poster Contest Judging – only three posters presented; one in each of three categories. All three receive first place (\$30 each) in their category and will move on to Regional Contest on February 4, 2019.

WI Land + Water Annual Conference Participation - Gingras presented information about the WI land & Water Annual Conference and dates. Mika, Ortman, and Peck showed interest in attending the conference. They will fill out a registration form and select the sessions they want to attend. Gingras will get county payment, send registration forms in, and arrange for hotel rooms. Staff and supervisors will ride share to the conference.

- 9. Next Meeting Date:** April 18, 2019 at **9:00 am**
Adjourn at 10:30 a.m.