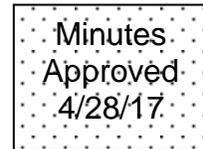


Ashland County Land Conservation Committee
March 10, 2017
Ashland County LWCD Office



Present:

George Mika	Tom Fratt
Gerry Richardson	Dave Schultz
Ken Lindquist	Mike Pero
Caryl Peck	Pete Russo
Charlie Ortman	Gary Haughn (NRCS)
Tom Waby	Tony Janisch (BRWA)
Joe Rose	

Excused: Frank Kempf, Caryl Peck

Call to order: by George Mika @ 9:30 AM. The meeting had been noticed and a quorum was present.

Minutes: Motion to approve minutes of 1/27/17 by Lindquist/Richardson. MC.

Public Comments: 11 other people attended the meeting and 8 people provided comment during this period. Two of the 8 people provided their written comment: Eric Morud and Courtney Remacle. Fratt relayed that he had received 5 or 6 emails urging the county to enact ordinances prohibiting aerial spraying of manure and creating an operational ordinance to restrict large CAFOs. Fratt also read a resolution from the City of Ashland Common Council urging Ashland County to enact more stringent regulations than what is contained in ATP 51. The written public comments and the City of Ashland Resolution were retained as part of today's LCC meeting documents.

Chairman Mika opened up discussion with the public commentators, and extensive discussion and interchange ensued. On Fratt's recommendation, the committee made a motion to amend the agenda to move agenda item #5 to agenda item #1 to allow the discussion to continue while following the published agenda. **Motion made by Ortman and seconded by Richardson. MC.**

Agenda Items

1. Ashland County manure management ordinance status

- More discussion about ordinance options and a wide variety of concerns were openly aired by the LCC, the public, staff, and the County Board Chair Russo. Several attempts at motions were made by Rose but failed due to lack of "seconds".
- Fratt attempted to steer the group back to the memo he sent out with the suggestion to establish a diverse, volunteer, advisory group to help him draft an ordinance and implementation strategy before coming back to committee. Fratt would like the group to be relative small and composed of people willing to make the commitment to draft the documents. The group composition would ultimately depend on volunteers, but suggested the following:
 - Tom Fratt – Lead writer
 - Jason Fishbach – Facilitator and expert
 - Charles Ortman – LCC and Concerned Citizen
 - Caryl Peck – LCC and Dairy Farmer
 - Naomi Tillison – Bad River Tribal Natural Resources Director

- Dairy Farmer (1 or 2) - ? Bob Riemer, Todd Berweger, Brian Anderson, Pat Kriskovich?
- Beef Farmer (1 or 2) - ? Dave Nortunen, Tim Mika?
- Small/Organic/Produce Farmer – Todd Rothe, Alexander Waters, Landis Spickerman?
- Concerned Citizens (1 or 2) – ? Allissa Stutte, Tony Janisch, Mary Dougherty, Chris Corrigan?

Motion to have Fratt create a manure management ordinance advisory group by Ortman/Waby. MC. Fratt will solicit for volunteers as soon as possible.

- Timeline – the group in attendance and LCC were reminded of the legal and practical constraints of establishing an ordinance including advisory group meetings, LCC approval and recommendation, legal counsel review, public hearing(s), and county board adoption. The earliest feasible completion date would be June, 2017 and is dependent on Fratt's workload priorities and progress of the advisory group.

2. Resolution to support WDNR River Protection Grant Program application

- Pero and Dehne had applied to the WDNR for a River Protection Grant and needed a resolution from the committee to formally approve the application. **Motion to sign the resolution and forward it to the appropriate WDNR personnel made by Ortman/Richardson. MC.**

3. Native tree and shrub sale summary

- Handout summarizing the current sales revenue projection
- Scholarship fund supported by tree and shrub sales. More small sized t-shirts were ordered as part of the awards for the local conservation poster and speaking contests.
- Volunteers are needed to help put together orders on Thursday, May 4th.

4. Conservation Poster and Speaking Contest results

- Handout of local and NW Area poster contest results, and a summary of the speaking contest held in Spooner
- A poster drawn by Brooklyn Hanson and entered from Ashland County in 2016 went on to win second place at the national level and will be recognized at the annual conference in Elkhart Lake next week. The student and her family will not be able to make the awards ceremony due to a busy school schedule, so Fratt has been asked to accept the award on her behalf.

5. WI Land+Water Annual Conference

- Pero and Fratt obtained several nice donations to the silent auction benefitting youth education. Lindquist will donate 10 cookbooks from the church to the cause.
- Lindquist and Ortman to coordinate rides to the conference with Pero and Schultz; Fratt will drive down separately the day before to make the Board of Director's meeting.
- Registrations and room reservations have been made for all. Ortman pointed out an error in his room reservation that Fratt will correct with the Osthoff.

6. Conservationist & Staff reports

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

7. Agency and Partner Reports:

- Gary Haughn (NRCS): Provided a handout concerning equal opportunity in program delivery and provided a summary of EQIP status in Ashland County and the northern district of NRCS. Gary informed us the work group for the northern counties has been combined with

the work group out of Spooner, and the annual work group meeting will be held in Spooner this summer.

- Tony Janisch of the Bad River Watershed Association informed the committee of the association's efforts to secure grant funding to revise their culvert inventory and update the Marengo River action plan. Tony also teased us that the association will adopt a new name and logo to reflect their enlarged service area. More to come!

Other Business:

- Fratt highlighted the meeting and deadline schedule on his conservationist report and pointed out the he and Fischbach are holding nutrient management plan refresher and update sessions during March 21 and 22.
- Fratt also mentioned that DATCP is moving toward electronic signatures on many of their documents and wanted authorization to sign as "county representative" when possible. Because this wasn't listed as a specific agenda item, the committee gave temporary approval with the condition that it is placed on the agenda for formal consideration at the next LCC meeting.

Approval of Bills: Ortman/Lindquist. MC

Next meeting date: Friday April 28, 2017 ~ 9:30am

Adjourn: 11:57 am by Chairman Mika