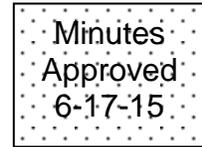


Ashland County Land Conservation Committee
May 15, 2015
Ashland Co LWCD Conference Room



Present:

George Mika	Tom Fratt
Ken Lindquist	Mike Pero
Charles Ortman	Todd Norwood
Caryl Peck	Pete Russo - County Board Chair
Gerry Richardson	Donna Williamson - County Board
Joe Rose	Cindy Zach – Health & Human Services
Jim Oakley	

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 from 4/10/15 by Lindquist/Ortman - MC

Public Comment:

Several people expressed concern on whether a moratorium should be implemented regarding CAFO's. Feedback from the public to county board members during personal communications suggests some citizens are concerned the county isn't implementing one yet while others express concern about instituting a moratorium. It was recommended that public listening sessions are needed. Further discussion follows under agenda item #1.

Agenda Items:

1. Countywide Farmland Preservation and Comprehensive Plan Updates - Discussion

- Fratt clarified that public involvement and public hearings are required by law as part of the comprehensive plan/farmland preservation plan planning process. Issues such as ordinance development or implementing a moratorium could be discussed as part of the planning process
- Fratt strongly recommended that the planning process start with the appointment of a planning committee composed of county board members
- The planning committee would make decisions to direct the development of the comprehensive and farmland preservation plans and address issues such public involvement, development of ordinances, and/or implementing moratoria.
- A moratorium must be well defined and serve a particular purpose
- Listening sessions could possibly be held at WITC in Ashland and another location such as Mellen or possibly further south in the county
- Written procedures on how public involvement will be implemented into the planning process is required by law and needs to be developed by the planning committee
- Fratt mentioned the planning committee should have a spokesperson to respond to requests for information by the media
- A public advisory committee would be established by the planning committee and composed of a range of community members and interested stakeholders
- Russo stated that a planning committee will be identified immediately with establishment of a committee with approval of the full county board as soon as possible. Next meeting of the county board is June 18th.

2. LWCD technical assistance and cost-share allocation for EQIP and other programs - Discussion

- Pero provided handout and summary of funding obligations for this year (including carry-overs from 2014) and list of anticipated EQIP projects
- Pero mentioned a number of projects don't qualify for EQIP funding and limited LWCD funds won't cover all EQIP projects
- Pero asked the LCC how projects should be prioritized while awaiting EQIP contracts
- General discussion on project funding and timing with partner agencies, particularly NRCS
- Fratt again suggested a strategy to split the DATCP allocation so that a certain percentage goes to EQIP-funded projects and another percentage goes to non-partner funded projects that meet the priorities identified in the department's Land and Water Resource Management Plan.
- **Motion to approve DATCP funding for carry-over projects and those with other partner obligations. Obligation of remaining DATCP funds will be deferred until next LCC meeting. Ortman/Oakley – MC**

3. Conservationist Report

- Fratt provided report
 - State budget outcome: About 50% (\$675,000) of the amount requested to be restored to county staff and support grants in the state budget was approved.
 - Conservation Camp: one applicant for scholarship so far
 - Complaint on invasive species landscaping at county courthouse

4. Staff Reports

- Pero , Norwood and Schultz all provided handouts

5. Agency and Partner Reports

- None provided

Other Business

- None

Approval of Bills: A summary list of bills submitted for payment since the previous LCC meeting was handed out

- **Motion to approve the bills by Ortman/Lindquist - MC**

Next meeting date: Wednesday, June 17, 2015 @ 9:30am

Adjourn: 11:56am by Chairman Mika