

Ashland County Land Conservation Committee
June 12, 2018
Ashland County LWCD Office

Approved Minutes 6-12-18

Roll Call

Members Present: George Mika, Gerry Richardson, Caryl Peck (FSA Rep), Charlie Ortman, Joe Rose, John Wiener

Members Absent: Ken Lindquist Pete Russo

Others Present: Tom Fratt, Mike Pero, MaryJo Gingras, David Schultz

Call to order

Meeting called to order by George Mika at 4:30 PM.

Introduction of new committee members

Welcome of new committee member John Wiener.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes of April 27, 2018 by Richardson/Rose. MC.

Agenda Items

Agency and Partner Reports

Staff Reports: Fratt reported that Friday, June 15, 2018 is his last day per retirement. He has been working on wrapping things up and transitioning MaryJo in. Gingras began work with the Department on June 1st when she attended the Northwest Land Conservation meeting.

Wildlife Damage Specialist Schultz reported on recent goose complaints. He completed the 2017 audit this spring which went well.

Civil Engineering Technician Pero provided a written report; no verbal comments.

Superior Rivers Watershed Director Tony Janisch reported that his organization just finished spring macroinvertebrate sampling in local streams, and should have a report of the biotic index by the end of this summer.

Enter into Public Hearing on Agricultural Ordinances, 5:00 PM

At 5:00 pm chairman Mika moved into the Public Hearing period of the meeting (see Public Hearing comments 6-12-18).

Roll Call

Members Present: George Mika, Gerry Richardson, Caryl Peck (FSA Rep), Charlie Ortman, Joe Rose, John Wiener

Members Absent: Ken Lindquist, Pete Russo

Ortman left LCC Meeting and Public Hearing at 6:00 pm.

Motion to close public hearing Ortman/Rose. MC.

Reconvene LCC Meeting

Reconvened LCC Meeting at 6:10 pm.

Decision on Agricultural Ordinances

Discussion ensued about both Ordinances. Fratt identified the concern he heard about manure storage in the proposed Agricultural Performance Standards Ordinance. He also heard comments requesting the proposed CAFO Ordinance to include two different scales. Current local farmers would not a permit until their operation reached 2000 animals and new farmers would be required to have a permit at 1000 animals. Also heard comments to only require a permit for new farms. We would need to define what is a previous or existing farm versus a new farm. This could be difficult to do.

Riley remembered that the Agricultural Ordinance Advisory Committee determined they could not propose an ordinance that is different for new farms versus existing farms because it is discrimination. Committee felt that 2000 animals is a high enough number to protect existing local farmers while regulating potential large farm operations in the future.

Several questions and comments from the public were reiterated from the Public Hearing.

Rose commented that they should not vote without the whole committee present. Mika gave the option to vote now or hold another meeting.

Motion to hold another LCC Meeting to table for further discussion Rose/Richardson. MC

Other Business: None

Approval of Bills:

Motion to approve the bills by Ortman/Rose. MC.

Next Meeting Date: Tentative Wednesday, June 27th at 9:00am.

Adjourn: Adjourn at 6:51 pm