

**Ashland County Land Conservation Committee**  
**June 17, 2015**  
**Ashland Co LWCD Conference Room**



**Present:**

George Mika	Tom Fratt
Ken Lindquist	Mike Pero
Charles Ortman	Todd Norwood
Caryl Peck	Dave Schultz
Gerry Richardson	Riley Stiltjes – LWCD Intern
Joe Rose	Brittany Weisbecker – LWCD Intern
Jim Oakley	Gary Haughn - NRCS

**Call to order:** by George Mika @ 9:33 AM. The meeting had been properly noticed and a quorum was present.

**Minutes:** **Motion to approve minutes from 5/17/15 by Richardson/Ortman - MC**

**Public Comment:** The public comment period was used to introduce LCC members to the LWCD Interns

**Agenda Items:**

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

- Mike and Gary led off the discussion about the NRCS schedule for final ranking and prioritization and provided a tentative schedule
- Gary intends that the landowners will be aware that they should sign EQIP contracts based on NRCS funds alone, but advise them to contact the LWCD for other funding possibilities
- Gary will inform landowners by letter that they have been funded and provide 15 days for them to indicate that they will or will not proceed. The letter will make it clear that they need to contact the LWCD within the same 15 day period to see if LWCD cost-share funds are available.
- Much additional discussion on how the LWCD will prioritize those same projects and how our timeline meshes with that of the NRCS.

**Motion: Upon notification to the LWCD from the NRCS that the landowner will proceed with the project, the LWCD will use the NRCS prioritization and ranking to determine which practices will be cost-shared by the LWCD at 70% of the remainder during the first 15 days. Interest received after the end of the 15 day period will be on a “first come, first served” basis until the funds are depleted. Ortman/Lindquist – MC**

**2. Countywide Farmland Preservation and Comprehensive Plan Updates - Discussion**

- A Comprehensive Plan Committee has been appointed by Pete Russo and will be approved at the 6-18-15 County Board meeting.
- UWEX has hired Haley Hoffman to work on comprehensive planning tasks for about 11 hours per week through the summer with an option to extend her appointment if agreeable.

**3. Conservationist Report**

- Fratt provided report and gave a quick summary of the recent Great Lakes Committee Annual Meeting.

**4. Staff Reports**

- Pero , Norwood and Schultz all provided handouts

## **5. Agency and Partner Reports**

- Haughn provided information as part of the discussion on Agenda Item #1

### **Other Business**

- Three items were discussed briefly: 1) Potential need to find a replacement for the NWLCA representative on the WLWCA Board of Directors. Bill Thomas (Iron County) will be asked to participate or resign. 2) Status of CAFO ordinances and moratorium in Ashland County. It was reiterated that these issues will be addressed by the Comprehensive Planning Committee. 3) Potential increase in County budget due to strong timber sales. The LCC should encourage consideration of funding for the LWCD.

**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/Oakley - MC**

**Next meeting date:** None Set – tentatively mid-August

**Adjourn:** 12:13 pm by Chairman Mika