

Ashland County Land Conservation Committee
June 27, 2018
Ashland County LWCD Office



Roll Call

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

Members Absent: Pete Russo, John Wiener

Others Present: Josh Rowley, Mike Pero, MaryJo Gingras, David Schultz

Call to order

Meeting called to order by George Mika at 9:00 am.

Introductions

Michael (Mic) Isham (Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission), Michael Berlin (Bad River Tribe), Tony Janisch (Superior Rivers), Mike Wiggins Jr. (Bad River Tribal Chairman), Richard Ketring (City of Ashland), Ms. LaPointe (Ashland)

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from June 12, 2018 by Ortman and second by Rose. MC.

Public Comments

Mic Isham- I represent the 11 tribes in Michigan and Wisconsin. We support anything that will protect that land and water which we depend on for subsistence. I have read that these ordinances are based on emotional issues but they are not. We have learned from our past and my member tribes support these ordinances if they are about protection. We have to practice what we preach. We need to support our local farmers by buying local.

Richard Ketring- I support the full and complete ordinance from Bayfield County. It allows the County Board to protect small farms and gives the board the regulatory authority to protect against potential consequences of large operations.

Mike Wiggins- I came today to ask you to strengthen up and pass the ordinance. I am here to fight against large CAFO's as they are "resource extraction entities." At Bad River, we had to spend millions to clean up our sewage treatment facility. We did it because of this unique area. The Chequamegon Bay is an isolated area and a unique biological entity that would collect CAFO sewage if one was built. You represent the children across Ashland County. It is your responsibility to protect what we have here. It is beautiful.

Tony Janisch- I will reiterate what I have already spoken publically. Aerial spraying is not currently happening in Ashland County so just ban it. I feel that unconfined manure on the ground for 8 months is too long.

Discussion of Public Hearing Comments

Charles Ortman mentioned that he is concerned about the fees. He does not want to assess fees on small farms. George Mika provided comments. MaryJo Gingras mentioned that the Agricultural Performance Standards are currently state law but not being enforced due to lack of staff at DNR.

Vote on Proposed Agricultural Ordinances

Motion to move proposed ordinances to the County Board by Ortman, second by Rose. Roll Call Vote: Rose- yes, Richardson- yes, Peck- yes, Lindquist- yes, Ortman- yes, Mika- No. Vote passes 5 to 1. **MC.**

Caryl Peck had comments and concerns about expansion of farms. She has a small CAFO (300 animals) and has been farming for 30 years. Dairy farmers have expanded because milk prices are too low. They are the same as 30 years ago. CAFO's are not bad! The Kretzschmar Farm expanded because they needed to make ends meet. She still wants to farm and has two sons that want to farm, but is worried about what the ordinance will do. She will pass the ordinance but is scared by who may be on the County Board in 10 years and how they will regulate the small farms.

Richardson commented about how he is happy how the group has come together as a committee.

Other Business: None

Next Meeting Date: August 31, 2018 at 9:30 am

Adjourn: Adjourn at 10:15 am.