

Ashland County Land Conservation Committee
August 7, 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	Gary Haughn - NRCS
Joe Rose	Karen Koazie
<u>Excused:</u> Jim Oakley	Joan Elias
	Tony Janisch

Call to order: by Ken Lindquist @ 9:32 AM (George Mika not present yet). The meeting had been properly noticed and a quorum was present.

Minutes: **Motion to approve minutes from 6/17/15 by Ortman/Richardson - MC**

Public Comment: No public comments

Agenda Items:

1. Presentation: Lake Superior National Marine Sanctuary (NMS) Initiative - Discussion

- Presentation given by Karen Koazie provided background information on National Marine Sanctuary program, application process, funding, and potential regional and economic benefits.
- Since designation of a NMS is dependent on community support, the county board and individuals should determine what goals and outcomes or concerns they have and offer suggestions at future meetings.
- A resolution showing support of the NMS from the county board may be needed in the coming months following more discussion during the initial planning period.
- The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary is a good example to review, sharing many similarities to a potential Lake Superior NMS.
- The Olympic Coast NMS Director may present an informative session at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in October.

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

- Fratt provided an update on current cost-share funding.
- General discussion on a possible increase to project cost-share percentage to reduce carryover potential.
- **Motion by Richardson/Ortman to increase the amount of 2015 LWRM cost-share from 70% to 90% of the estimated cost remainder (70% if project costs are higher than the estimated cost and are justifiable) unless cost-share is accepted on an existing eligible project - MC**

3. Countywide Farmland Preservation and Comprehensive Plan Updates - Discussion

- Fratt provided brief summary of the first FPP/Comp Plan Committee meeting.
- Fratt recommended development of a citizen advisory committee consisting of diverse stakeholders including full-time farmers.
- General discussion on livestock siting ordinances and moratoriums and their role (if any) in the planning process.

4. DATCP Preliminary Allocation and County Budget Development

- Fratt provided summary of preliminary joint allocation and explained the budget outcome could have been worse if not for the efforts made by the state association to reverse budget cuts.
- Fratt continues working toward a contribution agreement with NRCS for funding through 2016 to provide assistance on the increased EQIP and Lake Superior Restoration Initiative workload.

5. Conservationist Report

- Fratt provided report

6. Staff Reports

- Pero, Schultz, and Norwood provided reports

7. Agency and Partner Reports

- Haughn provided report on EQIP projects

Other Business

- Mika proposed holding an October county board retreat/tour displaying some of the LWCD projects and also meeting at the fairground for lunch and discussion on the future of the county fair.

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: September 17th, 2015 at 9:30am.

Adjourn: 12:25 pm by Chairman Mika