

Ashland County Land Conservation Committee
September 29 2017
Ashland County LWCD Office

Minutes Approved 11-3-17

Present:

George Mika	Joe Rose	Tom Fratt (LWCD)
Gerry Richardson	Frank Kempf	Mike Pero (LWCD)
Caryl Peck	Ken Lindquist	Dave Schultz (WDP)
Charlie Ortman	Tom Waby	Pete Russo (County Board Chair)

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 of 8/25/17 by Richardson/Ortman. MC.

Public Comments: Kevin Brewster (Superior Rivers Watershed Association). No Comment. (SRWA). Joe Barabe, City of Mellen Mayor, thanked the county board and committees for doing a good job.

Agenda Item #1: Bayfield Regional Conservancy Tyler Forks Community Forest Project

- The committee heard a short presentation from Erika Lang of the BRC. She provided background information about the BRC and the opportunity presenting itself with the Tyler Forks property. Erika fielded questions from the committee.
- The LCC supports acquisition of the property by BRC based on its face value for conservation, but also has interest in the potential to manage the property for environmental education and outdoor recreation activities.
- Concerns raised by the committee centered on the potential loss of property tax revenue to the county in general, and to the schools in particular. The Conservancy has options to consider and is taking input from the local community partners: apply for property tax exemption or to enroll some of the property in MFL. The LCC would like to have more detail about the tax consequences under different use and management scenarios, investigate ways that negative tax consequences can be minimized or avoided, and consideration of value added activities and what revenue they may generate such as increased tourism to hunt, trap, fish, hike, etc. The LCC also felt that the Forestry and Recreation Committee would be the best department to sponsor a resolution of support to go before the county board.
- **Motion: Based on conservation and natural resource values alone, the LCC supports the concept of the BRC obtaining the property. The LCC further recommends that the Forestry and Recreation Committee is the most appropriate sponsor of a Resolution of Support for the county. Motion by Rose, Seconded by Ortman. MC.**

Agenda Item #2: Ashland County Agricultural Ordinance Preliminary Recommendations

- Fratt relayed his conversation with Mike Gilbertson of the WDNR and the comments received by Corp. Counsel Matt Anich related to the draft "NR 151 Ordinance". The DNR does not need to approve the ordinance because it does not exceed state standards. Fratt asked to get that determination in writing, but so far no response. Comments from Anich were generally more substantial, but also left quite a bit up for discussion or interpretation. Fratt provided a copy of suggested additions, changes, and deletions in the draft ordinance based on Anich's document. The LCC did not review and comment on the specific changes made by Fratt.
- There was much additional discussion about the purpose and need for agricultural ordinances in general, and the presumed effects on farmers, county staff, committees, and the full county board. There were no specific suggestions on what to keep, eliminate, or

change within the draft. Some on the LCC felt strongly that all of the permit applications, forms, fee schedules, and other guidance documents must first be finalized to fully consider along with the ordinance language.

- **Motion: Review the 9-28-17 draft ordinance that addresses the comments and concerns of the WDNR and Corporation Counsel with the ACAO Advisory Committee and obtain a new recommendation from them. Motion by Ortman, Seconded by Rose. MC.**

Conservation and Staff Reports:

- Fratt provided a handout of his activities since the last meeting and highlighted 3 items: 1).Need to decide on who is going to the Food, Land, Water Conference (George, Ken, and possibly Charles). 2) The Department's LWRMP is expiring at the end of 2019. Reservations for presenting to the LWCB were made at the latest possible date of August 6, 2017. This will be a large workload in 2018 and 2019. 3). All the NMP funds extended from 2016 were used for Daryl Jolma along with a small amount from the 2017 allocation. Jeff Oliphant is not going to follow through with a NMP, at least in 2017. Because there are no other farmers willing to accept the NMP cost-share the remainder should be transferred. Jeff Beirl can sign the DATCP transfer agreement with Vernon County.
- Pero discussed his project status handout and asked for questions from the LCC.
- Schultz provided a brief update on WDP activities as summarized on his handout.
- Brittany had a handout of her GIS and other activities.

Agency and Partner Reports

- None provided

Other Business:

- No other business.

Approval of Bills: Motion to approve bills by Ortman/Richardson. MC

Next meeting date: Friday, November 3, 2017 at 9:30 am.

Adjourn: 11:45 am by Chairman Mika