

GREEN COUNTY LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

USDA Service Center
1627 4th Avenue West
Monroe, Wisconsin

Thursday, July 12, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM. Those present were Oscar Olson, Jeff Williams, Kristi Leonard, Erica Roth, Ken Hodgson, Dudley Timm, Tonya Gratz, Tyler Newcomer, Brian Bucholtz, Teresa Zimmer, Jason Thomas, Todd Jenson, Adam Wiegel, Jerry Guth, and members of the public.

The minutes of the June meeting were approved on a motion by Leonard, second by Roth. Motion carried.

The committee audited the monthly bills in the amount of \$6949.18. A motion was made by Hodgson, second by Williams to approve the bills. Motion carried.

Jenson asked who wished to attend the Southern Area Tour in Dodge County on August 1. Roth, Leonard, Timm and his wife, and Williams and his wife will attend.

The NRCS Local Workgroup meeting will be August 9 at the Brooklyn Community Building, beginning at 10:00 AM.

Gratz gave a report on the 2018 transect survey results and showed the difference of crops grown in 2007 and today.

Leonard and Roth gave a report on the LCC training they recently attended. They also passed out LCC Supervisors handbooks.

Zimmer informed the committee that crop certification will continue until July 16. MPP rates for May are \$1.22/cwt. The deadline to sign up for this program was June 22. ARC/PLC deadline is August 1.

Thomas informed the committee they have signed six contracts this month and have \$400,000 for the 2018 Spring Creek watershed currently contracted. They have done four EQIP payments in June for \$17,000. Local Workgroup is August 9. The 2019 EQIP signup deadline is October 19.

Gratz informed the committee there will be a Farmers of the Sugar River field day on August 21. She has been working on CREP reenrolls.

Newcomer informed the committee he has been working on cover crop and streambank plans in the Spring Creek watershed. He has also done a number of forestry plans.

Gratz gave a soil health demonstration. She had committee members taste the ends of corn roots to understand that plants give off sugars to the microbes in the soil. She passed out underwear to the committee members to bury in various spots on their farms. This project is called soil your undies. They are to then dig them up and bring them in to the October committee meeting.

The committee reviewed recommendations #9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 from the Green County Livestock Facility Study Group Report and Recommendations. Please refer to that document, pages 31 - 32 for a full description of those recommendations.

Item 9: Bucholtz is monitoring a case that is ongoing in the state. Committee would like to adopt this recommendation. Will it prohibit the 200 cow dairies from getting storage for financial concerns?

Item 10: Agree with this recommendation. It should be an amount per animal unit. For cows charge \$10/head. Equating that charge to animal units, would be \$7.14/animal unit.

Item 11: CAFOs are required to do an annual checklist already through the DNR. Check with Richard Castelnovo of DATCP to get his checklist. Can we require small farms to do this as well?

Item 12: Change the word require to strongly recommend.

Item 13: Agree with this recommendation, change require windbreaks to recommend.

Item 14: Jenson reviewed this with DATCP and NRCS state engineers. With the new change to the 313 (manure storage) standard the double liner is basically met. They recommended not to adopt this recommendation.

Item 15: Agree with one year minimum storage for a CAFO. Change new or modified manure storage structures from 3 months, up to 6 months. Do we have the authority to do this?

There was nothing in committee concerns.

In public comments, it was asked if a representative from DATCP would come to a committee meeting and talk about what other counties are doing. It was asked of what is the process for adopting the livestock study group recommendations. It was requested to keep the word require in the recommendations, instead of replacing it with encourage.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, August 2, 2018, beginning at 9:30 AM at the USDA Service Center.

A motion was made by Timm, second by Hodgson to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM.