

GREEN COUNTY LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
MEETING

USDA Service Center
1627 4th Avenue West
Monroe, Wisconsin

Thursday, March 8, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM. Those present were Oscar Olson, Jeff Williams, Kristi Leonard, Dudley Timm, Russ Torkelson, Ken Hodgson, Tonya Gratz, Teresa Zimmer, Jason Thomas, Todd Jenson, and members of the public.

The minutes of the February meeting were approved on a motion by Torkelson, second by Williams. Motion carried.

The February bills were audited in the amount of \$2990.42. A motion was made by Hodgson, second by Timm to approve the bills. Motion carried.

Jenson gave an update on the new position. It has been approved by the Personnel Committee and Finance Committee. It will go to County Board next week.

Jenson reviewed the cost-share applications with the committee. A motion was made by Leonard, second by Torkelson to approve applications as noted on the attached sheet. Motion carried.

Jenson gave an update on Pinnacle Dairy. He stated construction on the cut-off trench began Monday. He reviewed the monitoring well levels and noted the wells are still being pumped.

In committee concerns, there was discussion on the new sheep farm in Jefferson township. It was also brought up of a dam for a pond that was built in Adams township.

Zimmer informed the committee the 2018 ARCPLC signup is moving right along. They have been re-scheduling missed appointments and are trying to have the majority completed by April 15th. Market Assistance Loans (MAL's) have two upcoming deadlines for commodity loans. March 31st is the deadline for small grain loans such as wheat, oats and barley. Coarse grains, including corn and soybeans, have a deadline of May 31st for the 2017 crop year. The rate for commodity loans is 2.875 (2 7/8) percent for the month of March. The interest rate for the Farm Stored Facility Loans (FSFL) for the month of March, 2018 ranges from 2.250 percent for a 3 year loan; 2.50 percent for a 5 year loan; 2.750 percent for a 7 year loan and 2.750 percent for a 10 year loan. They closed their first FSFL loan for 2018. Cost-share letters and reminders have been sent to the landowners who have mid-management practices to complete this year on their CRP contracts.

Thomas informed the committee he hoped we can find a job applicant with a farm background. They are prioritizing their workload in the Spring Creek watershed. There currently is no CRP signup, just CREP. He is not sure about the upcoming farm bill.

Gratz informed the committee the Farmers of the Sugar River have taken in over \$6000 in donations. The group plans to offer cost-sharing of \$10/acre up to a maximum of \$500. On March 12, there will be a shop talk at Dan Roe's shed. The group is trying to develop a logo. She informed the committee of some cover crop tidbits.

In public comments, there will be a meeting on March 29 in Crawford County on suicide. It was also discussed of how DATCP is behind on getting pesticide applicator permits sent out.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, April 5, 2018, beginning at 9:30 AM at the USDA Service Center.

A motion was made by Torkelson, second by Williams to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 AM.