

GREEN COUNTY LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

USDA Service Center
1627 4th Avenue West
Monroe, Wisconsin

Thursday, March 5, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM. Those present were Oscar Olson, Erica Roth, Jeff Williams, Kristi Leonard, Dudley Timm, Teresa Zimmer, Tony Strenz, Austin Loeffelholz, Don Frei, Samantha Frei, Marlene Rygh, Carly Epping, Olivia Kovacs, Emily Rowley, and Todd Jenson.

Jenson announced Dudley Timm was reappointed as Chair of the Farm Service Agency County Committee and is appointed to be a member of the Land and Water Conservation Committee.

Don and Samantha Frei gave a presentation of the problems they experienced with their well. In 2013 they found iron, plus a lot of other elements in their water. They went through numerous pumps and filters before deciding to drill a new well. They drilled a new well and experienced the same problems. They had to search out for a company to drill another well. All of this time they had to haul water from another farm for their cattle to drink. A new 600 foot deep well was drilled, and clean water was secured.

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

The committee audited the monthly bills in the amount of \$16,071.09. A motion was made by Timm, second by Roth to approve the bills. Motion carried.

Of the four posters sent to the Southern Area Association for judging, three placed. In K-1, Taralyn Gratz got third place. In 2-3, Elena Boss got second place. In 7-9, Sophia Roth got first place and moves on to the state competition.

Jenson reviewed the cost-share applications. A motion was made by Leonard, second by Roth to approve the applications as recommended by Jenson. Motion carried with Williams abstaining.

Jenson reviewed the annual report. A motion was made by Williams, second by Leonard to approve the report. Motion carried.

Jenson reviewed the joint DATCP/DNR nonpoint source grant application. A motion was made by Roth, second by Leonard to approve the application. Motion carried.

Jenson discussed the possibility of reclassifying the Conservation Technician position. He thought it would be best if it went through the normal budget process this fall.

Zimmer informed the committee of their new staff. Emily Rowley is a temporary employee and also attends Blackhawk Tech. Olivia Kovacs and Carly Epping are permanent employees. There were 68 offers for CRP contracts. This was the first general signup since 2016. ARCPLC deadline is March 16, but they have appointments booked out until the 24th.

Strenz informed the committee the EQIP signup ended February 28. They have until May 29 to obligate funds. If money is left over there will be another signup ending June 5 and have until July 31 to obligate funds. There are 51 applications to date.

Loeffelholz introduced himself. He is originally from the Dickeyville area. He went to college at UW-Platteville and had been working at the Manitowoc County Land and Water Conservation Department.

Jenson read a report from Gratz. She has been working on nutrient management plans and planning for the Farmers of the Sugar River events. Shop Talk is March 19 at Jerry and Barb Daniels. The annual meeting of the Farmers of the Sugar River was well attended with 58 people fed. She requested a smart phone for work.

In committee concerns, Olson briefly discussed Chris Newberry's exit interview.

There were no public comments.

The next regular meeting was scheduled for Thursday, May 7, beginning at 10:00 AM at the USDA Service Center.

A motion was made by Williams, second by Timm to adjourn. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.