

GREEN COUNTY LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Green County Courthouse
County Board Room
1016 16th Avenue
Monroe, Wisconsin

Thursday, March 4, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM. Those present were Erica Roth, Jeff Williams, Kristi Leonard, Nick Hartwig, Dudley Timm, Oscar Olson, Teresa Zimmer, Jason Thomas, Austin Loeffelholz, Tonya Gratz, and Todd Jenson.

Dudley Timm was reelected as Chairperson of the Farm Service Agency Committee and is appointed a member of the LWCC.

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

The committee audited the monthly bills in the amount of \$15,098.14. A motion was made by Williams, second by Timm to approve the bills. Motion carried.

Jenson reviewed a repeal and recreation of the Private Water Systems Ordinance. The main change is that a well driller needs to get a permit before drilling the well, not just notify our department that they plan on drilling the well. A motion was made by Olson, second by Roth to approve the ordinance. Motion carried.

Jenson gave an update on the Land and Water Management Plan. Staff have had meetings with both advisory committees and are currently working on the rewrite. It is planned to bring a draft of the final plan to the committee next month.

Jenson informed the committee the Farmland Preservation Plan is going to expire December 31, 2022. We can either rewrite it ourselves, hire someone else to rewrite, request up to a two-year extension to rewrite it, or do nothing. Right now, it would only effect someone who would wish to apply for an Ag Enterprise Area. Jenson will ask town boards and planning commissions if there is any interest in having the plan rewritten. This item will be brought back to the committee in the coming months.

Thomas informed the committee their office has been notified to limit staff to 25% in office. They have about 20 – 25 EQIP contracts approved and they are working on signing contracts.

Zimmer informed the committee ACRPLC signup for 2021 ends March 15. Zimmer expects their office will be using a register. CRP Signup 56 was unexpectedly extended with no deadline announced. The extension was so the new administration could conduct a review of the program provisions. The January 2021 margin for the Dairy Margin Contract was posted at \$7.14 resulting in a \$2.36 payment for those at the \$9.50 coverage level. The interest rates for March remained the same for commodity loans but saw some slight increases for the Farm Stored Facility Loans. A new mandate effective March 3, 2021, limited staff to 25% in office and required the rest of the staff to telework. Zimmer shared a handout listing the crops and acreages certified in Green County during 2020.

Gratz informed the committee the Farmers of the Sugar River held a zoom meeting Feb. 26. On April 6, they will host a field day north of Juda. They will also host popup field days on such topics as planting green and roller crimping. She has been working on the rewrite of the Land and Water plan.

Loeffelholz informed the committee he has been working on streambank DNR permits and the rewrite of the Land and Water plan.

Jenson informed the committee he has also been working on the rewrite of the Land and Water plan, the 2020 DATCP Annual Report, the 2022 SWRM grant application, and the 2020 annual report.

Gratz did an educational demonstration showing how groundwater moves through the soil and how wells and surface water are connected.

There were no committee concerns.

There were no public comments.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, April 8, beginning at 9:30 AM.

A motion was made by Williams, second by Hartwig to adjourn. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:10AM.