

GREEN COUNTY LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Thursday, April 8, 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, Meaghan Rafferty, Austin Loeffelholz, Tonya Gratz, and Todd Jenson.

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

The committee audited the monthly bills in the amount of \$3340.97. A motion was made by Williams, second by Olson to approve the bills. Motion carried.

Thomas reviewed civil rights procedures and protocol with the committee. USDA takes civil rights very seriously. He reviewed the various special emphasis that are observed throughout the year.

Jenson presented the 2022 joint DATCP/DNR nonpoint source grant application in the amount of \$182,362 for staff and support costs and \$95,000 for cost-sharing funds. A motion was made by Roth, second by Timm to approve the application. Motion carried.

Jenson reviewed the 2020 annual report with the committee. A motion was made by Olson, second by Hartwig to approve the report. Motion carried.

The committee reviewed a draft version of the land and water plan. Initial comments will be taken until April 26. There will be a public hearing May 6.

Gratz did a slake test for the committee showing the difference in soil structure between tilled soil and no-till soil. Glomalin in the no-till soil holds together much better when submerged in water as compared to tilled soil.

Zimmer informed the committee the office staff have done over 1700 ARCPLC applications. Tomorrow is the deadline for the program. There is now a pandemic assistance program for cattle and crops. There will be a February dairy margin payment. They are preparing for crop certification. Their office has been directed to only be staffed within the office at 50% of total staff numbers but starting Monday they will be able to have farmers come in the office one at a time.

Thomas informed the committee there are about 25 EQIP contracts signed. He doesn't expect a second EQIP signup. Tony has been working on construction. They have recently done three CRP/CREP contracts. He introduced Meaghan Rafferty, the new Soil Conservationist.

Gratz informed the committee of the recently held Farmers of the Sugar River field day at Nancy Copliens. There were 28 in attendance. The group plans to have popup field days on planting green, interseeding, and roller crimping. She has been working on nutrient management plans and the land and water plan.

Loeffelholz informed the committee he has been working on the land and water plan. There are currently eight landowners who want to rent a tree planter. April 22 and 23 will be the tree pickup. He has been working on designs and online training.

Jenson informed the committee he has also been working on the land and water plan. He completed the 2020 annual report, 2020 DATCP annual report, 2021 annual workplan, and the 2022 SRWM grant application.

There were no committee concerns.

There were no public comments.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, May 6, beginning at 9:30 AM.

A motion was made by Williams, second by Hartwig to convene into closed session under S.S.19.85(1)(c) for the purpose of considering performance data on a public employee for the annual performance evaluation of the County Conservationist. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Timm, second by Hartwig to reconvene to open session. Motion carried.

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