

GREEN COUNTY LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Thursday, September 9, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 AM. Those present were Erica Roth, Jeff Williams, Kristi Leonard, Dudley Timm, Oscar Olson, Teresa Zimmer, Jason Thomas, Meaghan Rafferty, Austin Loeffelholz, Tonya Gratz, and Todd Jenson.

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

The committee audited the monthly bills in the amount of \$20,763.84. A motion was made by Olson, second by Roth to approve the bills. Motion carried with Williams and Timm abstaining.

Jenson informed the committee that yesterday was the Green County land judging contest. Ten schools participated, with 101 students. Rufer and Son Excavating dug the pits at no cost and the Moose Lodge provided lunch for everyone. Nate Hare was the host of the contest.

Letters were sent to all sixteen townships asking if they would like to revise the Farmland Preservation Plan in order to be eligible for applying for Ag Enterprise Areas. No townships responding saying they wanted to do the revision.

The committee reviewed the four bids received for a new truck. A motion was made by Williams, second by Olson to approve the low bid from Ruda Chevrolet of \$26,141 for a 2022 Chevrolet Silverado. Motion carried.

Matt Wallrath of the Upper Sugar River Association gave a report on projects being done in Green County to control aquatic invasive species. He reviewed a budget and cooperative agreement between Green County and their association. A motion was made by Roth, second by Timm to approve a one-year agreement with the Upper Sugar River Association. Motion carried.

Jenson reviewed the 2022 budget with the committee. Highlights are having staff go from 37 ½ hours per week up to 40 hours, an increase in DATCP staff and support funding of \$16,879, \$30,000 in anticipated revenues from our Contribution Agreement with NRCS, and the purchase of a new truck. A motion was made by Williams, second by Olson to approve the budget. Motion carried.

Gratz gave an educational demonstration on cover crop seeds, benefits of cover crops, and the cons of conventional crop rotations.

Jenson informed the committee he has been working on CRP contracts, the budget, and land judging.

Gratz informed the committee she has been working on the Farmers of the Sugar River grant application. The youth conservation day is tentatively planned for October 6, with Monroe Parkside and Monticello attending.

Loeffelholz informed the committee he has been working on CRP contracts and rechecks. He has been getting calls from people wanting to order trees.

Zimmer informed the committee Carly Epping's last day is tomorrow. Some dairy payments went out September 1 and some have not gone out yet. Facility loan interest rates have decreased. Their office has been working on CRP contracts. They continue to do record cleanup for ARCPLC.

Thomas informed the committee they have a new pilot program for climate change. He discussed the payment rates for CREP and how high they are. He has a contract position open for an administrative assistant.

Rafferty informed the committee she has been working on CRP.

In committee concerns, Williams asked if our office had been contacted regarding weed control on solar farms. We have not.

There were no public comments.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, October 7, beginning at 9:30 AM.

A motion was made by Olson, second by Dudley to adjourn. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.