

GREEN COUNTY LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Thursday, December 2, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM. Those present were Erica Roth, Jeff Williams, Kristi Leonard, Oscar Olson, Meaghan Rafferty, Tess Wallner, Tonya Gratz, and Todd Jenson.

Tess Wallner introduced herself and told the committee of her background.

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

The committee audited the monthly bills in the amount of \$9414.74. A motion was made by Williams, second by Roth to approve the bills. Motion carried.

Jenson informed the committee that Ruda cancelled the truck order. GMC cancelled all fleet vehicle orders. The second lowest bid was from Dearth GMC, so their orders were cancelled as well. The third lowest bid was a Ram 1500. It was ordered from Symdon Motors in New Glarus.

Jenson reviewed the Southwest Wisconsin land judging contest that was hosted by our office in October.

Jenson gave a report on the Southern Area Association meeting held in October.

Maps were shared with the committee of land recently acquired by Green County in Martintown. The Corporation Counsel office asked our office to give recommendations of what to do with the land. Jenson proposed a possible boat landing on it.

Gratz gave an educational demonstration on carbon-nitrogen ratio.

Jenson informed the committee he had been working on hiring a new staff and breaking tile for a wetland restoration. He will be taking Wallner out the next few days to survey conservation practices to install.

Rafferty informed the committee she is finishing up cover crop and CSP payments. They have recently completed an EQIP signup.

Gratz informed the committee she has been working with the Farmers of the Sugar River on no-till, cover crops, setting up the annual meeting, and having a field day in October.

Zimmer had a written report that was handed out. See attached.

There were no committee concerns.

There were no public comments.

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

A motion was made by Olson, second by Williams to adjourn. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 AM.

Report for Green County Land and Water Conservation Department

December 2, 2021

The September Dairy Margin Contract margin rate was \$6.93 which resulted in a payment of \$2.57/cwt for those that locked in at the \$9.50 level. These payments were issued on November 1, 2021.

The October Dairy Margin Contract margin rate was \$8.77 which resulted in a payment of \$0.73/cwt for those that locked in at the \$9.50 level. These payments were issued on December 1, 2021.

Signup for the 2022 Dairy Margin Contract Program has not been announced.

The additional payment for the use of "premium" alfalfa in the feed grain ration has not been formulated by Washington yet, but is expected soon. This is retroactive for 2020 and 2021.

Market Assistance Loans (MAL) are available for both farmed stored and warehouse stored commodities. The interest rate for the month of December is 1.125 percent.

Farm records are continually being updated for those that bought/sold land; moved and have new addresses; changed from land phone lines to cellphones; changed banks; formed entities such as partnerships, LLC's, LLP's and trusts or are bringing new members into their entities; along with new farm rentals for the next crop year.

Fall crop certification ended November 11, 2021. Late-filing is still available at \$46.00 per farm.

Work continues on cleaning up some of the CRP mid-management and implementation of the practices for Cost-Share. This has been a tough year to get the papers turned in after the practices were completed.

ARC-PLC signup has started but the Green County office is going to wait until after the first of the year to start the appointments. Signup goes through March 15th.

Our office has been authorized to hire a Permanent Program Technician. I advertised once and was unsuccessful on getting any candidates to hire. I have been authorized to re-advertise. The posting for the position will be Monday December 6, 2021 through Monday December 20, 2021. If you know of any potential candidates, please encourage them to apply or send them to me and I will visit with them about this opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa R. Zimmer
County Executive Director
Green County FSA Office