

GREEN COUNTY LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

USDA Service Center
1627 4th Avenue West
Monroe, Wisconsin

Thursday, June 8, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM. Those present were Kristi Leonard, Sue Nelson, Peg Sheaffer, Dudley Timm, Jeff Williams, Nick Hartwig, Tonya Gratz, Tess Wallner, Breanna Brooks, Jason Thomas, Tony Strenz, and Todd Jensen.

Breanna Brooks was introduced to the committee as the summer intern.

The minutes of the May meeting were approved on a motion by Sheaffer, second by Nelson. Motion carried.

The committee audited the monthly bills in the amount of \$34,685.11. A motion was made by Williams, second by Nelson to approve the bills. Motion carried.

Jensen asked who would like to attend the Conservation Observance Day in Columbia County. Tess Wallner, Dudley and Henri Timm, and Sue and Tom Nelson will be attending.

Jensen handed out a report on staff and support money from DATCP for the years of 2021, 2022, and 2023. He also discussed the amount of funding anticipated to be received statewide for 2024 and 2025.

Dearth Motors anticipates the new truck to be built in either July or August.

A flier was handed out that will be mailed to all the riparian landowners in the Liberty, Cold Spring, and Allen Creek watersheds, informing them of the department's new initiative to do conservation work in these watersheds.

Gratz gave an education demonstration of a soil slump test comparison of tilled soil vs. no-tilled soil. It showed how the timing of tillage, if done, is important. It also showcased soil health.

Jensen informed the committee the county and state land judging sites have been selected and cultural resources are done for each. There was a transition meeting with Southwest Tech and Blackhawk Tech staff for transferring information on the state land judging contest. He has been working on CRP contracts, as well as construction checks and surveying.

Strenz informed the committee his last day will be June 16. He thanked the committee for the work they do and the willingness to work with him.

Brooks informed the committee she has been doing field work and watching a lot of training videos. She will also be involved in a composting field day in the future.

Wallner informed the committee she has been to some training classes and has been doing surveying and construction checks. She expects the watershed group to have a tour this summer.

Gratz informed the committee she has been doing bio-mass testing with plant testing and soil sampling once a week with the Farmers of the Sugar River. She has also been working on designs.

Thomas informed the committee the EQIP signup ended in mid-May, with ten applications approved. Their office did 50 random compliance reviews, with five out of compliance. The first-year violations will be given a variance. There will be one producer out of programs. Their office has received one wetland complaint and three HEL complaints.

In committee concerns, the subject was brought up of the Highway Department's weed spraying around signs and mailboxes and creating erosion. The matter will be brought to the attention of the Highway Commissioner.

There were no public comments.

There was nothing in any other business.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, August 3, beginning at 9:30 AM.

A motion was made by Timm, second by Sheaffer to adjourn. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.