



LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE February 13, 2014

The meeting of the Green Lake County Land Conservation Committee was called to order by Chairman Michael Stoddard at 7:30AM on February 13, 2014 in the Training Room of the Green Lake County Government Center in Green Lake, WI. The requirements of the open meeting law were certified as being met. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: Michael Stoddard, Chair
Maureen Schweder, Vice-Chair
Ben Moderow
Harley Reabe
Nick Toney
Arnold Dahlke, Jr., FSA Member

Staff Present: Paul Gunderson

Others Present: Marge Bostelmann, Clerk Steve Krueger – USDA APHIS
Jim Holzwart – DNR Caleb Zahn – NRCS
Tony Daley, Berlin Journal

AGENDA

Motion/second (Moderow/Reabe) to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

MINUTES

Motion/second (Reabe/Moderow) to approve and file the January 9, 2014 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

APPEARANCES

Caleb appeared to inform the committee that the Farm Bill was signed by the President last week. A special signup for the watershed area will be open until May 16th. Signups in all areas have been completed and they will now be reviewed and ranked to determine what projects will be funded.

2013 WILDLIFE DAMAGE CLAIM APPROVAL

Steve Krueger, USDA APHIS and Jim Holzwart, DNR appeared to discuss the wildlife damage claims. The list of claims was presented and there is only one claim in question. Krueger asked the Committee to approval all the claims except the one for Jim Hebbe.

Motion/second(Reabe/Schweder) to approve the list presented excluding Jim Hebbe's claim. Motion carried.

Krueger explained that registration tags from the Hebbe farm were lost by the registration stations. The deer harvest needs to be verified before the funds can be expended. When the information from the Hebbe farm is verified approval for the funding will be given. Krueger stated that the party of three has reviewed the situation and propose that the Committee give Hebbe an exemption while waiting on the paperwork.

Motion/second(Dahlke/Reabe) to accept the party of three's decision to grant an exemption and upon receiving the proper paperwork funding will be granted to Jim Hebbe. Motion carried.

Holzwart and Krueger explained the wildlife damage program in more detail.

MONTHLY STAFF REPORT & UPCOMING PROJECTS

Written report was reviewed. Gunderson presented the annual report, committed funds, plat book sales report and a Land Conservation Facebook page.

Discussion was held on the plat book. 280 books are left and the county has not recovered the cost of the purchase yet. The Committee directed Gunderson to get quotes from the several vendors who want to develop the book.

Discussion was held on developing a Land Conservation Facebook page. Through Facebook, people can follow the projects and know when clean sweep and other programs take place.

Motion/second(Moderow/Toney) to approve the development of a Facebook page. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on replacing one of the trucks. This will be discussed more later in the year.

LAKE AND RIVER REPORT

Written report was reviewed.

DATCP/COUNTY COST-SHARE CONTRACTS - none

LANDOWNER CONSERVATION PLANS – None

USDA-NRCS OPERATIONAL AGREEMENT

The agreement was presented for approval and signatures. Discussion held.

Motion/second(Reabe/Toney) to approve the agreement. Motion carried.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Meeting – February 20, 2014; Paul Gunderson and Tom Jonker will attend.

New County Staff Training for DATCP – February 27, 2014; Gunderson will attend.

Motion/second(Moderow/Toney) to approve staff attendance at the meetings. Motion carried.

Arbor Day, April 17th – Linda Williams, DNR will be the speaker and the program will be Forest Health.

VOUCHERS

Motion/second (Schweder/Reabe) to approve 2013 vouchers totaling \$5,333.16 and 2014 vouchers totaling \$3,058.36 as presented. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Gunderson to Green Lake Sanitary District to support of the Near Shore Fishery Characterization on Green Lake.

Letter from Gunderson to Green Lake Association to support for the Green Lake Watershed Urban Education Project.

Letter from the Drainage Board requesting continued technical assistance from the Land Conservation Department all the costs are paid for by the Drainage Board.

Motion/second(Toney/Moderow) to approve the LCD continuing to provide technical assistance to the Drainage board. Motion carried.

Letters have been sent to the school for the Poster Contest. Gunderson explained that the timing of the poster contest was changed. Gunderson proposes doing a local poster contest and bring them to the May County Board meeting and have the national poster contest in the Fall.

Gunderson explained that Green Lake County LCC belongs to the Town and Country RC&D but the Golden Sands RC&D works with Green Lake County and other surrounding counties. Gunderson will find out what is needed to change the membership from Town and country to Golden Sands and bring the information back to the committee next month for action.

DEPARTMENT VACANCY DISCUSSION

Gunderson explained that the Soil Conservation II position is now vacant. He presented information on the need to fill the position. The justification form was presented and discussed. Two employees could qualify for the position of Soil Conservationist 2 on an internal post.

Gunderson presented the job description for the Soil Conservation II position and the Soil Conservation I. Changes were proposed for the two job descriptions. Discussion was held on the process of filling vacancies.

Motion/second(Dahlke/Toney) that Mike Stoddard represent the committee during the interview process. Motion carried.

Motion/second(Reabe/Schweder) to approve the job descriptions and send both positions to the Personnel Committee to fill if the Soil Conservation I position becomes vacant. Motion carried.

Administrative Assistant position was reviewed. The job description was accurate and the need to fill the position was presented.

Motion/second(Schweder/Reabe) to send it on to the Personnel Committee to be filled with Mike Stoddard representing the Committee during the interview process.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion/second(Reabe/Schweder) to go into closed session in accordance with Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1) (c) considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. This closed session relates to compensation for the Land Conservation Director position. Roll call vote, 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION TO TAKE ACTION, IF APPROPRIATE, ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION.

Motion/second(Reabe/Schweder) to reconvene into open session. Roll call vote, 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

Motion/second(Reabe/Schweder) to recommend to the Personnel Committee that Gunderson's starting pay as director be 97.5% of mid-point (\$29.58/hour). Motion carried.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Future Meeting Dates: Interviews: Thursday, March 13th at 7:30 AM in the Training Room of the Green Lake County Government Center in Green Lake

Future Agenda Items:

ADJOURN

Motion/second (Reabe/Moderow) to adjourn at 9:15 AM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Marge Bostelmann
County Clerk