



MINUTES

ROCK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday June 2, 2021, 7:15 P.M.
Virtual Meeting - Zoom

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Bostwick called the meeting to order at 7:16 pm.

Committee Members Present: Stephanie Aegerter, Rich Bostwick, Wes Davis, Mike Mulligan, James Quade, Genia Stevens and Alan Sweeney.

Committee Members Excused: None

Others Present: Terri Carlson, Chris Murphy, Andrew Baker

2. **Approval of Agenda:** Andrew asked the Committee to remove item 7 from the agenda as the applicant ask to delay the request for the fee waiver for a second permit. Supervisor Davis moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Supervisor Mulligan. **Motion carried unanimously.**
3. **Approval of Minutes – May 5, 2021 LCC meeting.** No corrections or clarifications were suggested. Supervisor Sweeney moved the approval of the minutes, seconded by Supervisor Aegerter. **Motion carried unanimously.**
4. **Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements.** Supervisor Sweeney noted that Tom Sweeney's mother recently passed away. He asked that staff notify the LCC when services will be held.
5. **Review Bills Paid:** Supervisor Davis asked about the payments to O'Leary Shamrock Acres. Andrew responded that the payment was for a cost-share contract for Nutrient Management Planning. The costs are 100% reimbursed by DATCP as part of the annual Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Grant program.
6. **Action Item. Resolution:** Approval of Certain Soil and Water Resource Management Grant Cost Share Payments.

Andrew explained that Cost Share contracts for Nutrient Management Planning require that an operator include the entire operation in the plan. Therefore, considering the payment rate is \$40 per acre, contracts may be exceed the amount that finance staff can approve. Any payment over \$10,000 requires a resolution, approval by LCC, Finance Committee and County Board. These payments are 100% reimbursed b DATCP as part of the grant approval. In the past two years, the County has been award \$75,000 to contract as deemed necessary in the County. Supervisor Davis asked about the turnaround time for reimbursement from DATCP. Andrew said it is very quick.

Supervisor Aegerter made a motion to approve the Resolution, seconded by Supervisor Mulligan. **Motion carried unanimously.**

7. (Removed from Agenda)

8. **Action Item.** Land and Water Resource Management Program: Approval of 2021 Cost Share Agreements
- LR-008.21 – Mullikin

Andrew explain that this contract is for a water and sediment control basin and access road in the LaPrairie area.

Supervisor Davis made a motion to approve the Cost Share Agreement, seconded by Mr. Quade. **Motion carried unanimously.**

9. **Informational Item:** Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement

- A. 2020 Application Update: Andrew noted that acquisition is proceeding on the applications approved in 2020. Appraisals will be done soon. The County Surveyor has assisted in determine easement boundaries.

The NRCS has recently determine that property previously approved for acquisition in another County has since been deemed ineligible. Therefore, the NRCS has asked if the County would be interested in proceeding with the Conway property. However, there would be significant less Federal funding available for the acquisition than what has been estimated as part of the application process. The balance would have to be either made up by the County or included as additional landowner donation. The LCC will be presented at the next meeting with a resolution to proceed with the project with a higher funding level than already approved (25% of the easement value) when the applicant was submitted to the NRCS the past winter.

- B. Andrew explained that a meeting was held for the RCPP partners following the preliminary approval of the proposal by the NRCS. In the near future, an agreement will be prepared between the NRCS and the group and priorities will be determined. It is likely that similar criteria will be used to determine project priority as is used for ACEP- ALE (the Federal Program that matches the PACE program dollars), however discretion for approval for this source of funds will by the RCPP partnership. The seven million dollars that has been approved for this project (over the next five years), is distinct and separate from the funding source used to match PACE. Therefore, the County may still apply for each program for each easement acquisition.

10. **Adjourn:** Mr. Quade made a motion to adjourn at 7:47 pm, seconded by Supervisor Mulligan. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew Baker
Director

Minutes are not official until adopted by the Land Conservation Committee.

G: office/lcc/lcc2020/M06022021