



MINUTES

ROCK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday July 7, 2021, 7:15 P.M.
USDA Service Center, 440 N Hwy 14 and Virtual via Zoom

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Bostwick called the meeting to order at 7:18 pm.

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

Committee Members Excused: None

Others Present: Ashley Roscoe, Andrew Baker
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Chair Bostwick asked the Committee to move item 7 below item 9 to accommodate Supervisor Richard, who is not yet in attendance. Supervisor Sweeney moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Supervisor Davis. **Motion carried unanimously.**
3. **Approval of Minutes – June 2, 2021 LCC meeting.** Supervisor Davis noted a type in the title of item 6, should be “share” rather than “shore.” Supervisor Sweeney moved the approval of the minutes as amended, seconded by Mr. Quade. **Motion carried unanimously.**
4. **Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements.** Andrew gave a summary of the recent Clean Sweep events.
5. **Review Bills Paid:** Supervisor Davis asked about the payments to Richard and Margaret Gunn. 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. Considering the amount is over \$10,000, it was already authorized by County Board via resolution. Supervisor Aegerter asked about the bill to Adams publishing for Clean Sweep Advertising (\$755). Curious as to what that gets us in terms of advertising and is it worth it. Andrew will check with staff to see if there if the survey conducted still includes a question about how a person heard about the program.
6. **Introduction of New Conservation Specialist II.** Ashley Roscoe introduced herself to the LCC. Ashley was hired for the new position created as part of the 2021 budget. Ashley has been an intern for the last few years working on a culvert inventory and recently graduated from Whitewater. She has a background in Environmental Sciences and GIS. She will be working on a variety of task in the Department to gain experience, including being the lead for public education and outreach.
8. **Action Item.** Land and Water Resource Management Program: Approval of 2021 Cost Share Agreements
 - LR-009.21 – Atkinson Farms Critical Area Stabilization

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

 - LR-010.21 – Judith H Stewart.

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

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

2020 Application Update: Andrew noted that acquisition is proceeding on the applications approved in 2020. Appraisals have been completed and resulted in values less than estimated.

As noted at the June meeting, 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, which was our #3 application submitted. Considering the lower values determined on the Watson and Vanthournout appraisals, there may be enough money available to fund the Conway property at the full 75%. Final value will be determined by the appraisal.

The 2021 application cycle will be starting soon. There are many applications from last year that will be renewed for 2021. The program remains very popular despite limited federal resources for funding.

7. **Action Item. Resolution** Directing Rock County Staff to Explore the Feasibility of Creating Programs to Address Nitrate Mitigation in Rock County's Ground Water (Previously tabled by Land Conservation Committee pending possible recommendation from Nitrate Work Group).

(Supervisor Rick Richard was unable to attend the meeting due to the fact that the Health Board met at the same time.) Andrew explained that the Resolution was previously discussed by the LCC but then tabled pending a review and recommendation by the Ground Water Nitrate Workgroup. That discussion and favorable recommendation occurred in early June. In that process, as underlined in the Resolution in the packet, the Group added American Rescue Plan Act funds as a possible funding source (in addition to Sales Tax revenue) and extend the due date to December 1, 2021. It was discussed that the intention of this Resolution is to look for short-term solutions/treatment for high nitrate levels, which would be a compliment to the long-term efforts for nitrate reduction that the Workgroup is considering. Possible County funding would be considered for further education, testing and treatment for qualified property owners. Andrew noted the Resolution would be acted upon by the Health Board (same night) and the Planning and Development Committee on Thursday morning before the County Board meeting Thursday night.

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

10. **Semi-Annual Report.** Andrew reported that no staff member attending training or had travel expenses which exceeded \$1,000 in the first half of 2021.

11. **Adjourn:** Mr. Quade made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 pm, seconded by Supervisor Sweeney. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew Baker
Director

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

G: office/lcc/lcc2020/M07072021