

DOUGLAS COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 21, 2017, 10:00 a.m., Courthouse, Room 207C,
1313 Belknap Street, Superior, Wisconsin

Meeting called to order by Chair Sue Hendrickson.

ROLL CALL: Present –Sue Hendrickson, Mary Lou Bergman, Terry White, Kathryn McKenzie, Larry Luostari. Absent – Amy Colby. Others present – Christine Ostern, Sue O'Halloran, Mike Gardner, Dan Corbin, Amy Eliot, Kaci Lundgren, Committee Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Bergman, second Luostari, to approve minutes from the December 20, 2016, meeting. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS:

Approval of 2017 Cost Share Projects - Well Abandonments, Lake Nebagamon Shoreline Stabilization, Crystal Lake Erosion Control, Exclusion Fencing – Town of Amnicon, Fencing and Watering System – Town of Superior, and St. Croix Lake Shoreline Restorations: Not all projects may be attempted; well abandonments are crucial to coast grant match dollars.

ACTION: Motion by Bergman, second White, to approve cost share projects, as presented. Motion carried.

Environmental Reserve Fund Requests – Solon Springs School Maple Tree Plantation Project and Conservation Camp Scholarships for Youth: Forestry Department already provides funding to Solon Springs School; expensive trees being purchased for use.

ACTION: Motion by McKenzie, second Bergman, to deny funding request for the Solon Springs School maple tree plantation project and approve funding request for conservation camp scholarships. Motion carried.

Wisconsin Land+Water Great Lakes Committee Grant Request: Grant saves \$500 county cost by partially funding trip for northern representation at the Great Lakes Commission meeting and Great Lakes Day in Washington, D.C. Other grants utilized to fund more of trip cost.

ACTION: Motion by Luostari, second Bergman, to approve Wisconsin Land+Water Great Lakes Committee grant request, as presented. Motion carried.

Resolution Opposing President Trump's Proposed Budget Cuts to Environmental Funding: To localize resolution focusing on areas of concern specific to Douglas County. Citizens and members encouraged to individually write opposition letters.

ACTION (RESOLUTION): Motion by Bergman, second Luostari, asking Ostern to draft resolution opposing proposed budget cuts, utilizing templates from other counties, and present to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Implications of Governor's Proposed Biennial Budget: Lobbying efforts have reduced cuts in the past. Other departments also being affected by proposed budget; resolutions anticipated.

Capital Project Funding Request for a Hydro-conditioned Digital Elevation Model: Zoning Committee approved referral of funding request with Option A being priority.

Groundwater Program Grant: Verbal approval given; written agreement to be received in June. Well-testing of importance to Health Department; combined effort of database information to ensue.

Lake Superior Basin and Nemadji Watershed Project Updates: Ecofootprint grant approved for less money than requested; may use approved money as a match for additional grant requests. Village of Poplar's Bardon Creek is a phosphorus area of concern; scenarios to be tested to offset phosphorus threshold; cost is key to what can be implemented.

Farmland Preservation Plan Revision: Draft of plan complete. Towns will be sent proposed plan and have the opportunity to review in accordance with their future land use maps. Plan does not supersede private property rights and does not dictate where farms can and cannot be located; plan maps only determine which farm properties are eligible for state incentives.

Agency Reports: NRCS to be contacted to attend.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Great Lakes funding threats; next meeting is May 16, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by White, second McKenzie, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

Submitted by,

Kaci Lundgren, Committee Clerk