

DOUGLAS COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 18, 2021, 10:00 a.m.
Government Center, Boardroom 201
1316 N. 14th Street, Superior, Wisconsin

Meeting called to order by Mark Liebaert.

ROLL CALL: Present – Mark Liebaert (made quorum and chaired meeting), Wendy Bong, Kathryn McKenzie, Larry Luostari. Absent – Mary Lou Bergman, Sue Hendrickson, Jim Soyring. Others present – Jane Anklam, Nathan Johnstad, Dave Schultz (remote), Shelley Nelson (remote), Stacy Dehne (remote), Brad Koele (remote), Ashley Vande Voort, Kaci Lundgren, Committee Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Bong, second McKenzie, to approve minutes from the March 16, 2021, meeting. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION – Manure Storage Facilities: Nathan Johnstad, Stacy Dehne, Jane Anklam: Nathan Johnstad, farm owner, Stacy Dehne, DATCP engineer and Jane Anklam, Agricultural Educator, presented on manure storage facilities. Johnstad intends to build heifer barn to house animals/manure. Current manure storage ordinance is only in effect when loads of at least 5,000 cubic square feet will be used; proposed building will not. Ordinance should be reviewed to clarify certain areas to comply with state and federal standards, including soil testing review and building design/creation.

ACTION ITEMS:

Recommend Creation of Committee to Review Ordinance #8.15 – Douglas County Animal Manure Storage: Liebaert did not recommend creation of new committee; Land Conservation to review ordinance and refer amendments to County Board.

Support Creation of Agriculture Enterprise Area(s) in Douglas County: To qualify for Farmland Preservation Agreement with a tax incentive, the property must be located in a farmland preservation zone (Douglas County does not have) or an agriculture enterprise area. Farmers must petition an area to be designated as agriculture enterprise to the state, with town and county support.

ACTION: Motion by McKenzie, second Bong, to support agriculture enterprise area in Douglas County. Motion carried.

Wildlife Damage and Abatement Program:

Report: Included with agenda; reviewed.

Resolution: Legislation may remove control at county level.

ACTION (RESOLUTION): Motion by Liebaert, second Luostari, to approve resolution as presented and refer to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Aquatic Invasive Species Strategic Plan Approval: Included with agenda; plan updated through strategic work group meetings.

ACTION (RESOLUTION): Motion by McKenzie, second Bong, to recommend approval of Aquatic Invasive Species Strategic Plan and refer to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Environmental Reserve Fund - Funding Requests:

\$600 for 2021 Rain Barrel Project: Previous project was successful.

ACTION (REFERRAL): Motion by Bong, second McKenzie, to recommend funding rain barrel project for \$600 from Environmental Reserve Fund and refer to Administration Committee. Motion carried.

\$200 for Minong Flowage Drawdown, Including Letter of Support: Approved in 2020; need updated approval for use in 2021.

ACTION (REFERRAL): Motion by Bong, second McKenzie, to recommend funding Minong Flowage drawdown, to include letter of support, for \$200 from Environmental Reserve Fund and refer to Administration Committee. Motion carried.

\$1002.86 for Pleasant View Road Community Well Abandonment: Well abandonments typically done through annual cost-share projects, which are funded at 50%; all funds allocated for 2021.

ACTION (REFERRAL): Motion by Liebaert, second McKenzie, to recommend funding half of Pleasant View Road community well abandonment request for \$501.43 from Environmental Reserve Fund and refer to Administration Committee. Motion carried.

Application Revision: Addition of checkbox with language regarding minority and/or underserved youth recommended.

ACTION: Motion by Bong, second Luostari, to refer to next meeting for Hendrickson to elaborate on inclusion of checkbox. Motion carried.

Grant Account Creation:

Superior Bay and Pickle Pond Yellow Iris Response – 61429: Approval needed to accept grant funds.

ACTION (REFERRAL): Motion by Liebaert, second McKenzie, to accept grant funds/budgetary transfer for Superior Bay and Pickle Pond Yellow Iris Response and refer to Zoning and Administration Committees. Motion carried.

Butterfly Dock Project – 61431: Approval needed to accept grant funds.

ACTION (REFERRAL): Motion by Liebaert, second Bong, to accept grant funds/budgetary transfer for Butterfly Dock Project and refer to Zoning and Administration Committees. Motion carried.

Great Lakes Committee Grant for AIS Cleaning Stations Approval: Vande Voort to apply for grant for AIS cleaning stations.

ACTION (REFERRAL): Motion by Liebaert, second Luostari, to approve application for Great Lakes Committee Grant and refer to Zoning Committee. Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Recycling Agricultural Plastics: Anklam is coordinating a free plastic wrap collection event to be held in Washburn; a minimum of 20,000 pounds needs to be collected at regional event.

Land Conservation 2021 Annual Work Plan: Included with agenda. Work on agriculture enterprise area is new and not included.

Grants:

Soil and Water Resource Management: Funds used for program funding from state.

Nutrient Management Farmer Education: Funds used to promote farmer education.

2020 Land+Water Annual Report: Included with agenda.

38th Annual Spring Biosolids Symposium Scholarship Report: Symposium addressed polyfluoroalkyl substances, which have health risks and are difficult, if not impossible, to remove.

Allouez Bay Restoration: Marsh habitat restoration will begin soon; county owns most of the land project encompasses.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: St. Croix River Alliance Invasive Species Coordinator presentation.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Luostari, second Bong, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

Submitted by,

Kaci Lundgren, Committee Clerk