

**DOUGLAS COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, August 18, 2020, 10:00 a.m.**

**Government Center, Boardroom 201**

**1316 N. 14th Street, Superior, Wisconsin**

Meeting called to order by Chair Sue Hendrickson.

**ROLL CALL:** Present – Sue Hendrickson, Mary Lou Bergman, Wendy Bong, Jim Soyring, Kathryn McKenzie (arrived 10:05 a.m.). Absent – Larry Luostari. Others present – Mark Liebaert, Jill Jacoby, Dave Schulz, Shelley Nelson, Ashley Vande Voort, Kaci Lundgren, Committee Clerk.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion by Bergman, second Bong, to approve minutes from the November 19, 2019, meeting. Motion carried.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**ACTION:** Motion by Bergman, second Bong, to suspend agenda and hear item 3b. Motion carried.

**Wildlife Damage and Abatement Program – Report:** Distributed.

**Budget:** Proposed 2021 budget is \$20,676; slight increase from 2020 due to office costs and bear relocation fees.

**ACTION:** Motion by Bergman, second Bong, to approve proposed 2021 Wildlife Damage and Abatement Program budget as presented. Motion carried.

**Approval of Contracts:** Deer donation program only contract at this time.

**Authorization for Deer Donation Program:** Program in process of finalization with state.

**ACTION:** Motion by Soyring, second McKenzie, to approve Douglas County participation in Deer Donation Program. Motion carried.

**Proposed 2021 Land Conservation Budget:** Distributed. 12.34% overall increase; grants were included within supplies/expenses and may be affecting percentage. Primary changes included phone/internet allocation due to heavy virtual meeting use and addition of internet to tablet request for field use.

**ACTION (REFERRAL):** Motion by Bergman, second Bong, to approve 2021 proposed Land Conservation budget as presented, with potential for changes after meeting with Administrator, and refer to Zoning and Administration Committees. Motion carried.

**Budgetary Transfer – Record Donations Received to Match Funds for Aquatic Invasive Species Grant:** 25% in-kind match required for AIS grant. Donations received can be used towards match and must be recorded.

**ACTION (REFERRAL):** Motion by Bergman, second McKenzie, to approve budgetary transfer as presented and refer to Administration Committee. Motion carried.

**Lake Monitoring and Protection Network Grant – Application Approval:** \$19,200 allocated to Douglas County to use through December 2021; may use once other funding sources are depleted.

**ACTION:** Motion by McKenzie, second Bong, to approve grant application as presented. Motion carried.

**\$50 in Dues to National Association of Conservation Districts – Payment Approval:** Contribution beneficial for nationwide conservation efforts.

**ACTION:** Motion by Bergman, second Soyring, to approve dues in the amount of \$50. Motion carried.

**Land Owner/Grant Recipient Reimbursement for In-kind Services as Part of the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Cost-share Grant Program:** Current labor rates included with agenda. As part of cost-share program, request is to reimburse land owner/grant recipient for labor costs.

**ACTION:** Motion by Bergman, second McKenzie, to approve labor cost reimbursements for land owner/grant recipients of cost-share program. Motion carried.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

**2020 United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services, Wildlife Services, bear relocation contract:** 2020 contract signed back in March.

**DATCP Soil and Water Resource Management Grant:** \$138,674 requested to fund three Land Conservation positions at 100%, 70% and 50%, respectively.

**DATCP Nutrient Management Farmer Education Grant:** Grant will fund education for farmers regarding nutrient management plans; one time funding.

**Annual Work Plan:** Submitted to DATCP for 2021 grant funding.

**Committee Member Training:** Training available for new and existing members; included with agenda.

**Environmental Reserve Fund:** Over \$1,000 in interest earned each quarter from money market. \$3,000 from interest may be used toward AIS grant match; approved last year.

**Tree Sale:** Other Wisconsin counties hold tree sales; bundles (25 or more) sold. Time intensive to coordinate, funds need to be acquired to start and may be left with trees if everything is not sold.

**Groundwater Testing:** \$4,000 remains from last request to continue testing; landowner cost may increase if additional funds cannot be acquired.

**Wetland Mitigation Program:** Lots of time and money have been put into program. Although Douglas County proposal is different from other ILF programs and provides other ecological benefits, Army Corps of Engineers reasoned that other in-lieu of fee (ILF) programs exist; one specific to Douglas County not necessary.

**Wisconsin Coastal Management Grant for 9 Key Element Plan:** Grant would provide water quality improvement. Requires 25% match, heavy staff involvement (would consider contracting out) and extensive GIS knowledge. More grant funding becomes available with developed plan.

**Shoreland Preservation - Recording Fee:** \$30 recording fee to add affidavit to deed regarding shoreline buffer; will explore options to cover landowner cost of fee.

**Tax Incentive:** Process for tax incentive unknown; push back from county treasurers. Preservation beneficial to lake areas, but requires enforcement. Additional information to be presented at future meeting.

**Agency Reports:** Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator accomplishments included with agenda; reviewed.

**Staff Report:** Grants awarded for AIS Coordinator and Clean Boats, Clean Waters position. Rain Barrel workshop held in July was successful; to consider another workshop using Environmental Reserve Funds. Grazing workshop for farmers will be held in conjunction with UW-Extension.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAs).

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by McKenzie, second Soyring, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

Submitted by,

Kaci Lundgren, Committee Clerk