

DOUGLAS COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 16, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

Government Center, Boardroom 201

1316 North 14th Street, Superior, Wisconsin

ROLL CALL: Present – Sue Hendrickson, Mary Lou Bergman, Wendy Bong, Kathryn McKenzie, Larry Luostari. Absent - Jim Soyring. Others present – Ashley Vande Voort, Eric Fromm, Lisa Lippai (remote), Mark Liebaert, Zach Stewart (remote), Shelley Nelson (remote), Cheryl Westman, Committee Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by McKenzie, second Bergman, to approve the minutes from the September 7, 2021, meeting. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS:

Cost-Share Project Approvals and Extensions: Culvert – Oakland/Hawthorne: Culvert Waterway – Oakland/Hawthorne: Well Closures: Town of Cloverland: Community Club (Cloverland): Well Drilling – Cloverland: Critical Area Stabilization – Wascott: Shoreline Stabilization – Lake Nebagamon: Retaining Wall – Village of Solon Springs: Rain Garden – Village of Solon Springs: Projects reviewed. Information provided with agenda.

ACTION: Motion by McKenzie, second Bong, to approve funding projects described for 2021, and approve extending the cost-share agreement for all 2021 projects described into 2022. Motion carried.

Environmental Reserve Fund Requests: \$5,486 is total amount available.

\$1,000 - 2022 Youth Camp Scholarships: Project requests two full costs scholarships for the 6-8th grade camp and two full cost scholarships for the 9-12th grade camp.

ACTION (REFERRAL): Motion by Bergman, second McKenzie, to approve funding out of Environmental Reserve Fund for up to \$1,000 for 2022 youth camp scholarships, and refer to Administration Committee. Motion carried.

\$4,000 - Hire Geotechnical Engineer to Conduct Study of Ground Movement: Ground movement is causing damage to property and structures located in the Riverside Division of the St. Louis River in the Village of Oliver. Requesting professional assistance from a geotechnical engineer to perform survey data and drill one deep boring to prove structures are moving and to determine cause of ground movement.

ACTION: Motion by Bong, second Luostari, to table item. Motion carried.

\$3,525 - The Little Gift House Water Management Project: The Little Gift House, in partnership with Douglas County Land Conservation and Solon Springs Forward, will replace the existing retaining wall which supports the southeast corner of the Village of Solon Springs parking lot with a living retaining wall made from Envirolock bags.

ACTION (REFERRAL): Motion by Bong, second Bergman, to approve funding out of the Environmental Reserve Fund in the amount of \$2,400 for The Little Gift House Water Management Project, and refer to Administration Committee. Motion carried.

\$112 - Youth Poster and Speaking Contest: In order to reward winning posters or speakers at the county level for each grade that participates, the Douglas County Land & Water Conservation Department would reward an annual state park pass to the winning student.

ACTION (REFERRAL): Motion by Bergman, second McKenzie, to approve funding out of the Environmental Reserve Fund in the amount of \$112 for the Youth Poster and Speaking Contest, and refer to Administration Committee. Motion carried.

\$1,925 - Solon Springs Rain Garden Expansion Project: Solon Springs Forward, in partnership with Douglas County Land & Water Conservation and The Little Gift House, plans to expand the existing Rain Garden that supports the southern property boundary of the Village Hall by improving erosion caused by the 2016 flash rains and removing the southern section of the parking lot.

ACTION (REFERRAL): Motion by Bergman, second Bong, to approve funding out of the Environmental Reserve Fund in the amount of \$1,925 for the Solon Springs Rain Garden Expansion Project, and refer to Administration Committee. Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Wildlife Damage Abatement Report: Fromm provided updates on recent damages, caused by deer, bear and turkeys (report distributed). Wolf control action very high in Douglas County, active summer season.

Agricultural Technician and Wildlife Damage Program Coordinator: Ashland County to fill this position in near future. Coordinator will provide assistance to Douglas County in various areas.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Coordinator Report: Stewart provided Powerpoint presentation (hard copy in meeting packet). Highlights included updates on following: Yellow Iris EDRR on Barkers Island; new Douglas County AIS Strategic plan; Butterfly Dock controlled under EDRR grant; Yellow Iris EDRR project launched on Brule River; Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol, Clough Island Buckthorn volunteer events, and AIS cleaning stations.

Herbicide Use for AIS: Discussion on how to handle Yellow Flag Iris outbreak on Brule River. Douglas County herbicide ordinance reviewed. Exemption applications are looked at on an emergency or case-by-case basis, thereby not approving blanket use.

Budgetary Transfers:

Purple Loosestrife Bridge Grant: Received \$19,998.

CD Besadny Grant: Received \$2,000.

Land + Water:

Youth Poster and Speaking Contest: Poster theme for 2022 is “Healthy Soil: Healthy Life”. Speaking state contest to be held on Wednesday, March 2, 2022, at Chula Vista, Wisconsin Dells, WI.

Silent Auction: Virtual auction to be held – if submitting donations, contact Chair.

Board Elections: Nominations now open for state board.

Conservation Stewardship Awards: Any nomination ideas, contact Chair.

Groundwater Testing: Event held Oct 25, 2021, with 170 samples collected.

Manure Storage: Vande Voort to update ordinance related to this item.

Carbon Trading: Vande Voort and Hendrickson attended webinar on topic; future option for farmers.

Plastics Pollution: Vande Voort to send program link to committee members.

Future Agenda Items: Wells and watering habits; ATV trail erosion; invasive species education.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Bergman, second Bong, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Submitted by,

Cheryl Westman, Committee Clerk