

**WAUPACA COUNTY LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes — May 4th, 2020**

Chair DuWayne Federwitz called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and gave the open meeting statement.

**Roll Call:** Chair DuWayne Federwitz, Vice Chair Bob Ellis, Supervisors Jim Nygaard, David Johnson, Dave Morack, and FSA Rep Craig Nelson. Supv. Bernie Ritchie excused. Others present: Brian Haase, Lisa Neuenfeldt.

**Review and Approve Agenda:** Haase stated that Public Comment was not meant to be listed on the agenda due to COVID 19 Emergency Rules.

Motion by Nygaard, seconded by Morack to approve the agenda with the removal of Public Comment. Motion carried without a negative vote.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting, March 9th, 2020:** Motion by Johnson, seconded by Morack to approve the March 9th, 2020 minutes. Motion carried without a negative vote.

**Agency Reports:**

**NRCS Report — Neuenfeldt-**

The Waupaca USDA service center continues to be closed to visitors. On a rotating basis, one NRCS and one FSA staff member are in the office every day to conduct normal business, take phone calls and emails. The other staff are teleworking. There is a drop box outside of the office during normal business hours for producers to drop off necessary paperwork. The CRP signup results were released. Waupaca received 51 accepted offers for the general signup, 7 for the Continuous CRP signup and 4 for the CREP signup. Preparing plans and cost-share agreement for these will be a significant workload for NRCS this summer. Practices completed/paid since March 3 included a roofed barnyard, a deer enclosure fence, a comprehensive nutrient management plan and a forest management plan.

The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) signup ended on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Waupaca County NRCS ended up receiving 66 applications. The list has decreased to 58 due to some dropped/rescheduled projects. Due to problems with the new software, funding decisions have been delayed and only 2 applications have been approved for funding so far in the nation, both of which are in our Bear Lake priority watershed. Staff continue to work on getting these applications ready for funding to arrive. For existing EQIP contracts, there are 42 contracts that have practices planned for implementation this summer. Staff are also working on Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) for 4 renewed applications (producers who had a previous contract and are renewing for another 5 years), all of which have been approved for funding. There is another signup for this program open now, which will end on May 29<sup>th</sup>. NRCS has received a few applications so far.

**FSA Report – FSA Staff – None.**

**Meeting Reports:**

**Upper Fox-Wolf Demo Farm Network –** Haase stated that no monthly call took place. Demo staff continue to work with the Demo farm group remotely and are planning soil health practices for the crop year. The Project will be challenged by a lack of in person events in 2020 and will likely convert to some video and Youtube events.

**American Farmland Trust RCPP Meeting –**Haase attended a Zoom meeting hosted by former DATCP Section Chief Alison Volk who now works for AFT. AFT is submitting a NRCS RCPP proposal, by May 31<sup>st</sup>, to fund permanent conservation easements in WI. Haase stated that cash match is likely to be a requirement and would be problematic for Waupaca to participate.

**2021 DATCP SWRM Grant Application Update–** Haase presented an updated version of the SWRM Grant. Haase had worked with the Finance Dept. throughout April to get the final 2019 LWCD budget numbers after grant reimbursements. Those final numbers were used in the 2021 SWRM grant application.

**2020 DATCP LWRM Annual Work Plan –** Haase distributed the 2020 work plan required to accompany the 2021 SWRM Grant Application. The work plan is in a format required by DATCP and is meant to track progress on DATCP priorities, county priorities and LWRM Plan goals. DATCP bases their annual report on county follow up

reporting to the work plan.

**2020 Targeted Management Runoff (TRM) Grant Applications** – Haase discussed the differences between Large Scale and Small Scale TRM Grants. Small scale cover one farm, large scale cover one HUC 12 size watershed. Large scale provide cost share for “soft” field practices whereas small scale do not. Large Scale also now allow up to 40% Local Assistance Grant (LAG) to the county. This could be used to add additional staff if needed. DNR seems to be promoting change from small scale to large scale by reducing the cap from \$1,000,000 to \$600,000 thus providing for more successful grant applicants. For the May 15<sup>th</sup> deadline Waupaca will submit Large scale applications for the Shaw Creek and Weyauwega Lake Watersheds and a small scale application for Whitetail Valley Dairy (Trinrud). The three applications total \$1,421,558 in funding request.

Motion by Nygaard, seconded by Ellis to approve the TRM applications. Motion carried without a negative vote.

**DATCP Harvestable Buffer Contract for Harvestable Buffer Pilot Project-** Haase explained that the result of working with DATCP, over the past 8 months, on creating a Harvestable Buffer practice has led DATCP to offer Waupaca County \$50,000 for 2020 to implement buffers in a pilot project. The rules are fairly flexible at this point due to the pilot nature of the project. Neuenfeldt and Haase had worked with 3 farms so far on approximately 68 acres of buffer. The funding when joined with EQIP and DNR funds may provide for up to 80 acres worth of pilot buffers.

Motion by Ellis, seconded by Nygaard to approve the DATCP Harvestable Buffer Pilot Project Grant. Motion carried without a negative vote.

**2020 Nutrient Management Implementation Strategy Review-** Haase reviewed the statistics that Stefan Stults had compiled on the status of Nutrient Management Plans for 2020. The goal, in Chapter 51, is to receive all plans by April 15 each year. To date staff has received 103 of an expected 139 plans. Haase stated that while those could be forwarded for citation, staff would keep working at compliance due to the current circumstances.

**Land & Water Resource Management (LWRM) / Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Cost Share Agreements Approval** – Haase presented LWRM agreements for Nutrient Management for Mark Jensen (413 ac) and Scott Rodencal (156 ac).

Motion by Nygaard, seconded by Nelson to approve the agreements. Motion carried without a negative vote.

**County Conservationist Report** – Haase stated that he has discussed citations for the Mike Wegener NOD barnyard runoff issue with corporation council. County citation process will be much faster than DNR at this point since DNR has approved a cost share grant and will let that process play out. Wegener refuses to take interim measure to reduce the constant runoff. Haase stated that he has contacted the new landowner of the Adam Spierings farm and discussed the laws regarding the overflow of the manure storage lagoon. The new landowner was overwhelmed at this point and will start looking into his options. Haase gave a staff update regarding the COVID-19 situation. Two staff are working mostly remotely from home, two staff are 100% onsite, Ann Stearns is furloughed and Haase himself is about 60% onsite/40% remote. The arrangements are effective at this point. The Management Team continues to have Zoom calls 3 days per week to stay on top of the COVID-19 developments.

**Upcoming Meetings-** LWCC June 1st at 8:30 am.

**Adjourn:** Motion by Nygaard, seconded by Ellis to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.

Submitted by,

Brian Haase  
Recording Secretary

These minutes will be posted to the website prior to approval from the Committee and are considered to be in draft form until approved at the next scheduled meeting.