

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 15, 2021 – 9:30 A.M.
LAND & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE OF
OCONTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY BOARD ROOM #3041 3RD FLOOR-BLDG A
301 WASHINGTON STREET
OCONTO, WI 54153
www.co.oconto.wi.us

COMMITTEE PRESENT: Kroll, Kamke, Allen, Wahl, Schindel, Matravers

COMMITTEE ABSENT: NONE

OTHERS PRESENT: Program Assistant Wilcox, Oconto County Lakes & Waterways Association President Heimerman

TIME MEETING BEGAN: 9:30 a.m.

1. Approval of Agenda
A. Change of Agenda

B. Removal of Items

Motion by Allen, second by Schindel to approve the agenda. The motion was voted on and carried.

2. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting (Enc.)
Motion by Kamke, second by Wahl to approve the minutes from the January 18, 2021 & January 21, 2021 Land & Water Conservation Committee meeting. The motion was voted on and carried.

3. Communications (Enc.)
Program Assistant Wilcox reviewed the January 2021 Department of Ag, Trade and Consumer Protection Report.

Chair Kroll updated the committee on the meetings that he and County Conservationist Dolata attended in regards to the Conservation Planner position.

Program Assistant Wilcox read an email to the committee from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Damage Specialist regarding the future of the Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program.

4. County Cost Share Contract(s)
NONE
5. County Cost Share Payment(s)
NONE
6. Soil & Water Resource Management Contract(s)
Motion by Schindel second by Matravers to approve the contract for Benjamin & Patricia Schaal for Nutrient Management in the amount of \$50,972.00. Motion was voted on and carried.
7. Soil & Water Resource Management Payment(s)
NONE
8. Oconto County Healthy Waters Cost Share Contract(s)
Motion by Wahl, second by Matravers to approve the contract for Archibald Lake Association for Eurasian Water Milfoil in the amount of \$600.00. Motion was voted on and carried.
9. Oconto County Healthy Water Cost Share Payment(s)
NONE
10. Northern Pike Contract(s)
NONE
11. Northern Pike Payment(s)
NONE

12. Wildlife Damage Wisconsin Deer Donation Program Payment
Motion by Allen, second by Wahl to approve the payment to Hillcrest Meats for 3 deer @ \$80.00/deer total payment in the amount of \$240.00. Motion was voted on and carried.
13. WI Land & Water Conservation Association Virtual Conference March 2-5, 2021
Motion by Kamke, second by Schindel to approve that whomever would like to attend virtual meetings may. Motion was voted on and carried.
14. Timberland Invasive Species Partnership Virtual Meeting February 23, 2021
Motion by Wahl, second by Matravers to approve that whomever would like to attend virtual meeting may. Motion was voted on and carried.
15. Oconto County Lakes & Waterways Association Report
Oconto County Lakes & Waterways Association President Heimerman reported to the committee that Oconto County Lakes & Waterways Association will be helping out with a butterfly dock plant, that the new 2021 Oconto County Lakes & Waterways Association brochure is now available and that Heimerman has been in contact with the Lumberjack Resource, Conservation & Development Association regarding the Aquatic Invasive Species position and that they will soon be posting the job announcement.
16. United States Department of Ag Natural Resource Conservation Service Report
NONE
17. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Oconto County Forester Report
Program Assistant Wilcox presented to the committee a email update sent from Forester Kaufman stating that they are still working on getting storm damage cleaned up from the 2019 storm and that over the past 7 months that they have met with over 100 new landowners in Oconto & Shawano counties these are landowners who have not worked with a forester in the past and their goal is to reach 180 landowners by July 1st, they have 2 vacancies with no time line when they will be filled, they have been working with Dan Hoff to coordinate a few large plantings where the storm leveled red pine stands that is being funded through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, spring has several large plantings going into the ground, the US Forest Service has recently received national recognition for the outstanding job that they did reducing the fuel loading to reduce wildfire risks, they are preparing for the spring fire season and have contracted with Oconto County to have 2 heavy dozers available to assist if they get a wildfire in the blowdown, they will be doing virtual fire simulations with staff to prepare for the fire seasons and offering virtual training for fire departments, burn permits will only be available through the website or phone no in person permits at gas stations or from foresters due to COVID, planning some large red pine replanting projects that resulted from the 2019 wind storm, still working to salvage some storm damaged timber but mostly completed, county forestry budget was hit hard with the storm affecting some of the timber sales and reducing prices, preparing the 2021 timber sales for May, they acquired a \$8,000.00 grant to continue mapping out invasive species, working on several grants including receiving a grant to repair the Weso Flowage Dam, red pine in wetter areas is dying off quickly since the 2019 record rainfalls along with the Red Pine Bark Beetle population increase which is being watched very closely in northern Oconto County, Emerald Ash Borer has been documented in Little Suamico, Morgan, Oconto Falls, Abrams and Peshtigo and working to confirm in Sitles/Oconto, oak wilt is expected to get worse in the storm damage areas but is still relatively rare in southern Oconto County and office remain closed but staff will be back in the office once fire season started but will still be closed to the public.
18. United States Department of Ag Farm Service Agency Report
Farm Service Representative Allen reported to the committee on the Farm Service Agency on upcoming program deadlines
19. Review Prior Months Vendor Payments
The Land & Water Conservation Committee reviewed the January accounts payable and employee reimbursement vouchers.
20. Information Items Only
Program Assistant Wilcox informed the Land & Water Conservation Committee that we will be holding our monthly meetings in the county board room until June 2021.
21. Set Next Meeting Date
Date of next meeting: March 15, 2021
Time of next meeting: 9:30 a.m.

22. Adjournment

Chair Kroll called to adjourn meeting at 10:01 a.m. The motion was voted on and carried.

Rachel Wilcox, Recorder

rmw/ Date posted: 2/16/21