

Polk County Land Conservation Committee

*REVISED MINUTES 12-14-07

The Land Conservation Committee met December 12, 2007 in the Government Center Board Room.

Members Present: Rodney Littlefield, Diane Stoneking, Ken Olson, Ted Johnson and Stefan Milberg
Also Present: Tim Ritten and Becky Burkhardt, who took minutes in Rebecca Fredrickson's absence.

Chairman Littlefield called the meeting to order at 8:31 A.M. **Motion to approve the Agenda (Olson/Milberg); motion carried. Motion (Johnson/Olson) to approve the November 14th minutes; motion carried.**

Public Comment. None

Agency Reports. Cara Nelson, soil conservationist from NRCS gave a report for Keith Zygowicz who could not attend. She reported that the EQIP sign-up was one of the largest they have had at \$320,000. They had 10 conservation nutrient management plans. Also had 22 applications.

Paul Heimstead, DNR Forester, reported that they have Turkey Stamp money to use. The money can be used for planting and management for the regeneration of oak trees. Cost-share money is available for hardwoods. There is also money for Managed Forest Program, which reduces property taxes.

He reported that a battery is needed for one of the tree planters but will not be replacing it until spring.

Land & Water Resources Update.

- Deer Lake barnyard is completed.
- Laketown manure pit: Not applicable for cost-share money through EQIP.
- Baker Easement on Bass Lake is completed.

Reviewed job description for Environmental Engineer, P.E. with committee. Pay to be determined per professional consultant that Polk County has hired. **Motion to approve job description for Environmental Engineer, P.E. (Stoneking/Milberg); motion carried.**

Wildlife Damage. Discussed date for 2007 Wildlife Damage Program closing date. **Motion (Johnson/Olson) to set closing date as December 31, 2007; motion carried.**

Cindy reported to the committee that deer donations were high this year. Amery Meat Market – 53; Swanks – 115; Van Meters – 101.

Invoices. Voucher Report handed out. **Motion (Stoneking/Johnson) to approve the invoices totaling \$241,861.27; motion carried.**

*** Review of final 2007 budget figures.** Becky Burkhardt handed out a copy of the year to date Land and Water Resource Department's budget figures with an estimate of what the remainder in that budget should be. She then gave the committee a sheet with "Future Budget Items" listed. Tim Ritten then discussed with the committee that since there is an overage in the 2007 department budget, that the department would like to carryover the amount of \$9,500 from the 2007 personnel budget to the 2008 operating budget to purchase the items listed. **Motion approving a carryover from the 2007 personnel budget to the 2008 operating budget of \$9,500 to purchase the items listed on the "Future Budget Items" sheet. (Johnson/Stoneking); motion carried.**

Director's Report.

- Tim Ritten handed out copies of his Performance Review forms to the committee for them to look over and to bring back to the January meeting at which time they will complete his performance review.
- Met with Sara McCurdy on procedures in reference to forms, fees and recording of deeds to see that

- there is coordination between the two departments.
- Tim discussed the training sessions at the WLWCA Conference he attended in Madison last week. He also reviewed the resolutions adopted by the association.
 - Tim passed around letters and notes from the public expressing support for the department and the tree program. Comments focused on how happy they were that the department was fully funded again.

Motion (Johnson/Olson) to adjourn; motion carried. Meeting adjourned 10:00 a.m.
