



Pepin County Land Conservation Department

P.O. Box 39, 740 7th Ave. W., Durand, WI 54736
Phone (715)672-8665 ext. 5 FAX (715)672-8248

PEPIN COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION AND PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING

April 5, 2010

Members Present

Dan Weiss, Brent King, Jim Kraft (8:09 a.m.) and Kurt Manore

Members Absent

LaVerne Crapser

Others Present

Chad Alberg, Heidi Stewart, Chase Cummings and Dennis Reimers

Dan Weiss, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

Approval of March 01 and March 15, 2010 Minutes

Motion was made by Brent King and seconded by Kurt Manore to approve the March 01 and March 15, 2010 meeting minutes. Motion carried by voice vote.

NRCS

Dennis discussed updates and happenings with NRCS. He will be doing HEL spot-checks this summer on selected tracts of farmland. Steph Schultz has filled the technician position. She will join the NRCS staff April 26, 2010.

Nonmetallic Mining Chapter 24 Violation

Chase updated the committee on the status of the nonmetallic mining Chapter 24 violation that occurred in Pepin County. He read to the members a letter he had received from Attorney Bill Thiel on his understanding of the situation. A deadline was given to the landowner and operator to have a completed application submitted by March 10, 2010. On March 22, 2010, the operator came to the office and signed the application which made it complete however, to this date, a permit has not been issued as the department is waiting for the Town of Durand's decision on whether they will allow nonmetallic mining in their township as they are zoned as a general flexible district and does not allow nonmetallic mining. Since the landowner and operator were in violation of having the permit submitted to the department by the deadline provided, Dan Weiss made the comment that a fine must be implemented but at what cost? Kurt Manore mentioned that there needs to be a fine as the county ordinance was violated. After further discussion, Kurt Manore made a motion to fine violators a minimum of \$100.00 for every day they are in noncompliance. This motion was seconded by Brent King and carried by voice vote.

Nonmetallic Mining Financial Assurance Bonding

Chase said that two operators attended the meeting held March 15, 2010 to discuss financial assurance bonding. It was felt among those attending that each nonmetallic mining pit should be evaluated and assessed accordingly to cost of its reclamation. Pepin County currently has 16 nonmetallic mining pits and the committee felt that each year 3-4 pits should be inspected and financial bonding of those pits will be addressed with the operators. A motion was made by Jim Kraft to have the Land Conservation Department try to inspect four pits a year. This motion was seconded by Brent King and carried by voice vote.

Tree Planter Rental

A request was made by the department to raise the rental fee for the county tree planter from \$12.00 to \$15.00 (minimum) per thousand trees. A motion was made to approve this cost increase by Jim Kraft and seconded by Brent King. Carried by voice vote.

2009 Chippewa River State Bike Trail Annual Report

Chase presented the 2009 Chippewa River State Bike Trail Annual Report for Terry Mesch. A motion was made by Jim Kraft and seconded by Brent King to accept the report and send it to the full county board for approval. The motion was carried by voice vote.

Cost-share Projects for 2010 and 2011 SWRM Grant Application

Chase gave the committee a list of cost-share projects planned for 2010. Jim Kraft suggested that the department should inspect all cost-share structures before the ten-year agreement expires. Chase suggested that a specific amount of money should be put towards Bear Creek projects allowing funds to be put towards other needed practices within the county. There is 800 acres worth of SEG funding. There have been 3-4 landowners signing up for this practice. Approximately 80 acres remain to be funded.

Chase presented the 2011 SWRM grant application for approval. A motion was made by Brent King and seconded by Kurt Manore to approve the cost-share projects for 2010 and SWRM grant application for 2011. Carried by voice vote. The SWRM grant application was signed by Chairman, Dan Weiss.

Wildlife Damage Report

Chad Alberg gave an update on the wildlife damage program in Pepin County. There were no claims submitted for 2009. He mentioned that the request for a Venison Deer Processor in Pepin County did not take place for 2009 but may happen in 2010 once all the proper paperwork is complete. Chad passed out a fact sheet on various programs offered with the wildlife damage program.

Public Nuisance Ordinance #179, Chapter 10

Heidi Stewart joined the meeting to explain any misunderstandings the LCC may have about Ordinance #179, Chapter 10. She commented that no changes have been made to Ordinance # 179, Chapter 10, however, she would like to see some revisions in the language of the ordinance in hopes that the community will have a better understanding of them. Heidi asked the committee what they felt she should do. The committee felt that a public informational meeting be held to help community members understand that (1) this ordinance is in place and (2) the Public Health Department wishes to just make language changes which would benefit the community's understanding of the ordinance.

Park Clean Up Day

Park Clean-up Day is scheduled for Friday, April 23. The committee discussed the status of the Arkansas Creek Park Bridge. Chase said there might be the possibility of a temporary bridge to replace the original one. Chase has applied for the necessary permits needed to do repair work in the creek and should be arriving soon. The LCD will be providing fill, seed and mulch for needed repairs of the park with the Highway Department donating labor and machines to stabilize the areas.

Resignation of Steph Schultz

Steph Schultz has resigned her position with the county as planner/technician. She has accepted a position with NRCS/Durand Center and will continue to do work with the LCD. A motion was made Jim Kraft to accept her resignation. Seconded by Kurt Manore and carried by voice vote.

Planner/Technician Position

Chase discussed with the committee the need to make language changes to the current planner/technician position. He also feels that this position needs to be declared a critical position. A motion was made by Jim Kraft to accept the language changes made to the planner/technician position and to make this a critical position. Carried by voice vote.

Any Other Business that may come before the committee

- Brent King asked if it was possible to have the dirt removed from Ella Boat Landing. Chase will contact the DNR.
- Chase will be at the County Conservationist Conference in Waupaca, WI April 8 & 9, 2010.

Review and Approve Vouchers

The vouchers for March and April were presented for approval. A motion was made by Brent King and seconded by Jim Kraft to approve the vouchers. Motion carried.

Future Agenda Items

Nonmetallic Mining Chapter 24 Violation Update

Meeting Date

The next meeting date was set for Monday, May 10, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. in the county boardroom.

Adjourn

Kurt Manore made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:48 a.m. The motion was seconded by Dan Weiss and carried by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Poeschel, Conservation Program Specialist