



LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Minutes

October 1, 2024

6:30 PM

Lafayette County Multipurpose Building

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by LCC Chair Jed Gant.

Members Present: LCC Chair, Jed Gant; Larry Ludlum; Carmen McDonald; Joe Riechers, Bob Hermanson; Luke McGuire

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Erica Sauer; Max Blackburn; Cari Starr; Jasmine Wyant – USRWA; Zach Venchus – USDA-APHIS

2. PROOF OF PROPER POSTING

Gant asked for proof of proper posting. Sauer stated the agenda was posted at the 700 Main Street building, on the Lafayette County webpage, sent to all County Departments to post, the Republican Journal and to all Committee Members.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Ludlum, second by Riechers to approve the agenda. Voice vote. Motion carried.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM September 10, 2024

Motion by Hermanson, second by McGuire to approve the minutes. Voice vote. Motion carried.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Gant welcomed Cari Starr and introduced her as the new Assistant Zoning Administrator for Land Conservation and Planning & Zoning Department

6. Discussion and Possible Action – Invasive Species – Jasmine Wyant of Upper Sugar River Watershed Association

- A. Presentation by Jasmine – copy of contract provided.
- B. 65 hours of outreach & education at Yellowstone Lake with Jasmine & intern – clean boat & clean waters, outreach & monitoring of signs, monitoring & mapping of invasive species
- C. Purple loosestrife beetle rearing program 2024 – raise beetles @ Yellowstone Park to get the purple loosestrife population down. Was very successful in 2024.
- D. Beetles were tested to ensure it doesn't harm other plants. Monitored every year to ensure only eating purple loosestrife.
- E. At Yellowstone Lake after the removal of purple loosestrife the waterfowl are nesting and increase in native species is coming up.
- F. McGuire asked about installing a pump to spray boats off with – Jasmine responded that is being considered but not enough space for safety.
- G. Amount for 2025 is the same as 2023 & 2024.

McDonald made a motion, Hermanson second to move forward with the agreement. Voice Vote. Motion Carried.

7. Discussion and Possible Action – Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program – Zac Venchus

- A. 2025 Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program Budget Approval
 - 1. DNR Program – All DNR money – no money from County Funds.
 - 2. Helps Farmers with shooting permits, ag tag, temporary fencing – Have to allow public hunting if claiming.

These minutes are subject to approval at the next regular committee meeting.



3. Budget is up due to more people signing up.
4. Motion by Riechers, second by Ludlum to approve budget. Voice Vote. One Abstained. Motion Carried.
- B. 2024 Crop Prices Approval
 1. Riechers motion, second by Hermanson to Approve 2024 Crop Prices as presented. Voice Vote. One Abstained. Motion Carried.
- C. Approval of 90% Harvest Date for Fall Harvested Crops
 1. Usually dates are 12-1-24 or 12-15-24
 2. Motion by Riechers to go with 12-1-24 date, second by McGuire. Voice Vote. One Abstained. Motion Carried.
- D. Venison Donation Program Participation Approval
 1. Allows Riechers Meat to process venison for donations
 2. Motion by McGuire, second by Ludlum. Voice Vote. One Abstained. Motion Carried.

7:05 PM Venchus and Wyant left meeting

8. Agency Reports

NRCS – None provided

FSA – Written report provided

DATCP – Report was not released as of this meeting, but will be found online

DATCP – Found online

9. Discussion & Possible Action – Farmland Preservation Program Updates

Finkelmeyer provided a written update presented by Sauer.

- A. Snap+ update class was Monday, September 30th, DATCP staff and UW Extension staff were there to help.
 - B. Sent out self-certification forms on August 1st. 93 completed self-certifications were received with an additional 11 that were turned in without a check.
- No action was taken.

10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: CREP UPDATES

Finkelmeyer provided a written update presented by Sauer.

- A. Every other Monday Finkelmeyer goes to FSA to get any CREP paperwork to make sure it is getting to her on time.
- B. Working on new enrolls and cost shares.
- C. Waiting on cost share checks from DATCP to send out to farmers

11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: 2025-2036 LWRM PLAN

Finkelmeyer provided a written update presented by Sauer.

- A. Sent out surveys the beginning of September to the people who did not come to the Committee Advisory Meeting – received 2 back so far – No action was taken.

12. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN NRCS AND LAFAYETTE COUNTY LCD UPDATE

No update. No action was taken.

13. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: USE OF CIP FUNDS FOR POSSIBLY PURCHASING A UTV

Finance informed Sauer about potential removal of CIP if not used this year that it will go back to the general fund. The department has \$17,980 in CIP fund to spend. Blackburn pointed out the draft bid form in their packet and Sauer presented the following points:



- A. Getting to remote places on farms for CREP, conservation, and zoning work.
- B. Can store in Ohnstad building or Multipurpose Building.
- C. Helps with employee retention – Max with trails, Laney with CREP easements, FPP, potential zoning situations

D. Committee Chair site visits to not have to walk when viewing sites

McGuire stated that he doesn't think this is a big ask, Gant suggested purchasing a trailer to haul and store with the proposed UTV purchase.

Motion by McGuire, second by Hermanson to take to Finance Committee to price a UTV with trailer. Bid the UTV, not the trailer. Trailer is to keep items in. Voice Vote. Motion Carried.

14. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: COST SHARES & PROJECT APPROVALS

Blackbourn presented the status of cost sharing funds with two new funding applications for:

\$1,540 – David & Connie Thorson – Well Decommission

\$1,260 – Lori Larson – Well Decommission.

Motion by Ludlum, second by McDonald to approve funding the two applications. Voice Vote. Motion Carried.

15. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION – 2025 BUDGET

No update. No action taken.

16. DEPARTMENT HEAD & STAFF REPORTS

Finkelmeyer provided a written update presented by Sauer.

-Poster contest invite sent out to all area schools in Lafayette County, working on getting a Spanish version for Darlington schools

Sauer – provided a written report.

Blackbourn provided a written report

A. Rock Rip Rap training

B. Cost share paperwork and closing out projects

C. 2 Manure storage permitting reviews and issuance

D. Assist Finkelmeyer to send out 2025 tree & shrub sale order forms out.

E. Working on becoming a public notary as a former employee in the office was and the department found it useful as some documents from time to time need to be notarized.

17. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Motion by McGuire, second by McDonald to approve the vouchers. Voice vote. Motion carried.

18. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- CREP Updates
- FPP Updates
- MOU between NRCS/LCD
- CIP Purchase
- LWRM Plan Update

19. NEXT MEETING DATE:

November 5, 2024 at 6:30 pm at Multipurpose Building

20. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by McDonald, second by Ludlum to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Minutes by: CS

