

Iron County Land Conservation Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 7, 2011
Iron County Forestry Board Room

Approved
12/14/11

- 1.) Call to Order:** Luke called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M.
Present: Gerald Luke, Steve Smith, William Thomas, Tom Popko, Dale Wehmas, Vernon Moore, Heather Palmquist, MaryJo Gingras, Gary Haughn, Dave Schultz
Absent: Dennis DeRosso, Larry Youngs
- 2.) Public Comment:** none.
- 3.) Minutes:** Motion to approve March 23, 2011 minutes as drafted Thomas/Popko. MC.
- 4.) 2012 Wildlife Damage Budget:** Schultz presented Iron County 2012 WDACP Budget of \$16,334.00. Technician administration was raised from \$5036.20 in 2011 to \$5084.00 in 2012 and an increase in Bear Relocation trapping fees from \$1875.00 in 2011 to \$8250.00 in 2012. There has been increased bear activity and trapping primarily on the Kretzschmar farm. Fencing materials remains the same as previous years at \$3,000.00 (see attached summary).
Motion to approve the 2012 WDACP budget as drafted Smith/Thomas. MC.
- 5.) 2012 Land Conservation Budget:** Gingras presented 2012 Land Conservation and Lake Specialist budgets. Requested increase in County Conservationist salary from \$48,148 in 2011 to \$50,150 in 2012 as a performance based raise. The raise represents .09% of the \$225,000 grant revenue generated for fiscal year 2011. Previously discussed request with DeRosso and he was in full support. Gingras asked for questions, comments, or concerns and none were raised. Budget was reviewed line by line with explanation of items to be funded in each line. Gingras reviewed salary and all items in Lake Specialist budget. Lake Specialist position will be funded in part through a DNR Lake Protection grant for 3 years and part funding through the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP). Discussion came up with dues payments to individual organizations including Bad River Watershed Association (BRWA). Confusion about whether BRWA is part of the tribe or not. Haughn suggested asking BRWA to give a short presentation at next meeting of who they are and what they do. Gingras will coordinate. Motion to forward budget to finance Smith/ Thomas. MC
- 6.) WLWCA Merger:** Gingras reviewed the role of the Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) and Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees (WALCE) and previous discussion of merging the two organizations. The merge has been proposed save costs to both organizations, help WLWCA be more financially stable, have a louder voice for conservation, and have better communication between staff and supervisors. WLWCA will vote on the merge in December and WALCE will vote at the employee conference in March 2012.
- 7.) Conservation Camp:** Gingras discussed Wisconsin Conservation Camp that has taken place in Rusk County for 32 years and they are ready to hand it off to someone in 2012. Iron County LCD was asked to take over. Camp will be held at the North Lakeland Discovery Center in Manitowish Waters. Iron and Vilas would partner to organize it and it would be structured to generate revenue for the county. Motion to support camp Thomas/Smith. MC.
- 8.) PRI-RU-TA Support:** Gary described background of PRI RU TA and loss of funding from NRCS federal budget to support coordinators for RC&D. The local PRI-RU-TA RC&D lost our

local coordinator in July. Local Grazing Specialist lost support at the end of August so Ashland County created office space for the Specialist to continue grant projects. PRI RU TA is looking for things that they can help support in their counties. Mary Williams, state legislature for Price County, received letter for support from Gerald Luke in support of responsible mining operations. Gingras distributed letter (attached) that she sent to PRI RU TA thanking for past support and highlighting areas for future assistance.

9.) Contract for Hach HQ40D Water Probe Use: Gingras reviewed Iron County LWCD Hach HQ40D Water Quality Meter Use Policy for landowners to use equipment purchased by the department for water quality monitoring. Gary recommended having legal review of the Policy. Gingras reviewed the Iron County LWCD Hach HQ40D Water Quality Meter use Agreement requiring landowner signature. Recommendation made for Lake Association to be responsible for damages. Gingras will update agreement and policy and have LCC Chair sign the Policy.

10.) Conservation Tour: LCC would like to have a tour this year on **Wed., Sept 21st**. Meet at Forestry Department at 9am.

11.) Staff/ Conservationist Reports: Gingras and Palmquist provided written conservation reports that were distributed with agenda. Palmquist provided a brief review of summer internship outreach & accomplishments.

Gary: 2012 EQIP signup has not been announced but applications can be accepted at any time. If there is any interest in fencing, watering facilities, access road, etc be sure to sign up. The current Farm Bill is wrapping up this year so watch for that. The WLWCA may want to generate action through a Resolution or comments to take to Washington. NRCS 2012 budget 15% reduction across the board.

Dave Schultz (Wildlife Damage): Discussed a high amount of bear activity. Two licensed processors in Ashland County and one in Douglas. Bow season starts Sept. 17th. Seems like there may be more participation this year as the DNR is offering more doe tags. Provided written report.

8.) Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, November 8th

9.) Adjourn: Motion to adjourn at 4:15 pm Popko/Thomas. MC.